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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and the Council amending Regulation (EU) No 99/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European statistical programme 2013-17, by extending it to 2018-2020 - SK Presidency Outcome written consultation

Delegations will find attached the outcome of the Slovak Presidency written consultation on the above Regulation.

Slovak Presidency written consultation on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) No 99/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European statistical programme 2013-17, by extending it to 2018-2020**General comments**

The majority of the Member States supports the proposal.

Member States welcome the extension of the European Statistical Programme to 2018-2020 with an increased budget. They understand that the extended Programme changes the statistical outputs in accordance with the user needs and new priorities of the current Commission. However some Member States consider the Program very ambitious; they have serious concerns that its implementation will lead to an increase in workload and additional costs for the Member States. So further re-prioritisation of current European statistics needs to be pursuit.

Even though Member States, in general, support the ideas presented by the Commission, they expressed their concerns on some aspects of the proposal. The most frequent comments, suggestions and requests for clarification refer to the following matters:

- the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: the references are to be added;
- REFIT program: reference only to FRIBS while other two framework regulations are concerned;
- advanced techniques for now-casting and flash estimates for the social indicators;
- the development experimental ecosystem accounts and indicators measuring environmental “footprints”;
- enterprise architecture as way towards the inputs harmonisation;
- sharing data, services and resources;
- the use of European approach to statistics for gender based violence survey.

The comments provided by the Member States should be treated as preliminary. Most Member States reserve the right to provide further comments and/or to modify their position during the course of the negotiations.

COM proposal	MSs' proposals for wording	MS's comments and justification
<p>THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,</p> <p>Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 338(1) thereof,</p> <p>Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,</p> <p>After transmission of the draft legislative act to the national parliaments,</p> <p>Having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee¹,</p> <p>Having regard to the opinion of the Committee of the Regions²,</p> <p>Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure,</p>		
Whereas:		
<p>(1) Reliable and relevant evidence based on European statistics is absolutely essential to measuring the progress and evaluating the efficiency of the Union's policies and programmes, especially in the context of the Europe 2020 strategy and the Agenda for jobs, growth, fairness and democratic change.</p>	<p>(1) In the context of Better Regulation, Union policies should increasingly be designed and monitored on the basis of solid evidence. European statistics have a distinct role to play in that respect and can make a real difference, especially in policy areas where responsiveness is key for policies to be successful. Reliable and relevant evidence</p>	

¹ OJ C [...], [...], p. [...].

² OJ C [...], [...], p. [...].

	based on European statistics is absolutely essential to measuring the progress and evaluating the efficiency of the Union's policies and programmes, especially in the context of the Europe 2020 strategy and the Agenda for jobs, growth, fairness and democratic change.	
(2) Under Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council ³ , the European statistical programme is to provide the framework for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics, setting out the main fields and objectives of the actions envisaged for a period corresponding to that of the multiannual financial framework.	(2) Under Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council as amended by Regulation (EU) No 2015/759⁴ , the European statistical programme is to provide the framework for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics, setting out the main fields and objectives of the actions envisaged for a period corresponding to that of the multiannual financial framework.	
(3) Regulation (EU) No 99/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁴ covers the period from 2013 to 2017 only, whereas the current multiannual financial framework extends to 2020. It should therefore be amended to extend the European statistical programme to 2020.		
(4) In the context of Better Regulation, Union policies should increasingly be designed and monitored on the basis of solid evidence.	(4) In the context of Better Regulation, Union policies should increasingly be designed and monitored on the basis of solid evidence.	

³ Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on European statistics and repealing Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1101/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the transmission of data subject to statistical confidentiality to the Statistical Office of the European Communities, Council Regulation (EC) No 322/97 on Community Statistics, and Council Decision 89/382/EEC, Euratom establishing a Committee on the Statistical Programmes of the European Communities (OJ L 87, 31.3.2009, p. 164).

⁴ Regulation (EU) No 99/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 January 2013 on the European statistical programme 2013-17 (OJ L 39, 9.2.2013, p. 12).

<p>European statistics have a distinct role to play in that respect and can make a real difference, especially in policy areas where responsiveness is key for policies to be successful.</p>	<p>European statistics have a distinct role to play in that respect and can make a real difference, especially in policy areas where responsiveness is key for policies to be successful.</p>	
<p>(5) Better statistics are therefore crucial to achieving better results and contributing to a better Europe, and greater efforts should be made to boost investments in official statistics at both European and national levels. This should provide guidance in priority policy areas and for capacity-building, in addition to current guidance and ongoing re-prioritisation. More specifically, action should be taken to tackle the most urgent statistical gaps, increase timeliness and support political priorities and economic policy coordination through the European Semester. The Commission (Eurostat) should also provide new population projections in close cooperation with the national statistical institutes to update the analysis of the economic and budgetary implications of population ageing.</p>	<p>(5) Better High-quality statistics are therefore crucial to achieving better-reliable results and contributing to a better Europe, and greater efforts should be made to boost investments in official statistics at both European and national levels. This should provide guidance in priority policy areas and for capacity-building, in addition to current guidance and ongoing re-prioritisation. More specifically, action should be taken to tackle the most urgent statistical gaps, increase timeliness and support political priorities and economic policy coordination through the European Semester. The Commission (Eurostat) should also provide new population projections in close cooperation with the national statistical institutes to update the analysis of the economic and budgetary implications of population ageing.</p>	<p>The impact of better statistics to better policy results is not straightforward and therefore the first ‘better’ is inappropriate and unnecessary.</p> <p>In addition there should be some ideas about setting negative priorities in ESP that should come along with the re-prioritisation of policy areas.</p> <p>The second sentence (starting with “This should provide guidance...”) is not very clear: to what the word “this” refers to, who gives guidance to whom and the current re-prioritisation has been negligible? We would like ask the Commission to <u>explain</u> the meaning of the sentence.</p> <p>See also comments concerning annual population projections in the Annex, point (1)(i) ii).</p>

<p>(6) Experimental ecosystem accounts and climate-change statistics, including those relevant to climate-change adaptation and ‘footprints’, should be further developed, particularly in support of the implementation of the 2015 Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The European Energy Union and the 2030 framework for climate and energy, which aims to make the Union’s economy and energy system more competitive, secure and sustainable, will require new statistics on energy consumption, energy efficiency, renewable energies, energy dependence and security of supply.</p>	<p>(6) Experimental ecosystem accounts and climate change statistics, including those relevant to climate-change adaptation and ‘footprints’, should be further developed, particularly in support of the implementation of the 2015 Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The European Energy Union and the 2030 framework for climate and energy, which aims to make the Union’s economy and energy system more competitive, secure and sustainable, will require new statistics on energy consumption, energy efficiency, renewable energyies sources, energy dependence and security of supply.</p>	<p>Although it is considered important monitoring the performance of the European Energy Union policy for Energy and Climate, the related indicators proposed by the European Commission are still at a discussion phase with the MSs. Any proposal on new energy statistics indicators would certainly require additional national resources (humans and financial). Therefore this proposal should be seen with reservations, once it is very ambitious and has not been properly discussed at expert level.</p> <p>See also comments concerning ‘environmental footprints’ in the Annex, point (1)(g).</p>
<p>(7) The extension of the programme is an opportunity to make adaptations and reflect the new orientations, to complement the existing objectives and ongoing prioritisation.</p>		<p>There should be some ideas about setting negative priorities in ESP that should come along with the re-prioritisation of policy areas.</p>
<p>(8) An appropriate increase of the budget for statistics at EU level should support these</p>		<p><u>What are</u> the expected “structural leverage effects”?</p>

