

## **Statement on developments in the Greek statistical system**

The European Statistical Advisory Committee ([ESAC](#)), which represents the users of European Statistics, attaches great value to the quality and independence of official statistics in all European countries.

ESAC therefore shares the concerns of the European Statistical Government Advisory Board ([ESGAB](#)) about a number of developments in the Greek statistical system, and specifically the legal proceedings against the former President of the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT), as expressed in its [Press Release](#) dated 14 September 2017.

The Chair of the Eurogroup voiced similar concerns in his [report](#) at the meeting of 15 September 2017.

More information on the conviction of Andreas Georgiou, the former President of ELSTAT is also presented in a [Statement](#) by the International Statistical Institute ([ISI](#)), which was published on the 7 August 2017.

Mr Georgiou acted at all times in complete compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice, which he was required to do under the provisions of the Greek Statistical Law applying at the time. ESAC wholeheartedly supports the independence of Greek statistics, as it does the independence of statistics in all European countries. ESAC also notes that ESGAB has closely monitored events in the Greek statistical system. We also wholeheartedly agree with Mr Dijsselbloem's statement that the convictions of the former President of ELSTAT, which attracted widespread international coverage and condemnation, is damaging for the reputation of Greek statistics and the confidence in Greek public institutions in general.