



54th ESGAB meeting

Thursday 15 March 2018

Minutes

Doc ESGAB 2018/26

The Secretariat



Brussels, 24 April 2018

Minutes

54th Meeting of the European Statistical Governance Advisory Board (ESGAB)

Expert Group X02147

15 March 2018

1 Place Madou, Brussels

1. Introduction and approval of the agenda

The draft agenda (Doc. 2018/16) was presented by the Chair and agreed.

It was also agreed that a copy of the internal record of the January ESGAB meeting will be sent to the previous ESGAB members, who were all present at the January meeting.

In future, when members are sent the official invitation to ESGAB meetings, an updated list of the action points from the previous meeting will be attached.

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. Rules of Procedure

Ms Ruane presented the suggested modifications to ESGAB's Rules of Procedure (RoP), which aim in particular at including more detail on issues such as: role and obligations of the Chair and the members, replacement of the Chair when needed, planning of regular *in camera* parts of the meetings (in the absence of Eurostat), and need to regularly review the operation and capacity of the Secretariat.

Following the comments and suggestions made during the meeting, a revised draft text of the Rules of Procedure will be prepared by the Secretariat and circulated to members.



4. ESGAB's assessment of the implementation of the Commission's Commitment on Confidence in Statistics

ESGAB members provided feedback on the input provided by Eurostat on 6 March 2018 about the implementation of the Commission's Commitment on Confidence in Statistics. While the information received had been much appreciated by the Board, it was felt that some more detail was needed.

As a consequence, Eurostat was invited to provide additional information to ESGAB by 5 April 2018 covering the effectiveness of the implementation of the Commission's Commitment.

5. Greek statistics

Eurostat presented the opinion of its legal unit on the interpretation of the Code of Practice by the Greek Appeal Court in one case against Andreas Georgiou (repeated breach of duty with intent to obtain unlawful gain for himself), which had been provided to ESGAB in writing before the meeting.

The Board noted the input provided and invited Eurostat to send to ESGAB the official translations of the court decisions for the remaining cases when they become available.

Members discussed the draft text of a press release on recent developments in Greek statistics and the Greek Statistical System.

6. Information from Eurostat on recent developments in the ESS

Eurostat presented the conclusions from the ESSC workshop on the implications of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which took place on 8 February 2018 in Luxembourg.

The Directors General and Presidents of the National Statistical Institutes had a rich discussion on the relevance of the GDPR implementation for the production of high quality statistics and agreed that appropriate derogations at national law could in most cases be sufficient to address the specific needs of statistical production. As next steps, they decided to share experience and best practices via a collaborative platform, and to establish a dialogue at national and European level to clarify the specificities of statistical production, including a better understanding of statistical methodology and existing safeguards.

Eurostat also informed ESGAB about the plan to organise an ESSC workshop on the next round of peer reviews in Sofia, on 22-23 May 2018, in collaboration with the Bulgarian Presidency. The agenda is being prepared by the High-Level Group on Quality.



7. Annual Report

Members discussed the structure and content of the annual report for 2018, as well as the proposed roadmap for its production.

Based on the discussion, the Secretariat will send out a draft table of contents to Members, for finalisation and adoption at the May meeting. On the basis of the final version of the table of contents, Members will be invited to volunteer to provide first draft contributions for the annual report by 18 June.

8. Meeting with Malta Statistics Authority

The Chair informed members that the Malta Statistics Authority (MSA) will have a dialogue with the Board at its meeting (18 May 2018), to exchange views on the implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice in Malta and on the proposed changes to the Maltese legal framework for official statistics.

The Secretariat will send the MSA a list of issues to be discussed at that meeting and will invite the MSA to provide ESGAB any available background document on the proposed changes to the above-mentioned Maltese legal framework.

9. Q2018 Quality Conference

The Chair informed that he will present an ESGAB paper at the Q2018 conference in Kraków, in June, as part of a session on Code of Practice/statistical governance issues. The paper will be titled "The revised Code of Practice – A new opportunity for European statistics" and is planned to be presented on 27 June afternoon, under Session 39 of the Conference.

List of participants

Members

Mr Enrico Giovannini (Chair)
Mr Kai Carstensen
Ms Mireille Elbaum
Mr Jaume Garcia
Ms Frances Ruane
Mr Algirdas Šemeta

Observers

Ms Mariana Kotzeva (Eurostat)



Mr Pieter Everaers (Eurostat)

Secretariat

Mr Stephen Clarke (Secretary)

Ms Cristina Pereira de Sá