changes to the programme and bring significant added value and results through large-scale projects, structural leverage effects and economies of scale benefiting statistical systems across the Member States.		
(9) This Regulation establishes a financial envelope for the extension of the European statistical programme to cover the years 2018 to 2020. This is to constitute the prime reference amount, within the meaning of point 17 of the Interinstitutional Agreement between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission ⁵ , during the annual budgetary procedure.		
(10) Since the objective of this Regulation, namely to extend the European statistical programme to cover the years 2018 to 2020, cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States and can therefore be better achieved at Union level, the Union may adopt measures, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity as set out in Article 5 of the Treaty on European Union. In accordance with the principle of proportionality, as set out in that Article, this Regulation does not go beyond what is necessary in order to achieve that objective.		
(11) In accordance with Regulation (EC) No 223/2009, the draft proposal for an extension of the European statistical programme for the period 2018 to 2020 has been submitted for		

⁵ Interinstitutional Agreement of 2 December 2013 between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management (OJ C 373, 20.12.2013, p. 1).

prior examination to the European Statistical System Committee, the European Statistical Advisory Committee established by Decision No 234/2008/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁶ and the Committee on Monetary, Financial and Balance of Payments Statistics established by Council Decision 2006/856/EC ⁷ ,		
(12) Regulation (EU) No 99/2013 should therefore be amended accordingly,		
HAVE ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:		
<i>Article 1</i>		
Regulation (EU) No 99/2013 is amended as follows:		
(1) In Article 1, the following paragraph is added: ‘The programme shall be extended to cover the period 2018 to 2020.’		
	(1a) Article 3 is replaced as follows: “1. This Regulation provides for the programming framework for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics, the main fields and the objectives of the actions envisaged for the period from 2013 to <u>2020</u> , in accordance with Articles 13 and 14 of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009”.	

⁶ Decision No 234/2008/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 establishing the European Statistical Advisory Committee and repealing Council Decision 91/116/EEC (OJ L 73, 15.3.2008, p. 13).

⁷ Council Decision 2006/856/EC of 13 November 2006 establishing a Committee on monetary, financial and balance of payments statistics (OJ L 332, 30.11.2006, p. 21).

	2. The programme does not cover measures provided for by the Programme for the Modernisation of European Enterprise and Trade Statistics ('the MEETS Programme'), established by Decision No 1297/2008/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (3), until the end of the MEETS Programme on 31 December 2013, but includes objectives in the area of enterprise and trade statistics planned to be implemented from 2014 to <u>2020</u>."	
(2) In Article 7(1), the following paragraph is inserted: 'The Union financial envelope for the implementation of the programme for 2018 to 2020 shall be EUR 218.1 million, covered by the programming period 2014 to 2020.'		It remains <u>unclear</u> how the additional funds (25.2 million euros) assigned to the budget of the extended period (2018 to 2020) are distributed between the years in the period, incl. how much will be assigned to Member States to finance changes in the programme. The Regulation should specify what the additional funds are for and how the sum will be distributed between the Commission and Member States. Moreover, an assessment should be made of the cost of implementing additional priorities for Member States; such assessments should in the future form part of a systematic approach to ESP planning.
(3) Article 13 is replaced as follows: 'Protection of the financial interests of the Union 1. The Commission shall take appropriate measures ensuring that, when activities financed under this Regulation are implemented, the financial interests of the Union are protected through the application of preventive measures against fraud, corruption		

and any other illegal activities, through consistent and effective checks and, if irregularities are detected, through the recovery of the amounts wrongly paid and, where appropriate, through effective, proportionate and dissuasive administrative and financial penalties.		
2. The Commission and the Court of Auditors or their representatives shall have the power of audit, on the basis of documents and on-the-spot checks, over all grant beneficiaries, contractors, subcontractors and third parties who have, directly or indirectly, received Union funds under the Programme.		Taking into account the fact that it introduces provision concerning third parties who have, directly or indirectly, received Union funds under the Programme, it should be <u>clarified</u> what the “third parties” mean.
3. The European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) may carry out on-the-spot checks and inspections on economic operators concerned directly or indirectly by such funding in accordance with the procedures laid down in Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁸ and in Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96 ⁹ with a view to establishing whether there has been fraud, corruption or any other illegal activity affecting the financial interests of the Union in connection with a grant agreement or grant decision or a contract funded, directly or indirectly, within the framework of this Regulation.		

⁸ OJ L 248, 18.9.2013, p. 1.

⁹ OJ L 292, 15.11.1996, p. 2.

4. Cooperation agreements with third countries and international organisations and grant agreements and grant decisions and contracts resulting from the implementation of this Regulation shall expressly empower the Commission, the Court of Auditors and OLAF to conduct such audits, on-the-spot checks and inspections.		
5. Where the implementation of an action is outsourced or sub-delegated, in whole or in part, or where it requires the award of a procurement contract or financial support to be given to a third party, the contract, grant agreement or grant decision shall include the contractor's or beneficiary's obligation to impose on any third party involved explicit acceptance of those powers of the Commission, the Court of Auditors and OLAF.		Taking into account the fact that it introduces provision concerning restrictions in the context of third parties related to conducted audits, on-the-spot checks and inspections, it should be <u>clarified</u> what the “third parties” mean.
6. Paragraphs 4 and 5 shall apply without prejudice to paragraphs 1, 2 and 3.’		
	(3a) Article 15(1) is replaced by the following: The Commission shall, after consulting the ESSC, submit an <u>two</u> intermediate progress reports on the implementation of the programme to the European Parliament and to the Council by 30 June 2015 <u>and by 30 June 2018</u>.	<u>3 MSs propose a second intermediate progress report.</u> Taking into account the fast changing environment and policy needs, we think that the interval between the intermediate and final report is too long (6.5 years) and therefore a second intermediate progress report would be necessary in order to review the programme at timely intervals.
(4) Article 15(3) is replaced by the following: ‘By 31 December 2021, the Commission shall, after consulting the ESSC and the	(4) Article 15(3) is replaced by the following: ‘By 31 December 2021, the Commission shall, after consulting the ESSC and the	The final evaluation report could be further strengthened by including more detailed reporting requirements concerning the outcome of reprioritisation and estimations of cost and

