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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Delegations

Subject: EU Statistics

- Council Conclusions on EU Statistics (5 November 2024)

Delegations will find in annex the 2024 Council conclusions on EU Statistics as approved by the Council (ECOFIN) meeting held on 5 November 2024.

2024 Council conclusions on EU statistics

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

Following the priorities set in the previous Council Conclusions on EU statistics of November 2023, notably on the EFC Status Report on Information Requirements in EMU and taking into consideration the political guidelines for the Commission, the Council has reviewed the progress related to information requirements in EMU, statistics for the EDP, surveillance of macroeconomic imbalances and structural statistics.

Making European statistics and the European Statistical System fit for the future

The Council WELCOMES the recent revision of Regulation (EC) 223/2009 on European statistics that will allow the European Statistical System (ESS) to tap the potential of digital data sources and technologies and be more responsive by securing access to new data sources, by providing a mechanism for statistical response to crisis situations and by fostering innovation and the development of new statistics, with due consideration for reducing the reporting burden on its respondents.

In this regard, the Council ENCOURAGES the ESS to use the new tools available to it to develop and provide high quality statistics that will contribute to Union priorities - a prosperous, competitive and sustainable Europe; a safer and more secure Europe; and a fair and democratic Europe.

The Council ACKNOWLEDGES the successful completion of the ESS Peer Review process and the publication of the final report and ENCOURAGES Eurostat, the national statistical authorities as well as the other relevant Member States' authorities to implement the recommendations to further develop both national and European statistical systems.

The Council WELCOMES the efforts of the ESS to promote statistical literacy and to ensure the availability of high quality and relevant statistics that will help to tackle disinformation and contribute to fact checking and the protection of democracy.

Adequate resources for official statistics

The Council STRESSES the need to ensure that human and financial resources are adequate for Eurostat and National Statistical Authorities, to address current and additional urgent data requirements including on the prosperity and competitiveness of the economy of the Union the resilience of its businesses, and its security and crisis preparedness.

The 2024 EFC Status Report on Information Requirements in EMU

The Council APPRECIATES the further improvements in the quality and availability of the Principal European Economic Indicators (PEEIs) and the publication of a new monthly index of services production since April 2024.

The Council UNDERLINES the continuing important role played by the PEEIs as a basis for monitoring short-term economic developments and LOOKS FORWARD to further progress to close remaining gaps.

The Council WELCOMES the implementation of the mid-term review of the ESA 2010 Transmission Programme during the 2024 benchmark revision of national accounts, leading to improved and more timely data for users.

The Council TAKES NOTE of the ongoing activities under the G-20 Data Gaps Initiative, and in particular the work being undertaken on statistics on climate change and distributional measures of household income, consumption and wealth, which are instrumental to the conduct of key EU policies.

Real estate statistics

The Council WELCOMES the work of the ESS to develop and improve commercial real estate statistics, addressing the recommendation of the European Systemic Risk Board on vulnerabilities in the commercial real estate sector in the European Economic Area, and LOOKS FORWARD to a legislative proposal from the Commission.

The Council ENCOURAGES the ESS to continue efforts to provide more detailed and timely statistics on social housing, given the challenges faced by many Europeans to access affordable housing.

The Council WELCOMES the ESS efforts to improve the timeliness and frequency of housing price indicators including the development of flash estimates.

Statistics for the revised European Economic Governance Framework and Macroeconomic Imbalance Procedure (MIP)

The Council WELCOMES additional statistics in the Government Finance domain to implement the new European Economic Governance Framework and ENCOURAGES their further development and publication.

The Council APPRECIATES the publication of a complete set of annual financial and non-financial accounts and Maastricht debt for EU institutions and bodies.

The Council WELCOMES the quality assurance of statistics underlying the MIP and APPRECIATES the annual ESS-ESCB quality assessment report on MIP statistics by Eurostat and the ECB, TAKING NOTE of the actions identified therein.

Energy statistics

The Council UNDERLINES the high priority of timely and reliable energy statistics, including to inform the development of the Clean Industrial Deal and reducing Europe's energy import dependency, and WELCOMES the completion of technical work on fuel transformations statistics and the publication of new indicators on renewable energy, energy efficiency, new fuels and energy storage, as well as detailed statistics on the security of energy supply and import dependency.

Statistics in relation to Sustainable Development Goals and sustainable growth

The Council WELCOMES the provision of statistical indicators and information for the monitoring of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at European Union level in the context of the European Semester and a renewed European focus on sustainable growth and ENCOURAGES Eurostat to continue to monitor progress towards SDGs in cooperation with Member States.

Business statistics

The Council ENCOURAGES the ESS to pursue its efforts to use microdata linking (MDL) and other innovative techniques for business data to obtain new statistics and insights into the competitiveness and resilience of European businesses, including SMEs, without increasing the reporting burden.

The Council LOOKS FORWARD to experimental statistics that identify and monitor sectors with high dependence on imports of critical raw materials and essential components from third countries as well as statistics depicting the effect of innovation and R&D activities on the performance of European businesses.

The Council UNDERLINES the importance to continue implementing the action plan for better measurement of digitalisation.

Demographic and social statistics

The Council UNDERLINES the critical importance of high quality integrated European social statistics for the development of European social policies, including the European Pillar of Social Rights.

The Council APPRECIATES the publication of pilot data relating to digital platform employment and WELCOMES the intention to include it in an ad hoc module of the Labour Force Survey in 2026.

The Council WELCOMES the recent Commission proposal on labour market statistics on business that will improve the scope, timeliness and comparability of European statistics in this domain.

The Council TAKES NOTE OF the ongoing work on developing statistics on equality including gender-based violence and UNDERLINES the importance of these data.

The Council LOOKS FORWARD to the outcome of the review on health-related statistics and ENCOURAGES the ESS to continue improvements in these statistics.

Sixteenth report by the European Statistical Governance Advisory Board (ESGAB) on the implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice

The Council WELCOMES the sixteenth report of the European Statistical Governance Advisory Board (ESGAB), providing an independent overview of the European Statistical System as regards the implementation of the Code of Practice and TAKES NOTE of ESGAB's recommendations.