



**21<sup>st</sup> Meeting**  
**Monday, 19 March 2012 at 11.00**

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

Minutes

Doc ESGAB/2012/102b  
The Secretariat

# Minutes from the 21<sup>st</sup> ESGAB meeting

## held on 19 March 2012

Participants:

Mr Wieser (Chair)

Mr Charpin, Ms Martin-Guzman, Mr Kopsch, Mr Outrata (members)

Mr Radermacher, Ms Bohatá, (observers)

Ms Pereira de Sá, Ms Lehtimäki (secretary)

Excused: Ms Epler and Ms O'Hara

### 1. Welcome and adoption of the agenda

The Chair welcomed the participants to the first meeting of "ESGAB II" and invited all to contribute openly and proactively to the work.

The draft agenda was adopted.

### 2. Adoption of meeting records from the 20<sup>th</sup> meeting on 23 Jan 2012

The meeting records were adopted.

### 3. Recent developments

#### 3.1. Reforming the European Statistical System (ESS)

The long term strategy and objective for the ESS are set out over the past few years e.g. in the Commission Communications COM(2009) 404 on the production method of EU statistics: a vision for the next decade and COM (2011) 211 Towards robust quality management for European Statistics. Also, the European Statistical Programme for 2013-2017 (often referred to as a 5-year-programme or ESP 2013-17) is now debated in the Council and the Parliament. Stemming from these guidelines a number of actions have now entered the implementation phase in order to reform the ESS. However, in spite of the commonly agreed principles, the implementation of the reform programme is facing resistance.

**Action:** ESGAB invited Eurostat to prepare a short paper outlining the priorities and obstacles of the ESS reform for a discussion in the next meeting.

#### 3.2. Developments in Greece

A Commitment on Confidence (CoC)<sup>1</sup> was signed by Prime Minister Papademos on behalf of the Greek government and Commissioner Semeta on behalf of the European Commission on 1 March 2012.

The CoC asks for a revision of the statistical law by 31 March 2012 and the filling of the statistical advisory body by May 2012 accordingly. ESGAB was also informed of the investigation launched by the Greek parliament on the 2009 deficit figures and the factors leading to questioning of Greek statistics. Mr Radermacher and Commissioner Almunia are asked to answer a number of related questions.

### 4. Preparation for country dialogues

As before, a number of Heads of National Statistical Institutes are invited for an exchange of views with ESGAB. Eurostat observers are not attending. ESGAB's questionnaires to NSI were launched on 6 March, replies are expected in the coming days. These form a basis for the dialogues.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/about\\_eurostat/documents/CAB14\\_0229174250\\_001.pdf](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/about_eurostat/documents/CAB14_0229174250_001.pdf)

## **5. Rules of Procedure**

Revised rules of procedure were adopted.

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

The next meeting is scheduled for 26 April 2012.