European Statistical Advisory Committee, submit a final evaluation report on the implementation of the programme to the European Parliament and to the Council.'	European Statistical Advisory Committee, submit a final evaluation report on the implementation of the programme to the European Parliament and to the Council. Reporting on the outcome of reprioritisation, including estimations of costs and burdens for statistical projects and fields covered by the programme, as well as an assessment of emerging statistical needs, in particular for new Community policies, shall form part of the final evaluation report.'	burdens. The inserted text is in line with the five year programme 2008-2012, and it is found that the evaluation report could benefit from a similar approach.
	<u>Alternative 1:</u> (4) Article 15(3) is replaced by the following: 'By 31 December 2021, the Commission shall, after consulting the ESSC and the European Statistical Advisory Committee, submit a final evaluation report on the implementation of the programme to the European Parliament and to the Council.' The report shall include actions taken by the Commission on limiting the overall burden, in particular the net reduction of structural implementation costs and production costs for Member States and administrative burdens for businesses stemming from the programme.	
(5) The Annex is amended as set out in the Annex to this Regulation.		
<i>Article 2</i>		
This Regulation shall enter into force on the day of its publication in the <i>Official Journal of the</i>		

European Union. It shall apply from 1 January 2018.		
This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.		
Done at Brussels,		
<u>ANNEX</u>		
The Annex to Regulation (EU) No 99/2013 is amended as follows:		
	(A) The name of the annex is replaced by the following: “Statistical infrastructure and objectives of the European statistical programme 2013 to <u>2020</u> ”.	
	(B) Introduction is amended as follows: (a) The second paragraph is replaced by the following: “The European statistical programme provides for the legislative framework for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics over the period 2013 to <u>2020</u> ”. (b) The fourth paragraph is replaced by the following: “Statistics developed, produced and disseminated under the European statistical programme 2013 to <u>2020</u> (‘the programme’) contribute to the implementation of the Union’s policies as reflected in the TFEU and Europe 2020 and	

	<u>its respective flagship initiatives and other policies set out in the Commission's strategic priorities. The above mentioned statistics are also the basis for monitoring 2030 Agenda."</u>	Bearing in mind the importance of taking coordinated actions at global, regional and national levels for monitoring the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, inserting of the relevant statement should be considered.
(1) Point I. Statistical Outputs is amended as follows:		
(a) In Objective 1.1.1, the first paragraph is replaced by the following: "Provide high-quality statistical information, which should be available in a timely manner for the European Semester, to monitor the implementation of Europe 2020. New indicators shall, to the extent possible, be based on available statistical data."		
(b) In Objective 1.2.1, the second indent is replaced by the following: "— providing statistical input for an enhanced Stability and Growth Pact specifically aimed at the production and provision of high-quality statistics on government deficit and debt;"		The production of statistics on government deficit and debt is part of national accounts (Regulation (EU) No 549/2013 on the European system of national and regional accounts in the European Union). The quality of deficit and debt figure depends mainly on the quality of basic data. The NSIs require more influence on the main data sources.
(c) In Objective 1.3.1, the third indent is replaced by the following: "— the analysis of the global value chains, possibly through appropriate input/output tables, and foreign trade and business statistics, including micro-data linking; and the integration of these outputs into the international initiatives of Union interest; and"	(c) In Objective 1.3.1, the third indent is replaced by the following: "— the analysis of the global value chains, possibly through appropriate input/output tables, and foreign trade and business statistics, including micro-data linking; and the integration of the results of these analysis these outputs into the international initiatives of Union interest; and"	For confidentiality reasons is better to talk about the integration of the results of the analysis and not the outcome of micro-data linking.

	<p>Alternative:</p> <p>(c) In Objective 1.3.1, the third indent is replaced by the following:</p> <p>"— the analysis of the global value chains, possibly through appropriate input/output tables, and foreign trade and business statistics, including micro-data linking; and the integration coordination of these outputs into with the international initiatives of Union interest; and"</p>	<p>The possible practical implications of the suggested wording ‘integration into’ are <u>unclear</u>. What is needed is good coordination of the many initiatives in the broad field of ‘globalisation’.</p>
<p>(d) Point 2 is replaced by the following:</p> <p>"2. Accounting frameworks</p> <p>The Commission Communication of 20 August 2009 entitled ‘GDP and beyond: Measuring progress in a changing world’, and the publication of the Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi Report on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress have given new impetus to the key challenge for the ESS, namely how to achieve better statistics on cross-cutting issues and more integrated statistics to describe complex social, environmental and economic phenomena beyond the traditional measures of economic output. Work on GDP and beyond within the ESS focuses on three priority areas: statistics for the household sector and statistics measuring the distribution of income, consumption and wealth; measuring quality of life in a multidimensional way; and measuring environmental sustainability. The new worldwide Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted in 2015 provide further impetus. The European System of National</p>		<p>There is agreement that the achievement of better statistics on cross-cutting issues for the description of social, economic and environmental phenomena is a high-priority area that needs to be addressed at European level. It should, however, be ensured that the methods to be adapted for deriving this information will not require the collection of more detailed statistics, which would imply consequent additional burden on respondents.</p> <p>Some of the methods which are being studied involve statistical models and mathematical estimations, which bear certain degrees for inaccuracies. In this regard, it is highlighted that such inaccuracies may present issues in the proper interpretation of results when such results are disseminated.</p> <p>Concerning “the new worldwide Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)” the fact that the Agenda 2030 is wider than NA should be taken into account. Therefore, it is proposed to include this topic in the next parts of Annex to the Regulation.</p>

and Regional Accounts (ESA) offers an integrated and consistent framework for all economic statistics that should be complemented by other indicators in order to provide more comprehensive information for policy- and decision-making. Full implementation of the ESA 2010 will be supported by regular quality and compliance assessments, taking into account the progressive expiry of derogations until 2020, leading to further improvements in the timeliness and availability of indicators."		
(e) Objective 2.1.1 is amended as follows: i) The fourth indent is replaced by the following: "— reinforcement of links with national accounts in the areas of social protection, health and education"		Reinforcement of links with national accounts in these three areas constitutes an important initiative to improve coherence between economic and social statistics. A <u>clarification</u> of this proposed amendment is requested. It is not clear whether this is a move away from producing satellite accounts outside of social protection, health or education and what implications this would have for the continued production of the household satellite accounts.
ii) Two new indents are inserted after the fifth indent as follows: "— the development of timely social indicators, including advanced techniques for now-casting and flash estimates; — supporting international data sharing for macroeconomic data to reduce the burden for data producers and improve the availability of comparable and consistent data to users;"	ii) Two new indents are inserted after the fifth indent as follows: "— the development of research and experimental timely social indicators, including advanced techniques for now-casting and flash estimates; — supporting international data sharing for macroeconomic data to reduce the burden for data producers and improve the availability of comparable and consistent data to users;"	Taking into account the very early stage and only few experiments in the field of advanced techniques, it is considered that the level of ambition should be more moderate i.e. no commitment to production by year 2021, but research and experiments to be carried out.

