



European
Statistical
Governance
Advisory
Board

Helsinki, 8 December 2011
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Mr Hans-Peter Friedrich
Federal Minister of the Interior
Alt-Moabit 101D
D-10559 Berlin

Dear Sir,

I write to you in my capacity as chair of European Statistical Governance Advisory Board (ESGAB). The Board was established by the European Parliament and the Council in 2008 to provide an independent overview of the European Statistical System with particular regard to implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice. ESGAB's aim is to enhance professional independence, integrity and accountability in the European Statistical System and the quality of European statistics.

ESGAB welcomes the commitment of the statistics profession in Germany to the Code of Practice, which was revised and adopted by the European Statistical System Committee in Wiesbaden on 28 September 2011.

However, we have noted the recurrent changes of the top management in the Statistical Office of Lower Saxony, where the procedures do not appear to be in line with the principles of the Code of Practice. Furthermore, in our annual report this year to the European Parliament and to the Council we noted that modernisation of the statistical law in Germany would merit more attention.

I trust you will take the necessary measures to maintain the high quality and credibility of the German statistics, for its part an important building block of the European official statistics.

Yours faithfully,

J. Åkerholm
Chair of ESGAB

Enclosure: European Statistics Code of Practice



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