



# **52<sup>nd</sup> ESGAB meeting**

**Tuesday 7 November 2017**

Minutes

Doc ESGAB 2017/73

The Secretariat



Brussels, 30 November 2017

## Minutes

52<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the European Statistical Governance Advisory Board (ESGAB)

Expert Group X02147

7 November 2017

1 Place Madou, Brussels

### **1. Approval of the agenda**

The draft agenda (Doc. 2017/45) was presented by the Chair. It was agreed to move the item on ESGAB's assessment of the implementation of Eurostat's Commitment on Confidence in Statistics to later in the meeting and to discuss the Q2018 conference first. The agenda was then approved.

### **2. Nature of the meeting**

The meeting was a non-public meeting of six members of ESGAB, two observers from Eurostat and the Secretariat.

### **3. Q2018 Quality Conference (Doc. 2017/48)**

The Board discussed the participation of ESGAB in the Q2018 Quality Conference, which takes place in Kraków on 26-29 June 2018. It was agreed that it could be useful for new ESGAB members to attend the event and that the possibility of an ESGAB session should be considered back-to-back with the ESGAB meeting planned on 26 June 2018. The costs of conference registration fees and allowances for an additional day would have to be taken into account. At the next meeting in January the new Board will discuss which ESGAB members would like to attend the conference and to organise a session.

In the meantime, members were invited to suggest a title for a possible ESGAB session at the Q2018 conference.

It was noted that the deadline for the submission of an abstract for an ESGAB session is 15 December 2017.



#### **4. Revision of the Code of Practice (Doc. 2017/49)**

Eurostat introduced the paper on the revision of the Code of Practice, which takes into account the discussions of the ESS Committee meeting in September. The proposed revision will be discussed at the ESS Committee again on 16 November, when it is expected to be approved.

The Chair welcomed the changes that had been made to the Code in response to ESGAB's comments to the High-level Group on Quality (HLG-Q) in July and asked Eurostat to convey ESGAB's appreciation to the members of HLG-Q for their work.

#### **5. ESGAB's assessment of the implementation of Eurostat's Commitment on Confidence in Statistics (Doc. 2017/46)**

The Board discussed the requirement in Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 for ESGAB to report to the European Parliament and the Council on the implementation of Eurostat's Commitment on Confidence by 9 June 2018. Different proposals on the scope of the exercise, how the work could be organised and the stakeholders who should be consulted were considered.

It was agreed that the approach established by Article 11(4) of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 for Member States could also be applied in this case. As a result, ESGAB will invite Eurostat in writing to provide a report by 28 February 2018 on how Eurostat's Commitment on Confidence in Statistics is being implemented.

The Eurostat report will be one of the inputs into ESGAB's assessment of the implementation of Eurostat's Commitment, supplemented by interviews with a limited number of key stakeholders, to address specific areas of interest or concern to ESGAB. The organisation of these stakeholder meetings will be discussed at the ESGAB meeting in January.

ESGAB will produce its assessment of the implementation of Eurostat's Commitment on Confidence in Statistics in the form of an ESGAB Opinion with supporting documentation as annexes. A draft will be prepared by mid-April and the final version will be published before the deadline of 9 June 2018.

Any recommendations from ESGAB with respect to the implementation of the Eurostat Commitment will be included with other ESGAB recommendations in the Board's Annual Report for 2018.

#### **6. Developments in relation to the Greek Statistical System**

Eurostat informed ESGAB about the discussions on Greece held at the European Council's Economic and Financial Committee (EFC) meeting at the end of October 2017, where Eurostat



provided an update on the activities related to strengthening the Greek national statistical system as well as on the situation with the court cases against the former president and other colleagues from ELSTAT.

The issue of the Greek legal cases was also discussed in the margins of the September meeting of the Heads of National Statistical Institutes (DGINS), who will continue to follow the issue closely.