	<p><u>Alternative 1:</u></p> <p>ii) Two new indents are inserted after the fifth indent as follows:</p> <p>"— the development of timely social indicators, including advanced techniques for now-casting and flash estimates;</p> <p>— supporting international data sharing for macroeconomic data to reduce the burden for data producers and improve the availability of comparable and consistent data to users;"</p> <p><u>Alternative 2:</u></p> <p>ii) Two new indents are inserted after the fifth indent as follows:</p> <p>"— For the development of timely social indicators further research in advanced techniques is needed, including advanced techniques for now-casting and flash estimates;</p> <p>— supporting international data sharing for macroeconomic data to reduce the burden for data producers and improve the availability of comparable and consistent data to users;"</p>	<p>Even though the development of timely social indicators is supported this work should not include advanced techniques for now casting and flash estimates. Consequently, it is proposed to delete the text.</p> <p>There is a view that the Commission underestimates the efforts in research that are necessary to meet this objective. Perhaps the first indent should be reformulated.</p> <p>The timeliness of social indicators is considered to be very important. However very ambitious targets may compromise quality, especially in countries with very limited resources.</p> <p>Techniques such as flash estimates are useful for some variables such as Material Deprivation statistics but not so useful for income-based indicators such as poverty rates. Potentially significant differences between flash estimates and final figures need to be taken in consideration since</p>
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		<p>such differences may confuse users and compromise the credibility of results.</p> <p>There is support for international data sharing for macroeconomic data; in addition to reducing burden for data producers, data sharing allows for significant improvements in the comparability and quality of statistics across Europe.</p> <p>This provision needs to be <u>clarified</u>. All data the macro level is published, thus access has been ensured. Does this relate to international organizations?</p>
<p>(f) In Objective 2.1.2, the last indent is replaced by the following:</p> <p>"— the availability and extension of harmonised housing price statistics for all Member States."</p>		<p>Commission's report which shall address the suitability of the OOH price index for integration into the HICP coverage, which report should be published by 31 December 2018 is awaited.</p>
<p>(g) In Objective 2.2.1, the indents are replaced by the following:</p> <p>"— the development of a coherent system of environmental accounts as 'satellite accounts' to the main national accounts, providing information on atmospheric emissions, energy consumption, flows of natural resources, trade in raw materials, environmental taxation and spending on environmental protection, possibly including green growth/procurement;</p> <p>— the development of experimental ecosystem accounts;</p> <p>— the development of climate change-related statistics, including statistics relevant to climate change adaptation; and</p> <p>— the development of indicators measuring</p>	<p>(g) In Objective 2.2.1, the indents are replaced by the following:</p> <p>"— the development of a coherent system of environmental accounts as 'satellite accounts' to the main national accounts, providing information on atmospheric emissions, energy consumption, flows of natural resources, trade in raw materials, environmental taxation and spending on environmental protection, possibly including green growth/procurement;</p> <p>— the development of experimental ecosystem accounts;</p> <p>— the development of climate change-related statistics, including statistics relevant to climate change adaptation; and</p> <p>— the development of indicators measuring</p>	<p><u>2 MSs propose to delete "the development of experimental ecosystem accounts;"</u></p> <p>One MS can only agree to the reference on "<i>the development of experimental ecosystem accounts</i>", as long as such reference relates to Eurostat and does not commit Member States to also engage in elaborating these accounts in the next years.</p> <p>As far as environmental accounts are concerned, the priority for the next two years is to improve the quality of the existing modules, namely the new three modules that become obligatory from 2017 onwards. The focus for future development would be on water flow accounts, environmental subsidies, forest accounts, waste accounts and resource management expenditure (Final minutes of DIMESA 2015).</p>

<p>environmental "footprints".</p>	<p>environmental "footprints".</p> <p><u>Alternative 1:</u></p> <p>(g) In Objective 2.2.1, the indents are replaced by the following:</p> <p>"— the development of a coherent system of environmental accounts as ‘satellite accounts’ to the main national accounts, providing information on atmospheric emissions, energy consumption, flows of natural resources, trade in raw materials, environmental taxation and spending on environmental protection, possibly including green growth/procurement;</p> <p>— further support to and follow-up on the development of experimental ecosystem accounts;</p> <p>— the development of climate change-related statistics, including statistics relevant to climate change adaptation; and</p> <p>— the development of indicators measuring environmental "footprints".</p> <p><u>Alternative 2:</u></p> <p>(g) In Objective 2.2.1, the indents are replaced by the following:</p> <p>"— the development of a coherent system of environmental accounts as ‘satellite accounts’ to the main national accounts, providing</p>	<p>It needs to be <u>clarified</u> by the Commission what is the main line of thinking with regard to the sources of experimental ecosystem accounts data. Does the main line of thinking involve a data integration initiative that would allow NSIs to make use of existing datasets, such as datasets compiled by EU-level institutions?</p> <p>It is suggested rephrasing the second dot, as development of ecosystem accounts should not have high priority in the ESP 2018-2020.</p> <p>It is not entirely <u>clear</u> what is meant by the first dot – is it implementation of new accounting modules and data collection from the MS in the mentioned areas? The SEEA Central Framework already provides a coherent system and an international standard for the environmental accounts. While we can support further work in most of the mentioned areas, we think it is premature to state exactly which environmental accounting areas should be the subject for further development and implementation. A <u>clarification</u> is requested and it is suggested that the mentioning of specific modules is limited to those that are mentioned already by the SEEA.</p> <p>The wording “physical energy flow accounts” is more relevant than “energy consumption” as the Regulation (EU) No 538/2014 of 16 April 2014 amending Regulation (EU) No 691/2011 on European environmental economic accounts,</p>
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	<p>information on atmospheric emissions, physical energy flow accounts consumptions, flows of natural resources, trade in raw materials, environmental taxation and spending on environmental protection, possibly including green growth/procurement;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — the development of experimental ecosystem accounts; — the development of climate change-related statistics, including statistics relevant to climate change adaptation; and — the development of indicators measuring environmental "footprints". <p>Alternative 3:</p> <p>(g) In Objective 2.2.1, the indents are replaced by the following:</p> <p>"— the development of a coherent system of environmental accounts as ‘satellite accounts’ to the main national accounts, providing information on atmospheric emissions, energy consumption, flows of natural resources, trade in raw materials, environmental taxation and spending on environmental protection, possibly including green growth/procurement;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — the development of experimental ecosystem accounts; — the development of climate change-related statistics, including statistics relevant to climate change adaptation; and — the development of indicators measuring environmental "footprints". 	<p>introduces in the Annex VI “the Module for physical energy flow accounts”.</p> <p>The deletion is proposed, because the efforts should be put on the development of environmental SDG-indicators rather than creating new framework for “footprints”.</p>
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		<p>The proposal of the Commission regarding the last two new indents to objective 2.2.1 is very ambitious and has not been properly discussed at expert level.</p> <p>This provision may cause difficulties in terms of providing necessary resources, primarily related to specialists with specific certain knowledge, needed to achieve this important objective.</p> <p>To reach this objective, priority setting should be enhanced and inserted in the programme. The development of experimental ecosystem accounts should only be implemented in the long run. Concerning climate change statistics, the cooperation with international institutions (OECD, UNECE) should be strengthened and clearly mentioned in the ESP 2018-2020.</p> <p>The term ‘environmental footprints’ is unclear and we ask the Commission for <u>clarification</u> and a proposal for an explanation in the text of the Regulation or in the relevant recital 6.</p>
	<p>(ga) In Point 3.1., the first paragraph is replaced by the following:</p> <p>“European enterprises are the focus of a large number of Union policies. In addition, they are responsible for the provision of basic data. Accordingly, business statistics in the broad sense are in heavy demand to support the decision-making process but also to help European citizens and businesses understand the impact of those policies, differentiating between large enterprises, mid-caps and small and medium-sized enterprises for which there is</p>	<p>Bearing in mind the importance of taking coordinated actions at global, regional and national levels for monitoring the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, inserting of the relevant statement should be considered.</p>

