



36th Meeting
Thursday 5 June 2014

Statistik Österreich
Guglgasse 13, Saal 4, ground floor
Vienna, Austria

Minutes

Doc ESGAB/2014/248
The Secretariat

Minutes from the 36th ESGAB meeting held on 5 June 2014

Participants:

Mr Radermacher, Ms Bohatá, Mr Everaers – Eurostat for points 1-2

Mr Wieser (Chair)

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

Ms Lehtimäki (secretariat)

1. Welcome and adoption of the agenda

ESGAB warmly thanked Ms Bohatá for her outstanding work for the benefit of European statistics and wished her all the best for her retirement.

Members also appreciated the possibility to visit the Quality 2014 conference and thanked Statistics Austria for providing the venue for the ESGAB meeting.

The agenda was adopted.

2. Recent developments

2.1. Changes in Eurostat senior management

With the retirement of Ms Bohatá as of 1 July Ms Kotzeva is nominated as Deputy Director General. Also, replacing Messrs. Defays (Dir. B) Díaz Muñoz (Dir. E), Lequillier (Dir. C) and Nørlund (Dir. D) leads to following changes:

- Ms Kotzeva will oversee directorates B, E, F, G and the Task Force Big Data. She will take over Ms Bohatá's brief in ESAC.
- Dir. A for resources: Mr Everaers remains as a director and takes over from Ms Bohatá the Task Force Peer Reviews and ESGAB brief.
- Dir. B for methodology and IT: an open recruitment process has resulted in a list in the excess of 50 candidates. Recruitment process will take ca. 5 to 6 more months.
- Dir. C for macroeconomic statistics and national accounts, HIPC: internal Commission recruitment is ongoing, decision expected in July.
- Dir. D government finance statistics and EDP: Mr Eduardo Barrredo Capelot (formerly Dir. F)
- Dir. E Sectoral and regional statistics: following an internal Commission procedure Mr Marcel Jortay will move to Eurostat from DG Informatics.
- Dir. F social statistics: internal Commission recruitment ongoing; decision expected in July.
- Dir. G global business statistics: Ms Figueira remains director.

For an overview, please see organisation chart online¹:

2.2. ESS Committee 14-15 May 2014

ESS Vision 2020

Despite wide-ranging positions amongst the NSIs, the ESSC could agree on the ESS Vision 2020 as the guiding frame for the ESS development during the years up to 2020. Some NSIs would have preferred a more ambitious approach while others felt that the ESSC did not have a political mandate to go further. The document is broader as compared to the vision in 2009, which focussed mostly on processes and efficiency. The Vision 2020 adds issues such as quality, better dissemination and interaction with users and big data. The Vision 2020 will serve as a basis for the extension of the European Statistical Programme 2018-20.

The ESSC also endorsed the roadmap leading up to the 2014 September DGINS meeting, where the implementation strategy will be discussed. The plan will be developed by a Task Force under the auspices of the PG Chair which will e.g. propose criteria for launching new projects. The legislative changes needed are set to start in 2015.

Recent discussions on budgetary issues and how NSIs deal with the allocating authorities show a changing mindset: some heads of NSIs now argue their budget requests more assertively by bringing up more explicitly the cost occurred or the cost of not having key statistics available.

Peer reviews

The contract to run the peer reviews was awarded to a Hungarian consulting company. 20 peers are selected including chairs of six 3-person-teams. As a next phase, teams and country assignments need to be created with fixed dates. The exercise starts in August with Finland and depending on the final agreement on the dates for the countries followed by Belgium, Latvia, Slovenia and Bulgaria. A workshop with peers and national coordinators is scheduled for 17 June to explain methodology and pilot experiences.

Presentation of the annual report in the autumn

It was decided to skip the "traditional DGINS" presentation of the ESGAB/peer review report before its publication and have a more in-depth discussion at the 13 November ESSC meeting.

2.3. Interest for a second term 2015-18 for eligible members

The 3-year-terms of ESGAB members are coming to an end as follows:

Member	End of term	Eligible for a second term	Nominated by	Act
CHARPIN Jean-Michel	21.12.2014	No	Parliament	EP Letter
EPLER Margit	21.12.2014	No	Parliament	EP Letter
O'HARA Patricia	21.12.2014	Yes	Parliament	EP Letter
WIESER Thomas	30.01.2015	Yes	Council	OJ L24 of 27.1.12
OUTRATA Edvard	05.02.2015	No	Council	OJ L30 of 2.2.12
KOPSCH Günther	05.02.2015	Yes	Council	OJ L30 of 2.2.12
MARTIN-GUZMAN Pilar	05.02.2015	Yes	Council	OJ L30 of 2.2.12

The nomination process will start over the summer by informing the appointing institutions of the members' eligibility and interest for a second term.

¹ Eurostat organisation chart 1 July 2014:

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/about_eurostat/documents/Organisation_chart_EN.pdf

2.4. Peer review of Eurostat – draft report

ESGAB discussed the members' input and decided the focus areas of the report. Deadline for revising the document was set to 20 June, see Doc. ESGAB/2014/244.

3. Time and place of the next meetings

The next meeting takes place on 8 September 2014 in Brussels.