



**46<sup>th</sup> ESGAB meeting**  
**Monday, 12 September 2016**

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

Doc ESGAB 2016/397  
The Secretariat

## Minutes

### 46<sup>th</sup> ESGAB meeting held on 12 September 2016

#### **Participants:**

##### Members:

Mr Hetemäki (Chair)  
Ms Martín-Guzmán  
Ms O'Hara  
Mr Kopsch  
Mr Profiroiu

##### Excused:

Mr Giovannini  
Connected by phone between 10:08-10:43

##### Observers:

Mr Radermacher  
Mr Everaers  
(present as from 14:30)

##### Secretariat:

Ms Paavonen  
Mr Clarke  
Ms Mankki

#### **1. Introduction and adoption of the agenda**

The Chair welcomed Kirsi Mankki to the ESGAB secretariat. The draft agenda Doc. 2016/394 was discussed and then adopted.

#### **2. ESGAB Report 2016**

Further modifications to the draft Annual Report for 2016 outlined in Document 2016/381 were discussed.

Modifications to the current text were proposed, together with additional text linking sections of the report to the relevant Principles of the Code of Practice and highlighting ESGAB's concerns. A reference to the need to address the challenges of measuring the modern economy, particularly economic activity associated with the digital economy, should also be included<sup>1</sup>. A revised version will be prepared and circulated to Members by the Secretariat.

The ESGAB note to Commissioner Thyssen on the appointment procedures for the Eurostat Director-General will be added to the Annual Report as an Annex

#### **3. Draft opinion on Greek statistics**

The reply of the Greek Minister of Finance, Mr Tsakalotos to the letter from Commissioners Dombrovskis, Thyssen and Moscovici and the draft opinion of ESGAB were both discussed.

It was agreed that the draft opinion on Greek statistics should be modified

In addition, any relevant statements from the informal ECOFIN meeting on 9-10 September should be taken into account.

The secretariat will seek advice from Eurostat's legal department when drafting the opinion.

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<sup>1</sup> Issues identified in the Sir Charles Bean's [Independent review of UK economic statistics](#)

#### **4. Eurostat's Commitment on Confidence**

ESGAB discussed the fact that the Commission decision on Eurostat<sup>2</sup> does not explicitly mention that it is the Eurostat Commitment on Confidence and proposed that this be made more explicit when the Commitment on Confidence is renewed in future.

#### **5. Memorandum of Understanding Eurostat/ECB**

A Memorandum of Understanding between Eurostat and the ECB will soon be signed, covering the practical arrangements for ensuring data quality in MIPs statistics in line with the principle of close cooperation between the ESS and ESCB as specified in Regulation 223/2009.

The Memorandum of Understanding makes a distinction between two types of “Other National Authority” (ONA): those coordinated by NSIs and the national central banks coordinated by the ECB.

#### **6. Data 4 Policy**

Eurostat described the European Commission’s Data 4 Policy initiative, which aims to coordinate and benefit from big data activities taking place within the Commission. The initiative is at a preliminary stage and involves Eurostat, the Joint Research Centre and the Directorates-General for Informatics (DIGIT) and Communications Networks Content and Technology (CONNECT). Eurostat offered to provide a document describing the Data 4 Policy initiative for the ESGAB secretariat to circulate to ESGAB members.

#### **7. ESP 2018-2020**

Eurostat informed ESGAB that agreement has been reached within the Commission to increase the Eurostat operational budget for activities within the European Statistical Programme, with €28 million over the three year period of the ESP 2018-2020. The increased budget will be used for grants and procurement, but will not cover staff costs.

#### **8. Presentation of the report to the ECOFIN Council**

The 2016 ESGAB Annual Report will be presented to the ECOFIN Council in November<sup>3</sup>.

#### **9. Other points**

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<sup>2</sup> <https://publications.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/0eb9b1ad-0178-11e2-8e28-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>

<sup>3</sup> Scheduled for 8 November 2016



On 20 October 2016 the annual **European Statistics Day** will be launched at the 2016 Conference of European Statistics Stakeholders (CESS) in Budapest. The aim of the conference is to bring together methodologists, producers and users of statistics to discuss users' needs and to share new developments and good practices.

At the **DGINS** Conference in Vienna (26-27 September) the topic for the restricted internal session will be 'Managing a modern NSI in the 21<sup>st</sup> century' and for the open session will be 'Statistics on income, consumption and wealth'.

The High Level Group on Quality has prepared the **European Statistics Quality Declaration** and will discuss in the coming months how to address proposed revisions to the Code of Practice.

Eurostat has applied for accreditation by the **European Foundation for Quality Management** and its application will be assessed on 23<sup>rd</sup> October.