	<p>an increased need for detailed and harmonised statistics. <u>Moreover, Innovations and R+D related issues are of high importance in the scope of the 2030 Agenda.</u> There is simultaneously a need to reduce the administrative and reporting burden."</p>	
<p>(h) Objective 3.1.1 is amended as follows:</p> <p>i) The first paragraph is replaced by the following:</p> <p>"Increase the efficiency and effectiveness of statistical production processes. Considering the fact that the Lisbon Treaty has called for better regulation, a streamlining of the legislation related to the pillar of business statistics is needed. In so doing, due consideration should be given to the limitations of the resources available to producers and the overall burden on respondents in line with the Commission Regulatory Fitness and Performance Programme (REFIT). Provide high-quality statistics on key areas where enterprises are the centre of interest, such as business statistics, short-term indicators, their investment in human capital and skills, international transactions, globalisation, internal market monitoring, R&D and innovation, and tourism. Special attention should be paid to the availability of data in high value-added industrial or services sectors, in particular in the green, digital or social economy (such as health and education)."</p>	<p>(h) Objective 3.1.1 is amended as follows:</p> <p>i) The first paragraph is replaced by the following:</p> <p>"Increase the efficiency and effectiveness of statistical production processes. Considering the fact that the Lisbon Treaty Better Regulation agenda has called for better regulation, a streamlining of the existing legislation related to the pillar of business statistics is needed. In so doing, due consideration should be given to the limitations of the resources available to producers and the overall burden on respondents in line with the Commission Regulatory Fitness and Performance Programme (REFIT). Provide high-quality statistics on key areas where enterprises are the centre of interest, such as business statistics, short-term indicators, their investment in human capital and skills, international transactions, globalisation, internal market monitoring, R&D and innovation, and tourism. Special attention should be paid to the availability of data in high value-added industrial or services sectors, in particular in the green, digital or social economy (such as health and</p>	<p>The Lisbon Treaty as such is not the reason for introducing the Better Regulation agenda of the Commission. Therefore it is suggested to delete the reference to the Lisbon Treaty.</p>

	<p>education)."</p> <p><u>Alternative:</u></p> <p>(h) Objective 3.1.1 is amended as follows:</p> <p>i) The first paragraph is replaced by the following:</p> <p>"Increase the efficiency and effectiveness of statistical production processes. Considering the fact that the Lisbon Treaty has called for better regulation, a A streamlining of the legislation related to the pillar of business statistics is needed in order to improve the prerequisites for the production of modern business statistics. This shall be done in line with the Lisbon Treaty, and considering.In so doing, due consideration should be given to the limitations of the resources available to producers and the overall burden on respondents in line with as well as the Commission Regulatory Fitness and Performance Programme (REFIT). Provide high-quality statistics on key areas where enterprises are the centre of interest, such as business statistics, short-term indicators, their investment in human capital and skills, international transactions, globalisation, internal market monitoring, R&D and innovation, and tourism. Special attention should be paid to the availability of data in high value-added industrial or services sectors, in particular in the green, digital or social economy (such as health and education)."</p>	<p>It is considered that there was a need to streamline the legislative framework per se, and while Lisbon Treaty has bearing on how the process is done it was not the primary trigger for the process.</p> <p>There is not the need of better regulation within business statistics. Better regulation is needed</p>
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		across the domains and it might be achieved without streamlining of current legislation. It is therefore preferred to remove the new wording.
<p>ii) The first indent is replaced by the following: "the reuse of data available in the statistical system or in society, a common legal basis for all business related statistics and the production of a common infrastructure and of common tools;"</p>	<p>ii) The first indent is replaced by the following: "the reuse of data available in the statistical system or in society, a common legal basis for all business related statistics and the production of a common infrastructure and of common tools;"</p> <p><u>Alternative:</u></p> <p>ii) The first indent is replaced by the following: "the reuse of data available in the statistical system or in society and the use of Big Data, a common legal basis for all business related statistics and the production of a common infrastructure and of common tools;"</p>	<p>Not all business related statistics will have common legal basis (FRIBS), e.g. transport statistics, FDI (according to the comment made at the earlier stage of consultation).</p> <p>The new wording appears to validate the Commission option for FRIBS. Still to be appreciated by the legislators. Therefore the new wording proposed is premature and should not be included.</p> <p>It is not necessary to highlight business related statistics, because social and agriculture statistics will be regulated by a framework legislation. The objectives related to social statistics mention "common set of core variables", so this could be used here as well. The draft does not regulate the use of administrative data, and does not mention the introduction of data exchange between Member States, but can be considered to include.</p> <p>The Commission is asked for a <u>clarification</u>, why</p>

		<p>this indent is now focussed not only on business statistics but, moreover, to business related statistics. The wording ‘all business related statistics’, as it might be understood, comprises also social-based business statistics (like earnings, labour costs or CVTS (Continuing Vocational Training Survey)). We would be thankful for a <u>clarification</u> of this term because in the context of the FRIBS-Regulation only business statistics are comprised.</p>
	<p>(ha) In Point 3.2., the first paragraph is replaced by the following:</p> <p>“European citizens are at the heart of Union policies. Consequently, social statistics in the broad sense are in heavy demand to support the decision-making process and to monitor the outcome of social policies, but also to help European citizens assess the impact of those policies on their lives and well-being. <u>It is also important to secure social statistics for monitoring 2030 Agenda, as citizens are in the centre of interest of sustainable development.</u>”</p>	<p>Bearing in mind the importance of taking coordinated actions at global, regional and national levels for monitoring the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, inserting of the relevant statement should be considered.</p>
<p>(i) Objective 3.2.1 is amended as follows:</p> <p>i) The seventh indent is replaced by the following:</p> <p>"— the implementation of actions of the work programme on mainstreaming of migration statistics taking into account new challenges, in particular international developments;"</p>	<p>(i) Objective 3.2.1 is amended as follows:</p> <p>ia) The first paragraph is replaced by the following:</p> <p>“Provide statistics on key areas of social policy where the citizen is the centre of interest, such as well-being, sustainability, social cohesion, poverty, inequalities, demographic challenges (in particular population ageing and migration), the</p>	<p>It is necessary to treat equally in the amendments of the European Statistical Programme the horizontal regulations that are currently under negotiation process in the field of statistics: social (COM (2016) 551), business and agricultural (both draft regulations are currently being agreed within the expert groups of the Commission – submission of the regulations to the level of the Council and the European Parliament is planned in the fourth quarter of this year). In the drafted structure only</p>

