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Mr Jiří BURIÁNEK
Secretary General
Committee of the Regions
Rue Belliard/Belliardstraat 101
1040 Bruxelles/Brussel

Subject: Opinion on Indicators for territorial development – GDP and beyond

Dear Mr Buriánek,

Thank you for sending to ESAC the opinion in subject, as it is indeed advisable to involve users of European statistics at an early stage. We are glad to see that the CoR has issued a few recommendations on such an important issue.

ESAC agrees that the coordination between the Europe 2020 strategy and the cohesion policy is essential. Therefore, the revision of the Europe 2020 strategy becomes extremely important and I am happy to announce that ESAC is currently working on a set of recommendations for indicators of an improved post-2020 Europe strategy.

The CoR suggests, with a view to the next programming period beyond 2020, that the European Commission starts as early as possible an in-depth discussion with local and regional authorities on the future goals of these policies and the necessary indicators to measure their progress. It invites the Commission to put forward in this respect a roadmap on GDP and beyond, and ESAC supports this recommendation. This highlights the need for adequately resourcing the European Statistical System (ESS) in order to provide policy makers with sufficient data for monitoring (e.g. implementation of the cohesion policy) and with high quality data for users of statistics.

Therefore, I would kindly ask you to keep ESAC informed of any development in this context.

Yours sincerely,



Ineke Stoop
ESAC chair