

The Hague, 15 July 2016  
ESAC/2016/1223

Mr Walter RADERMACHER  
Director-General - Eurostat  
European Commission  
L-2920 Luxembourg

**Subject: Extension of the European Statistical Programme 2013-2017 for 2018-2020 -  
Support from ESAC**

Dear Mr Radermacher,

I refer to your letter of 9 June 2016 asking for ESAC's support to the above-mentioned file. As you know, the extension of the European Statistical Programme to 2018-2020, in particular the European Commission's request for a higher budget by ca. 29 mio/year being allocated to the production of European statistics, has been discussed on several occasions during ESAC meetings. The Committee wholeheartedly supports the proposed extension and has always been fully behind this initiative in order to adequately resource the European Statistical System.

The increased budget would allow Eurostat and the ESS to invest in developments needed to harness new data sources into statistical production and provide flexibility for fulfilling urgent and new statistical demands of policy makers. It would also allow policy relevant indicators to be produced faster than before. In order to reach these aims, I have addressed a letter in my capacity as ESAC chairperson to one of the Committee members, Mr Bayet, member of the European Parliament, asking for his support to an increased budget for European statistics in the European Parliament.

Yours sincerely,



Ineke Stoop  
ESAC chair