	<p>labour market, education and training, including childhood education, adult learning, vocational training and learning mobility of young people, culture, physical activity, quality of life, safety, health, disability, consumption, free movement and the internal market, mobility of young people, technological innovation and new lifestyle choices. Those statistics shall be disaggregated by gender where appropriate, for groups that are of special interest to social policy makers. Priorities shall be set in accordance with Article 6. <u>Considering the fact that the Lisbon Treaty has called for better regulation, streamlining of the legislation related to the pillar of social statistics is needed. In so doing, due consideration should be given to the limitations of the resources available to producers and the overall burden on respondents in line with the Commission Regulatory Fitness and Performance Programme (REFIT)”. </u></p> <p>i) The seventh indent is replaced by the following:</p> <p>"— the implementation of actions of the work programme on mainstreaming of migration statistics taking into account new challenges, in particular international developments”;</p> <p>iii) A new indent is added as follows:</p> <p>“— the putting in place of a common legal basis for social statistics and the production of a common infrastructure and of common</p>	<p>creation of the uniform legal basis for business statistics is mentioned, while the other two projects have been omitted in <i>Objective</i> part (IESS, IFS), and in <i>implementing actions</i> in IFS. The relevant reference should be included respectively.</p>
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	tools;"	
<p>ii) A new indent is inserted after the seventh indent as follows:</p> <p>"— the provision of population projections and of their annual updates;"</p>		<p>The Commission is asked about the plans on these population projections. It is <u>not clear</u> if annual projections would be prepared by Eurostat based on the data of Member States, or it is also the responsibility of Member States.</p> <p>Would it be compulsory?</p> <p>In addition <u>the Commission is requested</u> to elaborate the foreseen resource implications of annual population projections for national statistical offices.</p> <p>One MS can support annual population projections if no additional work or costs will be caused to national statistical offices.</p> <p>Due to the potential burden, one MS has concerns on the usefulness of annual updates of ESSPOP. It was explained that this was meant to answer a specific request by the ECOFIN Council and that, in case of no changes in the agreed ESSPOP methodology, Eurostat could take charge of the annual update.</p>
<p>(j) In Point 3.3, the third paragraph is replaced by the following:</p> <p>"Agriculture will remain an important Union policy area. The Common Agricultural Policy underlined needs for its main objectives namely for viable food production, for sustainable management of natural resources and climate action as well as for balanced territorial development. Focus will be on environmental, biodiversity/ecosystem-related, economic, human health and safety</p>	<p>(j) Point 3.3. is amended as follows:</p> <p>i) The second paragraph is replaced by the following:</p> <p><u>"Energy and transport statistics to support Europe 2020, and climate change policy will be of high importance in the future. These statistics are also important for monitoring 2030 Agenda."</u></p> <p>ii) The third paragraph is replaced by the following:</p>	<p>Bearing in mind the importance of taking coordinated actions at global, regional and national levels for monitoring the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, inserting of the relevant statement should be considered.</p>

and social dimensions."	"Agriculture will remain an important Union policy area. The Common Agricultural Policy underlined needs for its main objectives namely for viable food production, for sustainable management of natural resources and climate action as well as for balanced territorial development. Focus will be on environmental, biodiversity/ecosystem-related, economic, human health and safety and social dimensions."	
<p>(k) Objective 3.3.1 is amended as follows:</p> <p>i) The first paragraph is replaced by the following:</p> <p>“Support evidence-based policy-making by a more flexible and increased use of spatial information combined with social, economic and environmental statistical information for regions, regional typologies, cities and the degree of urbanisation.”</p>	<p>(k) Objective 3.3.1 is amended as follows:</p> <p>i) The first paragraph is replaced by the following:</p> <p>“Support evidence-based policy-making by a more flexible and increased use of spatial information combined with social, economic and environmental statistical information for regions, regional typologies, cities and the degree of urbanisation territorial typologies.”</p>	<p>According to the provisions of the Draft Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the establishment of a common classification of territorial units for statistics (NUTS), as concerns the inclusion of territorial typologies into the NUTS Regulation (TERCET), in the list of territorial typologies the typology “Degree of urbanisation (DEGURBA)” is included.</p>
<p>ii) Two new indents are added as follows:</p> <p>— the implementation of land use and land cover statistics (LUCAS);</p> <p>— coordination of statistical data for regions, regional typologies, cities and the degree of urbanisation."</p>	<p>ii) Two new indents are added as follows:</p> <p>— the implementation of land use and land cover statistics (LUCAS);</p> <p>— coordination of statistical data for regions, regional typologies, cities and the degree of urbanisation territorial typologies."</p>	<p>The same justification as for the previous row.</p> <p>To 1st bullet point: <u>Clarification</u> is needed from the Commission whether existing arrangements for the collection of land use and land cover statistics will prevail or whether any changes are envisaged.</p> <p>To 2nd bullet point: The regional concept across</p>

		<p>statistical domains is expected to become more official and formal through the launch of initiatives such as the forthcoming TERCET regulation (if approved by Council and European Parliament). This will mean the extension of the NUTS classification to new typology classifications at NUTS 3 and LAU (district & locality) level. So far such details are not obligatory. In view that the majority of surveys do not support such levels of detail, the prospect of more detailed data requirements being embodied in the regulation highlights the urgent need for access to administrative data registers by NSIs and also the need to ensure the good quality and suitability of administrative data.</p> <p>As there are up to now only data deliveries on the level of NUTS 0 an extension of aggregation level on regional basis cannot be done in a budget neutral way.</p> <p>From our point of view, conducting LUCAS should remain on a voluntary basis. It will be useful to implement strong links between the European LUCAS survey and the national survey.</p>
<p>(l) Objective 3.3.3 is amended as follows:</p> <p>i) A second paragraph is inserted as follows:</p> <p>"In line with the 'European Energy Union' priority of the Commission particular focus will be given to statistics related to energy consumption, energy efficiency, renewable energies, energy dependence and security of supply. Furthermore, energy statistics will need to support the 2030 policy framework for</p>	<p>(l) Objective 3.3.3 is amended as follows:</p> <p>i) A second paragraph is inserted as follows:</p> <p>"In line with the 'European Energy Union' priority of the Commission particular focus will be given to statistics related to energy consumption, energy efficiency, renewable energy sources energies, energy dependence and security of supply. Furthermore, energy statistics will need to support the 2030 policy</p>	

climate and energy that aims to make the Union's economy and energy system more competitive, secure and sustainable."	framework for climate and energy that aims to make the Union's economy and energy system more competitive, secure and sustainable."	<p>Although it is considered important monitoring the performance of the European Energy Union policy for Energy and Climate, the related indicators proposed by the European Commission are still being discussed with the MSs. Any proposal on new energy statistics indicators would <u>certainly require additional national resources (human and financial) hardly available in the MS in the coming years</u>. This proposal represents a commitment not yet possible and raises serious reservations.</p> <p>A <u>clarification</u> is requested whether the proposed developments regarding new energy statistics are included in the amendment to Regulation No 1099/2008 on energy statistics or the statistics already planned in the WG for energy statistics. Generally, it is important that resources are allocated to new statistics.</p>
ii) A new indent is added as follows: "— energy dependence and security of supply."		
	<p>(la) Objective 3.3.4 is amended as follows:</p> <p>i) The first paragraph is replaced by the following:</p> <p>“Provide agriculture, fisheries and forestry statistics for the development and monitoring of the Common Agricultural and Fisheries Policies, reflecting key European strategic objectives related to sustainability as well as rural development by carrying out regular activities related to</p>	<p>It is necessary to treat equally in the amendments of the European Statistical Programme the horizontal regulations that are currently under negotiation, i.e. in the field of statistics: social (COM (2016) 551), economic and agricultural (both draft regulations are currently being agreed within the expert groups of the Commission – submission of the regulations to the level of the Council and the European Parliament is planned in the fourth quarter of this year.). In the drafted</p>

