



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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**STATIS 24
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COMER 77**

ADDENDUM TO "I/A" ITEM NOTE

from: General Secretariat of the Council
to: COREPER/Council

Subject: Draft Commission Regulation of [...] amending Regulation (EC) No 184/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community statistics concerning balance of payments, international trade in services and foreign direct investment, as regards the update of data requirements and definitions
- Decision not to oppose the draft measures proposed by the Commission (regulatory procedure with scrutiny)

Statement for the Coreper minutes by the United Kingdom

Throughout the drafting period the United Kingdom (UK) continually raised the issue that Eurostat should harmonise the transmission programme of its economic statistics. As the National Accounts legislation is yet to be finalised, the change in the timeliness of quarterly Balance of Payments statistics from T+90 days to T+85 days for non-euro area countries (and T+80 days for euro area countries) is potentially different from that which will be agreed for the new European System of Accounts. As the UK Office for National Statistics produces Balance of Payments, National Accounts and Public Sector Finance statistics within an integrated process (this is widely regarded as 'best practice' due to the coherence and consistency of the sector and financial accounts (SFA) and Balance of Payments statistics), any differences in the transmission programme will lead to inconsistencies in the SFA and Balance of Payments statistics provided by the UK and add a significant additional processing burden.

We need to ensure that the Balance of Payments and National Accounts regulation data transmissions are consistent and do not increase the burden and lower the quality of the statistics. For non-Euro area countries, the Council has recently agreed that the quarterly sector accounts are delivered at T+90. Thus the present Balance of Payment proposal does not help to improve or maintain such quality related issues.

For these reasons the UK is abstaining from supporting the change to the Regulation.
