



48th ESGAB meeting
Tuesday, 19 December 2016

European Commission
Rue de la Science 27
10.00-16.00

Minutes

Doc ESGAB 2017/04

The Secretariat



Brussels, 2 February 2017

Minutes

48th Meeting of the European Statistical Governance Advisory Board (ESGAB)

Expert Group *X02147*

19 December 2016

Rue de la Science 27

1. Approval of the agenda and of the minutes of previous meeting

The draft agenda (Doc. 2016/415) was approved. The minutes of the previous meeting on 4 October 2016 (Doc. 2016/404) had been approved on 23 November 2016.

2. Nature of the meeting

The meeting was a non-public meeting of six members the European Statistical Governance Advisory Board, two observers from Eurostat and the secretariat. One member, Mr Giovannini, could not attend the meeting in Brussels but participated by telephone between 15.00h and 16.00h. For item 4, Mr O'Hanlon participated by telephone between 11.00h and 12.00h.

3. Reactions to the 2016 ESGAB Report

The ESGAB Annual Report had been presented to the Economic and Finance Committee (EFC), the ECOFIN Council, the ESS Committee and the European Parliament's ECON Committee. The Chair and Eurostat reported back on the reaction to the Annual Report at each of these meetings.

EFC/ECOFIN:

The EFC meeting took place on 25 October 2016. The draft conclusions regarding the Annual Report proposed by the EFC for submission to the ECOFIN Council, originally stated that the ECOFIN Council would "take note" of the recommendations to improve data on the costs of statistical production, the importance of good coordination of providers of European statistics within national statistical systems and progress regarding NSIs' access to administrative data.



During the discussion, the EFC agreed to strengthen the draft conclusions to refer to the ECOFIN Council's "support" for these recommendations. This version of the conclusions was then adopted by the ECOFIN Council on 8 November 2016.

ESS Committee:

The ESS Committee meeting took place on 17 November 2016. Eurostat reported that ESS Committee members appreciated the style and content of the report, and the ideas and questions which it raised.

ECON Committee:

The ECON Committee meeting took place on 5 December 2016. The ESGAB Chair reported that there were questions on the independence of Eurostat, the open procedure for the appointment of the Eurostat Director-General and the legal case against the former President of the Greek statistical office.

Conclusion

The Chair reported that the response to the 2016 Annual Report had been positive. Printed copies of the Annual Report will be circulated to members for wider distribution. In addition, the secretariat will ask ESGAB-like bodies in Europe for copies of their reports, so that these can also be circulated to members.

4. ESGAB 2017 Work Programme

The members discussed the 2017 Work Programme (Doc. 2016/419) to identify the key themes and information sources for the 2017 Annual Report, the next round of country dialogues and topics for future ESGAB Opinions.

2017 Annual Report:

The Peer Review reports and the annual monitoring of progress with improvement actions will be the principle source of information regarding compliance with the Code of Practice

A meeting with the Partnership Group was considered to be worthwhile. In 2017, the Partnership Group meets in March, June, September and December, although the September meeting is already alongside the meeting of the Directors-General of national statistical institutes and the ESS Committee. Eurostat suggested that it may be easier to arrange a meeting alongside the ESS Committee and the secretariat will explore this possibility further.

Next round of country dialogues

Regarding the next round of country dialogues, members proposed that several factors should be taken into account when selecting countries: the extent to which they comply with the



Code of Practice; specific national experiences which have wider application; issues related to the content of the 2017 Annual Report.

Conclusion

Following the comments received on the 2017 Work Programme, the secretariat will prepare a draft paper for discussion and agreement at the next meeting.

5. Greek Good Practice Advisory Committee briefing

Mr Gerry O'Hanlon, Chair of the Good Practice Advisory Committee (GPAC), began by briefly describing the activities of GPAC since it had been reconvened in March 2016, following a change in the law which enabled GPAC to continue to function. The first meeting took place on 24 June 2016 and the second meeting took place on 6-7 October 2016. At the moment, the report of the second meeting is in draft format and will be finalised for adoption on 13 January 2017.

Conclusion

ESGAB will examine the GPAC report when it is published in January and then decide whether an ESGAB Opinion on Greek statistics should be drafted in the light of this report.

6. Launch of next round of ESGAB appointments

The procedure to replace current members whose term expires in January 2018, and the vacant post, will be launched by July 2017.

7. Recent developments for information

Eurostat reported that the first European Statistics Day on 20 October 2016 was an overall success. The secretariat will circulate to members the link to the video released by Eurostat on European Statistics Day¹.

Eurostat informed the members about progress with the framework regulations on business statistics (FRIBS), farm statistics (IFS) and social statistics (IESS) in the Council. The extension of the European Statistical Programme (ESP) is now with the European Parliament.

The secretariat informed members that as a result of new Commission rules on Expert Groups, information about the members on the European Commission's registry of Expert

¹ <http://ec.europa.eu/avservices/video/player.cfm?ref=I127258>

Groups had to be updated. The secretariat will send members the link to the registry pages where details of the ESGAB are published².

8. Conclusions

The Chair reported that the response to the 2016 Annual Report had been positive. Printed copies of the Annual Report will be circulated to members for wider distribution. In addition, the secretariat will ask ESGAB-like bodies in Europe for copies of their reports, so that these can also be circulated to members.

Following the comments received on the ESGAB 2017 Work Programme, the secretariat will prepare a draft paper for discussion and agreement at the next meeting.

ESGAB will examine the GPAC report when it is published in January and then decide whether an ESGAB Opinion on Greek statistics should be drafted in the light of this report.

9. Next meeting

The next meeting will take place on 2 February 2017 in Brussels.

10. List of participants

Mr Martti Hetemäki	(Chair)
Ms Patricia O'Hara	(Member)
Ms Pilar Martín-Guzman	(Member)
Mr Günter Kopsch	(Member)
Mr Marius Profireoiu	(Member)
Mr Enrico Giovannini [by telephone]	(Member)
Mr Gerry O'Hanlon [by telephone]	(Good Practice Advisory Committee Chair)
Mr Walter Radermacher	(Observer)
Mr Pieter Everaers	(Observer)
Mr Stephen Clarke	(Secretary)
Ms Kirsi Mankki	(Secretariat)

² <http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regexpert/index.cfm> (search for ESGAB then click on X02147)