	<p><u>the development, production and dissemination of statistics. Considering the fact that the Lisbon Treaty has called for better regulation, streamlining of the legislation related to the pillar of agricultural statistics is needed. In so doing, due consideration should be given to the limitations of the resources available to producers and the overall burden on respondents in line with the Commission Regulatory Fitness and Performance Programme (REFIT)”.</u></p> <p><u>ii) New indents are added as follows:</u></p> <p><u>“— the launch of the preparations and conducting the Agricultural Census in 2020 (full farm structure survey),</u></p> <p><u>— the putting in place of a common legal basis for agriculture related statistics and the production of a common infrastructure and of common tools”.</u></p>	<p>structure only creation of a uniform legal basis for economic statistics is mentioned, while the other two projects have been omitted in <i>Objective</i> part (IFS, IESS), and in <i>implementing actions</i> in IESS and IFS The relevant reference should be included respectively.</p> <p>The full farm structure survey (census) will be conducted in 2020. Taking into account the importance of this survey for the EU and Member States and its high cost, the Agricultural Census 2020 should be included in the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) No 99/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European statistical programme 2013-2017 by extending it to 2018-2020.</p>
(2) Point II. Production Methods of European Statistics is amended as follows:		
<p>(a) The first paragraph is replaced by the following:</p> <p>"The ESS is currently facing a number of challenges: the expectations on the scope, quality and comparability of European statistics are increasing; with globalisation, a complex reality has emerged that has to be captured by official statistics and raises methodological challenges; the ever</p>	<p>(a) The first paragraph is replaced by the following:</p> <p>"The ESS is currently facing a number of challenges: the expectations on the scope, quality and comparability of European statistics are increasing; with globalisation, a complex reality has emerged that has to be captured by official statistics and raises methodological challenges; the ever</p>	

<p>increasing availability of data from private and public providers offer a huge potential to improve the timeliness and relevance of official statistics as well as to reduce response burden. To face these challenges, the European Statistical System will gradually implement strategic goals defined for 2020, building upon a holistic approach to reach quality and efficiency gains:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – to engage proactively in a regular dialogue with users to understand deeper their needs, recognising that different user groups have different needs that need to be addressed in the right way. – to provide high quality products and services and apply a quality approach to the management, organisation, and governance of the ESS. – to base statistical products and services on both traditional surveys and newer sources, including administrative data, geospatial and, where possible, big data. To get access to new data sources, create methods and find suitable technology in order to use new data sources to produce European statistics in a reliable way. – to improve the efficiency of statistical production by further intensifying the sharing of knowledge, experiences and methodologies but also by sharing tools, data, services and resources where appropriate. Enterprise architecture will be the common reference framework, and the collaboration will be based on agreed 	<p>increasing availability of data from private and public providers and of Big Data offer a huge potential to improve the timeliness and relevance of official statistics as well as to reduce response burden. To face these challenges, the European Statistical System will gradually implement strategic goals defined for 2020, building upon a holistic approach to reach quality and efficiency gains:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – to engage proactively in a regular dialogue with users to understand deeper their needs, recognising that different user groups have different needs that need to be addressed in the right way. – to provide high quality products and services and apply a quality approach to the management, organisation, and governance of the ESS. – to base statistical products and services on both traditional surveys and newer other sources, including administrative data, geospatial and, where possible, big data. To get access to new data sources, create methods and find suitable technology in order to use new—such data sources to produce European statistics in a reliable way. – to improve the efficiency of statistical production by further intensifying the sharing of knowledge, experiences and methodologies but also by sharing tools, data, services and resources where appropriate. Enterprise architecture will be the common reference framework, and the 	<p>There is potential to new data sources; but consider “<i>huge</i> potential” as overly optimistic, particularly for countries already using extensively data from public providers. The expected gains might be positive but not likely <i>huge</i>. On the other hand, timeliness of administrative data is usually worse than in direct surveys.</p>
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<p>standards and common elements of technological and statistical infrastructure.</p> <p>– to implement a dissemination strategy for European statistics which is flexible enough to adapt to emerging technologies, gives guidance in a world of data revolution and serves as a reliable pillar of democracy."</p>	<p>collaboration will be based on agreed standards and common elements of technological and statistical infrastructure.</p> <p>– to implement a dissemination and communication strategy for European statistics which is flexible enough to adapt to emerging technologies, gives guidance in a world of data revolution and serves as a reliable pillar of democracy."</p> <p><u>Alternative 1:</u></p> <p>(a) The first paragraph is replaced by the following:</p> <p>"The ESS is currently facing a number of challenges: the expectations on the scope, quality and comparability of European statistics are increasing; with globalisation, a complex reality has emerged that has to be captured by official statistics and raises methodological challenges; the ever increasing availability of data from private and public providers offer a huge potential to improve the timeliness and relevance of official statistics as well as to reduce response burden; the constraints on resources that the producers of statistics are experiencing. To face these challenges, the European Statistical System will gradually implement strategic goals defined for 2020, building upon a holistic approach to reach quality and efficiency gains:</p> <p>..."</p>	<p><u>2 MSs would like to keep a reference to resource constraints in the text.</u></p> <p>"Constraints on resources" are one of the main challenges currently faced by the ESS.</p>
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	<p><u>Alternative 2:</u></p> <p>(a) The first paragraph is replaced by the following:</p> <p>“ ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – to improve the efficiency of statistical production by further intensifying the sharing of knowledge, experiences, tools, and methodologies, but also by sharing tools, data, services and resources where appropriate. Enterprise architecture will be the common reference framework, and the collaboration will be based on agreed standards and common elements of technological and statistical infrastructure. <p>...”</p> <p><u>Alternative 3:</u></p> <p>(a) The first paragraph is replaced by the following:</p> <p>“ ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – to improve the efficiency of statistical production by further intensifying the sharing of knowledge, experiences and methodologies but also by sharing tools, data, services and resources where appropriate. Enterprise architecture will be the common reference framework, and the collaboration will be based on agreed standards and common elements of technological and statistical infrastructure. – ...” <p><u>Alternative 4:</u></p> <p>(a) The first paragraph is replaced by the following:</p> 	<p><u>3 MSs would like to delete the reference to sharing of data; 2 of them prefer to delete also reference to sharing of service and resources.</u></p> <p>The idea of sharing micro-data, services and resources is still immature and needs further developments.</p> <p>In addition it is proposed to delete ‘data’ – the ‘Core Principles’, which apply only to business statistics and not all statistical areas, clearly state that data should only be shared if a number of conditions are fulfilled.</p> <p><u>2 MSs proposed to delete the phrase concerning ‘Enterprise architecture’.</u></p> <p>Overall, there are concerns that the proposed text is leaning towards a statistical system based on input harmonisation. Rather, focus should be on comparability of European Statistics and input harmonisation is not the way forward to obtain this.</p> <p>It is proposed to amend the third dot in order to highlight the current and future development for</p>
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	<p>“... – to base statistical products and services on both traditional surveys and increased use of newer sources, including administrative data, geospatial and, where possible, big data. To get access to new data sources, create methods and find suitable technology in order to use new data sources to produce European statistics in a reliable way. – ...”</p>	<p>use of new data sources, which other things being equal, most likely will only increase onwards.</p> <p>The always increasing demand for statistics at national and European level is a big challenge to NSIs. On the one hand, in many cases, use of administrative and Big Data is still in the exploratory phase. On the other hand, the various surveys carried out on an ongoing basis already place a heavy burden on respondents. The NSO makes it a priority to strengthen the relationship with data providers, be they respondents or owners of administrative data, and to advocate improvements in quality of such sources. The ultimate aim is to strike the right balance between quantity, quality and response burden.</p> <p>To 4th bullet point: Knowledge sharing, sharing of methodologies and tools, and exchange of experiences are very important initiatives for countries which tend to have limited resources to engage in research and to develop innovative methods.</p> <p>It is <u>unclear</u> to which strategic goals are referred to in the last sentence of paragraph 1 (e.g. ESS Vision 2020, Europe 2020 Strategy)? This should be specified.</p>
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<p>(b) In Objective 1.1, the first indent is replaced by the following:</p> <p>"— the introduction of new integrated, effective and fit-for purpose quality mechanism based on the Code of Practice and the ESS Quality Assurance Framework;</p> <p>— assessment of compliance with the Code of Practice;"</p>	<p>(b) In Objective 1.1, the first indent is replaced by the following:</p> <p>"— the introduction of new integrated, effective and fit-for purpose quality assurance mechanism based on the Code of Practice and the ESS Quality Assurance Framework;</p> <p>— assessment of compliance with the Code of Practice;"</p>	<p>A <u>clarification</u> of the notion ‘fit-for purpose quality mechanism’ is requested, as it is unclear what it implies.</p>
<p>(c) In Objective 3.1, the fifth indent is replaced by:</p> <p>"— the use of the European approach to statistics for quick policy response in specific and duly justified cases. This includes the development of a methodology for a gender based violence survey, in the first place organised as a singular exercise, with the aim of allowing for a continuous series of different relevant data collections delivered under an EU social survey based on the European approach to statistics;"</p>	<p>(c) In Objective 3.1, the fifth indent is replaced by:</p> <p>"— the use of the European approach to statistics for quick policy response in specific and duly justified cases.—This includes the development of a methodology for a gender based violence survey, in the first place organised as a singular exercise, with the aim of allowing for a continuous series of different relevant data collections delivered under an EU social survey based on the European approach to statistics;"</p>	<p><u>6 MSs do not agree with the intention to introduce a new EU social survey based on European approach to statistics.</u></p> <p>The European approach to statistics is regulated in Article 16 of Regulation (EC) 223/2009. We consider that a general reference in the ESP to the European approach to statistics as currently is the case in the ESP 2013-2017 is sufficient. It gives the Commission enough room for taking initiatives in this regard.</p> <p>The concept of the European approach to statistics should not be applied unless there is an urgent need for quick policy response in specific and duly justified cases. The development of a methodology for a gender based violence survey seems more an activity for the medium or long term. Therefore it is doubted whether this meets the objective for “a quick policy response in specific and duly justified cases In addition, it seems that such a violence based survey traces back to the proposed Regulation on European statistics on safety from crime (SASU) which was rejected by the EP. Accordingly, it can be questioned whether it is</p>

