



**24<sup>th</sup> Meeting**  
**Monday, 10 September 2012 at 10:30**

European Commission  
54, rue Joseph II, Brussels  
Meeting Room J-54 1/186

Minutes

Doc ESGAB/2012/125  
The Secretariat

# Minutes from the 24<sup>th</sup> ESGAB meeting

## held on 10 September 2012

Participants:

Mr Wieser (Chair)

Mr Charpin, Ms Epler, Mr Kopsch, Ms Martín-Guzman, Ms O'Hara, Mr Outrata (members)

Mr Radermacher, Ms Bohatá, (observers)

Ms Pereira de Sá, Ms Lehtimäki (secretary)

### 1. Welcome and adoption of the agenda

The revised draft agenda was adopted with a modified order of points: Use of Circa was moved from afternoon to the morning.

### 2. Use of CIRCA in view of IT migration and public access

ESGAB decided to fully rely on web for public documents.

### 3. Recent developments

#### **Commission Decision C(2012)6305<sup>1</sup> on Eurostat of 17 September 2012**

The new Commission decision defining the role and tasks of Eurostat corresponds to the requirements set out in the proposed revision of the regulation 223/09. It foresees an improved planning of all statistical activities within the Commission, where Eurostat will play a leading role. To this end, the decision distinguishes "European statistics" defined in annual work programmes and produced in line with the Code of Practice from "other statistics". The professional independence of Eurostat is reinforced and decision is considered as the Commitment on Confidence in Statistics for the Commission. Eurostat's Director-General is designated as the Chief Statistician. The European Statistics Code of Practice is referred to indicating explicitly that no-one shall be allowed to give the Director-General of Eurostat instructions when it comes to his/her statistical tasks. Eurostat is given a specific role in ensuring the quality of European statistics. For that purpose, the decision refers to a labelling process which is yet to be established in practice.

#### **Governance**

The next Council statistical working group pursues discussions on the revision of the regulation 223/09. It will also have on the agenda the Commission delegated decision C(2012)4361 of 29 June on investigations and fines related to the manipulation of statistics. The changes in the ESS governance structure are progressing as the relevant legal acts are being reviewed. Collaboration with ESS and ESCB was last discussed in the meeting of the reflection group on 7 September, notably the revision of the CMFB functions.

#### **Communication and upcoming events**

Eurostat is developing specialised information sessions for the media representatives e.g. in the area of HICP accompanied with a break down of groups of commodities or latest information on the labour cost index.

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[http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/about\\_eurostat/documents/Commission\\_Decision\\_on\\_Eurostat\\_final.pdf](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/about_eurostat/documents/Commission_Decision_on_Eurostat_final.pdf)

Next DGINS, ESSC and other connected meetings are taking place in Prague 24-26 September. DGINS will debate "Labelling of European statistics and access to micro-data". Also, a new round of peer reviews is being prepared. The role of ESGAB remains to be defined, also in the light of developments with Commitment on Confidence.

#### **4. Draft annual report**

ESGAB scrutinised the first draft of the report. Main messages were agreed on, a revised draft report incorporating more detailed comments was to be circulated before the next meeting.

#### **5. Appointments to ELSTAT Advisory Committee**

A formal request from the Greek authorities is pending.

#### **6. Time and place of the next meetings**

The next meeting takes place 1 October