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THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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**NOTE**

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from:	Presidency
to:	Delegations
Subject:	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics – Outcome of the joint hearing: Regulation (EC) No 223/09 – Article 11, Paragraph 3

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Delegations will find attached a proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics – Outcome of the joint hearing: Regulation (EC) No 223/09 – Article 11, Paragraph 3.

Encl.:

**In preparation for the meeting of the Working Party on Statistics on 24 January 2013, delegations will find here below the outcome of the joint hearing: Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 223/09 – Article 11, Paragraph 3 and the Presidency proposal of the final amendments.**

## **Introduction**

In the recent joint hearing on Article 11, paragraph 3, Member States were asked to indicate their preference among the following four options:

### **Option 1 – Commission Proposal (as amended)**

“Member States shall take all necessary measures to implement the Code of Practice in order to maintain confidence in their statistics. To this effect, each Member State, represented by its government, shall sign ~~and implement~~ a ‘Commitment on Confidence in Statistics’ whereby specific policy commitments are made to implement the Code and to establish a national quality assurance framework, including self-assessments and improvement actions. The Commitment shall be counter-signed by the Commission.

These commitments shall be regularly monitored by the Commission on the basis of annual reports sent by Member States. The Commission shall report to the European Parliament and the Council on the implementation of these commitments within 3 years of the entry into force of this Regulation.”

### **Option 2**

“Member States shall take all necessary measures to implement the Code of Practice in order to maintain confidence in their statistics.”

- *with the remaining text transferred to recitals.*

### **Option 3**

*All of Article 11, paragraph 3, transferred to recitals.*

### **Option 4**

*Deletion of Article 11, paragraph 3, and no amendments to Recital 13.*

## Outcome of Hearing

The replies from Member States indicated support for options 1 and 2, but no consensus choice of option emerged from the hearing. Options 3 and 4 did not receive support. Accordingly, having taken account of the views and comments submitted by the Member States in response to the joint hearing, the Irish Presidency has prepared a compromise proposal.

## Presidency Proposal

The proposal for Article 11 comprises paragraphs 3 and 4, as set out below. For ease of reference these are shown in the context of the text of the existing Article 11 of Regulation 223/2009.

A proposed amendment of Recital 13 is also set out below.

## Article 11

### European statistics Code of Practice

“1. The Code of Practice shall aim at ensuring public trust in European statistics by establishing how European statistics are to be developed, produced and disseminated in conformity with the statistical principles as set out in Article 2(1) and best international statistical practice.

2. The Code of Practice shall be reviewed and updated as necessary by the ESS Committee. The Commission shall publish amendments thereto.”

**3. Member States and the Commission (Eurostat) shall take all the necessary measures to implement the statistical principles as set out in Article 2 (1) of Regulation 223/2009 in order to maintain confidence in European Statistics. These principles are further elaborated in the Code of Practice.**

**4. A ‘Commitment on Confidence in Statistics’ shall further aim at ensuring public trust in European Statistics by establishing specific policy commitments relating to the implementation of the statistical principles as further elaborated in the Code of Practice and of national quality assurance frameworks, including self-assessments, improvement actions and monitoring mechanisms, taking account of national specificities.**

## Recital 13

The quality of European statistics could be strengthened and the confidence of users reinforced, by involving national governments in the responsibility of applying the European Statistics Code of Practice. To this end, a ‘Commitment on Confidence in Statistics’ should be established in each Member State, **taking account of national specificities**, and include specific undertakings by its government to implement the Code and national quality-assurance frameworks, including self-assessments, ~~and~~ improvement actions **and monitoring mechanisms**.