



# **50th ESGAB meeting**

**Thursday 11 May 2017**

**Minutes**

**Doc ESGAB 2017/33**

**The Secretariat**



Brussels, 13 June 2017

## Minutes

50th Meeting of the European Statistical Governance Advisory Board (ESGAB)

Expert Group *X02147*

11 May 2017

1 Place Madou, Brussels

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

The draft agenda (Doc. 2017/16) was approved.

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

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

### **3. ESGAB Opinion on Greek statistics**

The Chair invited Eurostat to update the Board on recent developments with regard to Greek statistics.

Eurostat informed ESGAB that the JOSGAP<sup>1</sup> quarterly meetings involving the President of the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT), the National Central Bank and the Ministry of Finance had recommenced and that the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the European Commission and the Greek government has been under review.

The Board then discussed the draft Opinion on Greek statistics (Doc. 2017/10). The final text of the Opinion was then agreed for publication.

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<sup>1</sup> Joint Overall Statistical Greek Action Plan (JOSGAP) agreed between the Greek authorities and Eurostat



#### **4. ESGAB Annual Report 2017 – progress update**

The Board discussed the timings of the different stages of the Annual Report 2017 and the status of the contributions required from members and from Eurostat (Doc. 2017/17).

The deadlines for contributions from the following ESGAB members and Eurostat were agreed.

In addition, the Eurostat report on NSI compliance with the Code of Practice, the report on Eurostat's progress with Peer Review improvement actions and Eurostat's response to ESGAB's recommendations will be sent to members as soon as they become available.

Three additional Eurostat papers were identified as relevant input for the Annual Report. The Secretariat will send to Ms Martín-Guzmán a Eurostat paper on the implementation of amended Regulation 223/2009. The Secretariat will forward to Mr Profiroiu and Ms Martín-Guzmán a Eurostat paper on access to administrative data as soon as it becomes available. Eurostat will share with ESGAB a draft paper relating to privately-held data, arising from the mandate given to Eurostat at the informal high level workshop held in Malta on 23-24 March.

Ms Martín-Guzmán and Mr Kopsch agreed to liaise on coordination and access to data issues, from the point of view of compliance with the Code of Practice.

The Secretariat will compile the information required for the annexes of the Annual Report in June.

#### **5. Appointment of new ESGAB members**

The procedure for selection and appointment will now be formally launched.

#### **6. Meeting with the High Level Group on Quality**

The Board discussed the possible timings and format of a meeting with the High Level Group on Quality (HLGQ) covering proposed revisions to the Code of Practice. It was agreed that a video-conference would be organised, with some representatives from the HLGQ and at least Mr Hetemäki and Mr Giovannini from ESGAB. Ms O'Hara, Ms Martín-Guzmán and Mr Kopsch will also take part if they are available.

To allow members of ESGAB to prepare for the video-conference, the Chair asked Eurostat for a paper identifying the changes to the Code of Practice proposed by the HLGQ, together with an explanatory note, which could then be sent to ESGAB members for comments.



The Secretariat will liaise with Eurostat to find a convenient date and time for the video-conference.

## **7. Review of the Rules of Procedure**

The Board discussed Doc. 2017/19, which identified proposed changes to the ESGAB Rules of Procedure. The changes aimed to give more clarity regarding the duties of members, resignations and communication between the Secretariat and Eurostat's internal services.

The proposed changes (affecting Articles 3, 8 and 11) were discussed and a further modification was made to Article 8. The revised Rules of Procedure were then agreed and will be published on the ESGAB website.

## **8. Information from Eurostat on future developments**

Eurostat updated ESGAB on the issues to be deliberated at the ESS Committee on 17-18 May, the forthcoming Trilogue meeting to discuss the European Statistical Programme 2018-2020, the outcome of the investigation related to the manipulation of statistics in Austria and progress with the selection of the next Eurostat Director-General.

## **9. Conclusions**

- The Board approved the publication of the Opinion on Greek statistics and the revisions to the ESGAB Rules of Procedure.
- The Board agreed the arrangements and deadlines for providing contributions to the Annual Report 2017.

## **10. Next steps**

- Members and Eurostat will provide contributions to the Annual Report 2017.
- The procedure for the selection and appointment of ESGAB members for the term 2018-2013 will be formally launched.
- A video-conference meeting will be arranged between ESGAB and the HLGQ.



## 11. Next meetings

The next ESGAB meetings scheduled are:

7 September 2017	Brussels
7 November 2017	Brussels
17-18 January 2018	Rome

Mr Giovannini confirmed that there would be no difficulty obtaining a room in Rome for the meeting in January 2018 and that the use of the room would be free of charge. The meeting in Rome will be the handover meeting for the outgoing and incoming ESGAB members.

## 12. List of participants

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

Mr Giovannini was present between 13.00 and 13.30 when there was a general discussion of the items on the agenda. Eurostat were present between 14.30 and 17.00.