		<p>appropriate to bypass the EP in this case and why the survey is not part of IESS? <u>Clarifications</u> of these issues are needed.</p> <p>There is no need to include a specific survey in the ESP, due to the fact that it cannot be ex-ante justified.</p> <p>There are also another reasons: benefits/justification unknown to us, it is expensive, does not produce national statistics, uncertainty of mechanism for deciding the topics and uncertainty of continuous funding, etc.</p> <p>One MS prefers that an ad hoc-surveys outside of the scope of IESS, ESS agreements or temporary statistical actions (Article 5 of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009) would be used.</p> <p>One MS supports in-depth discussions on how to measure violence in surveys allowing relevant international comparisons. However there are concerns as regards the benefit of a survey exclusively focused on the matter:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gender based violence is difficult to define as no conceptual nor working definition exist. 2. Rather than a gender based violence survey, it may be more appropriate to look into a victimization survey focused on violence in order to work on specific violence against women. 3. It would be appreciated if <u>a clarification</u> on the mandatory status of such surveys could be provided. If it were to be mandatory - with the aim of allowing for a continuous series of different relevant data collections delivered
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		<p>under an EU social survey - resource issues should be raised.</p> <p>In addition <u>the Commission should be invited to explain</u> how this intention ties in with the recent proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a common framework for European statistics relating to persons and households, based on data at individual level collected from samples (IESS Regulation).</p>
<p>(d) In Objective 4.1, a new indent is added as follows:</p> <p>"— the identification of current and future data requirements to provide multi-purpose and customised end-user products, services and data warehouses;"</p>		<p>Concerning data warehouses, there are concerns if it will imply a massive exchange of micro-data without following the proportionality principle that must be applied to the confidential data.</p> <p>A <u>clarification</u> of what is meant by 'data warehouses' in this context? Does the present note refer to micro-data or classical dissemination data warehouses?</p> <p>A data warehouse only makes sense if micro-data are exchanged, which it is not supported by one MS.</p>
<p>(e) In Objective 5.1, a new indent is inserted after the third indent as follows:</p> <p>"— the analysis of needs for new skills related to data science and integration into training programmes;"</p>	<p>e) In Objective 5.1, a new indent is inserted after the third indent as follows:</p> <p>"— the analysis of needs for new skills related to data science and their integration into training programmes;"</p>	
(3) Point III. Partnership is amended as follows:		
<p>(a) In Objective 1.4, three indents are inserted after the fourth indent as follows:</p> <p>"— raising awareness of Union citizens to the</p>	<p>(a) In Objective 1.4, three indents are inserted after the fourth indent as follows:</p> <p>"— raising awareness of Union citizens to the</p>	

<p>importance of official statistics and its communication to all stakeholders by celebrating the European Statistics Day on 20 October each year;</p> <p>— disseminating relevant statistical data to support the European Neighbourhood Policy and the respective Association Agreements;</p> <p>— promoting European values and initiatives such as the European Statistics Code of Practice, quality assurance frameworks, standardisation and harmonisation approaches to third countries and regions;"</p>	<p>importance of official statistics and its communication to all stakeholders by celebrating the European Statistics Day on 20 October each year;</p> <p>— disseminating relevant statistical data to support the European Neighbourhood Policy and the respective Association Agreements;</p> <p>— promoting European values and initiatives such as the European Statistics Code of Practice, the ESS Qquality Aassurance Fframework, standardisation and harmonisation approaches to third countries and regions;"</p>	
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