

Presidency Flash

Paris, 7 June, 2022

Informal videoconference of the Council Working Party on Statistics on 15 June

Dear colleagues,

We are pleased to invite you to the fourth informal videoconference of the Council Working Party on Statistics under the French Presidency. This meeting will be organised remotely, using the Council's VTC platform. It will take place on 15 June and will be held from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., without lunch break.

The meeting will focus on the revision of regulation 549/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European system of national and regional accounts in the European Union (ESA2010).

The Presidency has prepared a compromise proposal on this revised regulation, which has been circulated to all Member States on 5 June (working document WK 8119 2022 REV2).

This proposal takes into account your responses to the written consultation in January (compiled in the working document WK 1518/2022), as well as the views expressed on this revised regulation during the previous CWPS meetings in January, February and April. The Presidency would like to sincerely thank all delegations for their contributions which have made it possible to draft this text.

As it is a compromise text, not all the remarks expressed by each Member State could be taken into account. However, the Presidency considers that it is a balanced and realistic text reflecting the opinions of the Member States as a whole, which could therefore be acceptable as a basis for negotiations with the European Parliament. Following this meeting, the Presidency therefore would like to propose to COREPER to adopt a mandate for negotiations with the European Parliament on this text.

The following five topics are those in the Commission proposal for which Member States had the most reservations. The Presidency significantly revised them on its proposal, which will be discussed during the meeting on 15 June.

Metadata

The points in Annex II concerning metadata have been significantly reduced and simplified, as only three points remain on this subject out of the ten points in the Commission proposal. In particular, a distinction is made between structural metadata to describe the general process and transmission-specific metadata whose purpose is to inform the Commission (Eurostat) of particular events and to describe the difficulties linked to this transmission. For the

transmission of specific metadata, a delay of 3 days is allowed after the transmission of annual data (see point 11 of annex II).

Retransmission and consistency between tables

The text retains the wording on this issue in the current version of the Regulation concerning Table 801. In line with this, a footnote will be added on the first page of Annex II of the Regulation, stating in relation to Tables 1Q and 1A that "*If a Member State transmits a complete set of data at t+2 months, data does not need to be transmitted at t+3 months*".

Derogations

The Presidency has added an article and a recital on derogations into the basic act. Derogations are granted by the Commission (Eurostat) upon justification and for a limited period of time. They can only relate to new provisions included in the revised regulation. These derogations may allow Member States to solve problems arising from the revision of the Regulation, by giving them time to adapt to certain new provisions.

Table 28A

The Commission (Eurostat) sent a note to the Presidency concerning this table on 22 April. The Presidency transmitted it the same day to the members of the Working Party. This note provides a better understanding of the new demands and of the interest of this table to describe properly the structure of the government debt of the Member States. In view of the number of compulsory transmissions and their interest, the Presidency proposes to keep the Commission's proposal and the deadline for transmission. The new article on derogations can apply to this table.

Accounts of EU institutions and bodies

A recital has been added :

(10a) To support Member States in the context of the COVID19 pandemic, the Union has taken major initiatives, notably NextGenerationEU and the recovery and resilience facility aimed at mitigating the social and economic impact of the crisis and reinforcing the resilience of Member States' economies and social structures. Against this background, EU statistics should properly reflect the statistical accounts for the EU institutions and bodies. Therefore, technical work should be pursued for that purpose, so that a robust methodology is developed allowing for the compilation and dissemination of those accounts by the Commission (Eurostat) with regular reports, in particular, to the Council and the European Parliament on the progress made. The Commission (Eurostat) should make available relevant information on deficit and debt by EU institutions and bodies as soon as possible.

Some other topics of the proposal have been the subject of more specific revisions.

We remain at the disposal of Member States which would like to have a bilateral discussion on a particular issue before the meeting on 15 June.

Looking forward to a productive meeting !

The French Presidency