

European demographic statistics

2011/0440(COD) - 27/02/2013 - Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading

The Committee on Employment and Social Affairs adopted the report by Csaba SOGOR (EPP, RO) on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on European statistics on demography.

The committee recommends that the position of the European Parliament adopted in first reading following the ordinary legislative procedure should amend the Commission proposal as follows:

Members add a recital citing the strategic objective of the Beijing Platform for Action (1995) which provides a **reference framework for the generation and dissemination of gender-disaggregated data and information**, for planning and policy evaluation reasons.

Definitions: Members clarify the definitions in Article 2 of the proposal.

- **‘national’** refers to the territory of a Member State within the meaning of Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003;
- **‘regional’** means NUTS level 1, NUTS level 2 or NUTS level 3 within the meaning of Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 in the version applicable at the reference time; and
- **‘usual residence’** means the place where a person normally spends the daily period of rest, regardless of temporary absences.
- Members add a new subparagraph stipulating that the **"usual residence population"** shall be estimated from the legal or registered population, using scientifically-based, well-documented, and publicly-available statistical estimation methods that are monitored by the Commission (Eurostat).

Scope: the statistical data to be provided by Member States shall cover the following variables: **age, sex and residence**. Members also introduce into the text a specific mention of the **role of other relevant national and regional authorities** in the development, production and dissemination of European statistics.

Data on population and vital events: Member States shall provide the Commission (Eurostat) with data on vital events that occurred during the reference period. The data provided shall cover the following variables:

- (a) live births by sex, by month of occurrence, by live birth-order, by mother's age, by mother's year of birth, by mother's country of birth, by mother's country of citizenship and by mother's region of residence;
- (b) deaths by age, by sex, by year of birth, by region of residence, by country of birth, by country of citizenship and by month of occurrence.

Because demographic change affects the regions in various, different ways, Members consider it would be helpful not only to compare developments at national level but also at regional level. Where regional authorities provide national authorities with statistical data, Member States shall forward such data to the Commission (Eurostat), in order to enable it to acquire a more detailed overview of the demographic situation in the Union.

As the regulation does not regulate the **frequency of data**, it needs to be ensured that the authorities are not forced to deliver data so frequently that is unrealistic or cannot reasonably be expected. The

Commission shall therefore adopt **implementing acts laying down uniform conditions for the breakdown of data, as well as to the frequency, deadlines and revisions of data**. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the **examination procedure**.

Reference time: Members clarify the reference time for population data. This shall be the **end of the reference period** (midnight on 31 December). The **reference period** for vital events data shall be the calendar year in which the events occurred. The first reference period to be taken into account for the purposes of this regulation shall be 2013. The last reference period shall be 2027.

Review clause: Members have inserted an amendment making provision for a review clause. The Commission shall submit a report to the **European Parliament** and to the Council on the implementation of the Regulation by 31 December 2018, and every five years thereafter. In that report, the Commission shall evaluate the quality of the data transmitted by Member States. The report shall, if appropriate, be accompanied by proposals designed to further improve the functioning of the Regulation.