



6th Meeting
Monday, 21 December 2009 at 10:15

European Commission
54, rue Joseph II, Brussels
Meeting Room J-54 2/186

Minutes

Doc ESGAB/2010/022 b
The Secretariat

Minutes from the 6th ESGAB meeting held on 21 December 2009

Participants:

Mr J. Åkerholm (Chair)
Mr J.-M. Charpin
Ms M. Epler
Mr J. Hahlen
Ms K. Mossler
Mr E. Outrata

Mr W. Radermacher (Observer)
Ms M. Bohatá (Observer)
Ms A. Näslund (Observer)
Ms H. Lehtimäki (Secretary)

Excused: Sir Tony Atkinson

1. Welcome and adoption of the agenda

The draft agenda was adopted without changes. Heli Lehtimäki was welcomed as the new secretary.

2. Adoption of draft minutes from 5th meeting on 12 October 2009

The minutes were adopted without changes.

3. Important developments since previous meeting

Eurostat reported on the Ecofin conclusions on statistical governance (Annex 1) and the ongoing discussions on the "[Vision paper](#)"¹. A common ESS strategy paper will be discussed by the Partnership Group and put on the ESSC agenda in May.

Eurostat also informed ESGAB about the upcoming institutional changes with the Lisbon treaty entering into force and change of the Commissioner.

The Commission report on Greek government deficit and debt statistics is about to be finalised in view of the January Economic and Financial Committee (EFC) meeting and February Ecofin Council.

While [ESGAB's legal base](#)² does not give much room for raising issues in individual Member States, the members agreed that NSIs violating and not respecting the Code of Practice diminish the credibility of the ESS as a whole.

4. Follow-up of the 2009 Annual Report and preparation of future work

The report was transmitted to the Council and Parliament in November. The Chair informed the members of having presented the 2009 report to EFC. The Chair has also discussed the report with the Chair of ECON and they will come back in case a discussion in the Committee is requested.

¹ COM (2009) 404 final on 10.08.09

² The decision establishing the European Statistical Governance Advisory Board "states in Art 2(1): „The Board's tasks shall be to: (b) include in that annual report an assessment of the implementation of the Code of Practice *in the European Statistical System as a whole*;"

For the 2010 report ESGAB agreed to examine in more depth the already identified issues; professional independence, quality and resources. Especially ESGAB will focus on independence issues and internal control systems as well as appointment and dismissal modalities of the top management of NSIs, directors general in particular.

Apart from already existing information sources (such as the peer reviews and the 2005 self-assessments of the NSIs) ESGAB will use the yearly compliance monitoring exercise carried out by Eurostat to get information and examine if progress with respect to the rules of the CoP was made. Describing processes and showcasing good practices was also considered to be an option. The board also discussed to what extent ESGAB should monitor individual NSIs compliance with the CoP.

5. Time and place of next meeting

The schedule of 2010 meeting dates was preliminarily agreed. The 15 February meeting was confirmed. The secretariat will provide the members with the existing information sources.

Annex 1:



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Document