



58th ESGAB meeting

Thursday 8 November 2018

Minutes

Doc ESGAB 2018/98

The Secretariat



Brussels, 30 November 2018

Minutes

58th Meeting of the European Statistical Governance Advisory Board (ESGAB)

Expert Group *X02147*

8 November 2018

1 Place Madou, Brussels

1. Welcome and adoption of the agenda

The draft agenda (Doc. 2018/92) was presented by the Chair and agreed.

2. Information from Eurostat on recent and future developments in the ESS

2.1. State of affairs regarding the Single Market Programme and European statistics framework 2021-2027

Eurostat briefed ESGAB on the state of play with regard to the proposal establishing the Single Market Programme and European statistics framework 2021-2027 which was approved by the Commission on 7 June 2018.

The two Council working parties — COMPCRO (Competitiveness and growth) and STATIS (Statistics) — were discussing the Commission proposal on the Single Market Programme. The most contentious issues relates to Annex II on statistics, which indicates the eligible actions for the future funding possibilities.

In the European Parliament, discussions were also held within the IMCO, ITRE and ECON Committees. In particular, the ECON Committee expressed overall support for the proposed funding on statistics pointing out that comparable and harmonised statistics at EU level are vital for policy makers. The Committee members stressed that the improvement of statistics is essential to monitor policies and to establish new ones.

2.2. Conference of NSI Directors General (DGINS) on 10-11 October and meeting of the ESS Committee on 12 October 2018 (ESGAB Chair present)

Eurostat informed the Board about the outcomes of the DGINS Conference and of the meeting of the ESS Committee (Doc. 2018/93).



The Bucharest Memorandum on ‘Official Statistics in a Datafied Society (Trusted Smart Statistics)’, discussed at the DGINS Conference and endorsed by the ESS Committee the day after, was considered as an important step for the system in acknowledging the need to revisit the role of official statistics in a datafied society and economy. The ESS members recognised that the variety of new data sources, computational paradigms and tools will require amendments to the statistical business architecture, processes, production models, IT infrastructures, methodological, legal and quality frameworks, as well as the corresponding governance structures.

Regarding the meeting of the ESS Committee, special mention was made to the Committee’s discussions on the next round of peer reviews, which will be launched in 2020 with Eurostat’s peer review to be carried out by ESGAB. The exercise should be finalised by 2022. A Task Force with Member States will be created to develop the relevant methodology, whose mandate will be debated by the ESS Committee in February 2019.

3. Greek statistics

The Board exchanged views on the situation regarding judicial proceedings in Greece.

Having been informed that a new court case could be open by the Greek Supreme Court based on issues that had already been analysed and clarified, ESGAB asked Eurostat to obtain more information on the situation and report back to the Board at its December meeting. In addition, it asked Eurostat to translate the Prosecutor’s proposal to the Appeals Court Council into English.

4. ESGAB Annual Report 2018 – progress update

The Chair briefed ESGAB Members on the stimulating exchange with the ESS Committee on the main messages of the Board’s report, held on 12 October in Bucharest. The ESSC welcomed the information presented and encouraged ESGAB to make recommendations to strengthen the ESS. During the discussion, the role of the Commitments on Confidence in convincing governments about the importance of reliable and trusted statistics was also underlined.

Further to the exchange of views which took place at its meeting of 13 September 2018, the Board discussed the contents of its draft Annual Report 2018 and reviewed the written contributions provided by the Members in the meantime. The draft report will be revised following this discussion and sent to Members for further comments in writing.



5. Meeting dates for 2019

The proposed meeting dates for 2019 were presented. As some Members will not be available on the dates proposed for April and July, a new call for availability for those two occasions will be launched by the Secretariat.

The possibility of organising one of the 2019 ESGAB meetings in Luxembourg or in the country of one of the Members was put forward.

6. Next meeting

The next meeting will take place on 13 December 2018, in Brussels, starting at 10 o'clock. At this occasion, Eurostat will invite the Board for a Christmas lunch.

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List of participants

Members

Mr Enrico Giovannini (Chair)
Mr Kai Carstensen
Mr Bart De Moor
Ms Mireille Elbaum
Mr Jaume Garcia
Mr Algirdas Šemeta

Excused: Ms Frances Ruane

Observer

Mr Eduardo Barredo Capelot (Eurostat)

Secretariat

Ms Cristina Pereira de Sá