



51st ESGAB meeting

Thursday 7 September 2017

Minutes

Doc ESGAB 2017/51

The Secretariat



Brussels, 25 October 2017

Minutes

51st Meeting of the European Statistical Governance Advisory Board (ESGAB)

Expert Group X02147

7 September 2017

1 Place Madou, Brussels

1. Approval of the agenda and the minutes of the meeting on 11 May

The draft agenda (Doc. 2017/39) of this meeting and the minutes of the previous meeting on 11 May (Doc. 2017/30) were both approved.

The Board also approved the draft minutes of the meeting between ESGAB and the High-level Group on Quality on 7 July. A copy of the final minutes of the meeting with the High-level Group on Quality will be circulated to all ESGAB members.

2. Nature of the meeting

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

3. ESGAB Annual Report 2017 – progress update

The draft annual report was discussed and a number of changes were proposed. Some additional text will be provided to the Secretariat by members after the meeting.

A revised version of the draft report will be circulated to members for approval as soon as possible. The deadline for finalising the report to send for publication is 28 September.

The Chair will present the Annual Report to the ESS Committee (22 September), EFC Subcommittee on Statistics (18 October), EFC (26-27 October) and ECOFIN (7 November). The date for the presentation to the European Parliament's ECON Committee has not yet been confirmed.

The Board discussed the costs and benefits associated with the translation of the press release for the Annual Report into 23 languages. It was agreed that the number of languages used for



the press release would in future be limited to three: English, French and German. It was also agreed that the press release would include the Executive summary from the annual report.

4. Update on the situation regarding Greek statistics

Eurostat updated ESGAB members on the situation regarding ELSTAT and the legal proceedings involving the former President of ELSTAT. Eurostat said that although legislation had been enacted to address the commitments made by Greece in the supplemental Memorandum of Understanding¹ between the European Commission, the Hellenic Republic and the Bank of Greece, Eurostat had not yet received the full text of the Greek legislation.

Eurostat is also waiting to receive the text of the judgement regarding Mr Georgiou's conviction for breach of duty. The Board asked Eurostat for the text of the judgement when it becomes available.

5. Teleconference with the Chair of the Greek Good Practice Advisory Committee

Mr Gerry O'Hanlon, Chair of GPAC and ESGAB's nominee to this body, informed ESGAB about the recent developments regarding its work.

Mr O'Hanlon said that GPAC was aiming to produce its annual report before the end of 2017. He also informed the Board that the end of the second two-year term for GPAC members is approaching and that a new GPAC will be required from January 2018.

6. Revision of the Code of Practice

Eurostat presented the proposed revision to the Code of Practice, which had been prepared by the High-level Group on Quality and which will be discussed by the ESS Committee at its next meeting in September.

In the discussion that followed, Eurostat took note of a number of suggestions to the text made by ESGAB members.

Following the discussion at the ESS Committee, Eurostat aims to finalise the text as soon as possible, so that the revised Code can be formally approved by the ESS Committee. The High-level Group on Quality is then expected to begin discussions on the next peer review exercise, which will be based on the new Code.

7. Case concerning the manipulation of debt data in Land Salzburg

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/smou_final_to_esm_2017_07_05.pdf



Eurostat updated ESGAB on the position regarding the European Commission's proposal to the Council in February to impose a fine of €29.8 million on Austria, and reported that a formal response from the Council had not yet been published.

8. 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.

9. Recent and future developments

Eurostat will send ESGAB before the end of November a copy of the report of the International Statistical Institute's World Statistics Congress, which took place in July.

Eurostat informed ESGAB that the ESS Committee meeting in September will include a report by the Vision Implementation Group on progress with the implementation of the ESS Vision 2020.

10. Conclusions

- The Board agreed modifications to the draft Annual Report
- The press release for the Annual Report will include the Report's Executive Summary and will be published in English, French and German
- The Board was updated on the latest situation regarding Greek statistics
- ESGAB gave feedback to Eurostat on the revisions proposed to the Code of Practice
- The Board noted that the current GPAC term comes to an end in December

11. Next steps

- A revised version of the draft Annual Report will be circulated to members by the Secretariat
- The Chair will present the Annual Report to the ESS Committee, the Council (EFC-SCS, EFC, ECOFIN) and the Parliament (ECON)
- Eurostat will send ESGAB a copy of the recent judgement against Mr Georgiou when it becomes available
- The next annual report from GPAC is due before the end of 2017



- Eurostat will send ESGAB a report on the ISI conference before the end of November

12. Next meetings

The next ESGAB meetings scheduled are:

7 November 2017	Brussels
17-18 January 2018	Rome

Mr Giovannini will reserve meeting rooms in Rome for the ESGAB handover meeting on 17-18 January.

13. 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 Eduardo Barredo (Eurostat)	(Observer)
Ms Helena Ottosson	(Observer)
Mr Stephen Clarke	(Secretary)
Ms Cristina Pereira de Sá	(Secretariat)