Modernisation of European Enterprise and Trade Statistics, MEETS Programme 2009-2013

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The Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs adopted the report by Christoph **KONRAD** (EPP-ED, DE), amending, under 1st reading of the codecision procedure, the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on a Programme for the Modernisation of European Enterprise and Trade Statistics (MEETS).

The main amendments are as follows:

- in order to simplify statistical requirements and to reduce the response burden, MEPs consider that regular reviews of priorities should be conducted in close cooperation with Member States in order to identify areas and characteristics which have lost priority and consequently can be deleted from the legal requirements;

- in a changing economic environment, MEPs stress that it is important to define, in close cooperation with Member States, priority areas for statistics like globalisation and entrepreneurship and to agree at a Community level on a target set of indicators for each of the priority areas. Those indicators need to be harmonised with international statistics to the extent possible;
- according to MEPs, the MEETS Programme shall start on 1 January 2009 (instead of 1 July 2008) and shall aim to:
    1. review priorities and to develop target sets of indicators for new areas; (objective 1);
    2. achieve a streamlined framework of business related statistics; (objective 2);
    3. support the implementation of a more efficient way of producing business and trade statistics; (objective 3);
    4. modernise the data collection system on trade in goods between Member States (hereinafter referred to as Intrastat); (objective 4);

- by 31 December 2010 at the latest, and thereafter on an annual basis until 2013, the Commission shall submit to the European Parliament and the Council a report on the implementation of the MEETS Programme.