The Chair informed members that the term of office of the ESGAB representative on the Good Practice Advisory Committee (GPAC) was coming to an end. Prior to the meeting the current ESGAB representative, Mr Gerry O'Hanlon, had informed the Chair that he was willing to continue as ESGAB's representative. The Board agreed to nominate Mr O'Hanlon for the position and the Chair will confirm this in writing to the Greek Ministry of Finance.

It was agreed to invite Mr O'Hanlon to take part in a teleconference session at the next meeting in Rome in January 2018, to inform current and new members about the latest GPAC annual report.

## **7. Recent and future developments**

Eurostat reported that the ESS Committee was grateful to the Chair for presenting the ESGAB Annual Report 2017 at its meeting in September. The next ESS Committee meeting in November will include items on access to privately-held data, ESS priorities beyond 2020 and strategic priorities for the Annual Work Programme 2019, in addition to the revision of the Code of Practice (see section 4. above).

## **8. Feedback from the ISI World Statistics Congress**

Eurostat described the three main themes of the conference: data quality/statistical law; Big Data/multiple data sources; and dissemination/statistical literacy. Eurostat agreed to provide ESGAB with an internal report on the ISI World Statistics Congress held in Marrakech in July.

## **9. Feedback from the Power from Statistics conference**

Eurostat informed the Board that there were good contributions on a range of topics during the conference and that the issues raised will be inputs for the European Statistical Programme for 2020.

## **10. Commission proposal for a Council implementing decision imposing a fine on Austria for manipulation of debt data in Land Salzburg**

Eurostat informed the Board that a reaction from the Estonian Presidency is awaited.

## **11. Appointment of the next ESGAB members**

The Secretariat updated the Board on the progress in the Council and in the Parliament with regard to the appointment of the next ESGAB members for the period February 2018 – January 2021.

At its meeting on 19 October 2017, the European Parliament's ECON Committee held a hearing with Mr Giovannini, proposed by the Council to be the next ESGAB Chair. The ECON Committee voted in favour of Mr Giovannini's nomination and also the appointment of Ms Ruane, Mr Carstensen and Ms Elbaum as new ESGAB members.

## **12. Conclusions**

- The Board will reflect on a title for a possible ESGAB session at the Q2018 conference
- The procedure to be followed for ESGAB's assessment of the implementation of Eurostat's Commitment on Confidence in Statistics was agreed
- The Board decided to nominate Mr Gerry O'Hanlon as the ESGAB representative on GPAC and to invite him to take part in a teleconference session at the next ESGAB meeting.

## **13. Next steps**

- The next meeting in January 2018 will further discuss ESGAB participation in the Q2018 Quality Conference
- Eurostat will be invited to provide a draft outline of its report on the implementation of Eurostat's Commitment on Confidence by 30 November 2017
- A list of possible meeting dates for 2018 was agreed and will be confirmed at the next meeting
- The Secretariat will check if Commission premises can be used for the next meeting, in Rome
- Eurostat will send ESGAB a copy of the recent judgement against Mr Georgiou when it becomes available
- Eurostat will provide ESGAB with an internal report on the ISI World Statistics Congress held in Marrakech in July.

#### 14. Next meetings

Meeting dates for 2018 were proposed and will be subject to confirmation by the new ESGAB members at the meeting in January 2018:

17-18 January	Rome	Handover meeting with new the members
15 March	Brussels	
18 May	Brussels	
26 June	To be confirmed	Possibly linked to Q2018 in Kraków
13 September	Brussels	
8 November	Brussels	
13 December	Brussels	

#### 15. List of participants

Mr Martti Hetemäki	(Chair)		
Ms Patricia O'Hara	(Member)		
Ms Pilar Martín-Guzmán	(Member)		
Mr Enrico Giovannini	(Member)		
Mr Günter Kopsch	(Member)		
Mr Marius Profiroiu	(Member)		
Ms Mariana Kotzeva (Eurostat)	(Observer)	Mr Stephen Clarke	(Secretary)
Mr Pieter Everaers (Eurostat)	(Observer)	Ms Cristina Pereira de Sá	(Secretariat)