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Annex 3

### **Annex 3 – Reservations on the quality of the Greek data expressed by Eurostat between 2005 and 2009**

#### **March 2005**

Eurostat is not in a position to validate the figures for Greece. This is mainly due to a newly communicated inconsistency in the recording of flows between Greece and the EU budget. In addition, data for government deficit for the years 2002 and 2003 have also been revised by the Greek authorities in their March 2005 notification. These revisions were mainly due to the fact that a new law concerning the repayment of debt of hospitals was adopted at the end of 2004 by the Greek government. This revealed that unpaid expenditure by hospitals for the past years had not been properly booked when expenditure was incurred. Moreover, data on expenditure arrears of hospitals and on government expenditure for the Olympic Games are not yet final. This could lead to a further upward revision in the deficit figures.

#### **September 2005**

Some pending issues remain for the recording of EU transactions, the accounts of social security and the amounts of other receivables and payables for the years 2002-2004.

#### **April 2006**

Despite the recent improvement in the statistical processes and good co-operation between Eurostat and the national statistical authorities of Greece, issues remain related to the Greek government accounts of a structural and systemic nature. Eurostat will undertake a methodological visit in the coming weeks in order to clarify the pending issues (see also Eurostat News Release 120/2005 of 26 September 2005).

#### **October 2006**

Eurostat has withdrawn the reservation on reported data of the September 2005 notification and April 2006 notification concerning Greece. This is due to clarification of the issues concerning the recording of transactions with the EU budget, the accounts of social security and the amounts of other receivables and payables for the years 2002-2005 (see below "Other issues").

#### **April 2008**

Greece: Eurostat is in the process of clarifying, in close co-operation with the Greek statistical authorities, some issues relating to the recording of EU grants in 2006 and 2007, the existence of a substantial statistical discrepancy in 2007 of 0.6% of GDP and the insufficient coverage of source data for extra-budgetary funds, local government and social security funds achieved for the first estimate of the 2007 balance.

**October 2008**

Eurostat has withdrawn the reservation on the data reported by Greece in the April 2008 notification (News Release 54/2008 of 18 April 2008 on the provision of data for the excessive deficit procedure). Issues clarified since April 2008 concern the recording of EU grants (in 2006 and 2007), statistical discrepancies (for 2007 data) and the coverage of source data for extra-budgetary funds, local government and social security funds. The Greek authorities have agreed with Eurostat a list of medium-term actions to be implemented.

**October 2009**

Eurostat has expressed a reservation on the data reported by Greece due to significant uncertainties over the figures notified by the Greek statistical authorities.