

Basic information	
1995/0076(CNS) CNS - Consultation procedure Regulation	Procedure completed
Structural business statistics Repealed by 2006/0020(COD) Amended by 1997/0232(CNS) Amended by 2001/0023(COD) Subject 3.45.20 Business statistics	

Key players					
European Parliament	Committee responsible		Rapporteur	Appointed	
	ECON	Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy			
	Former committee responsible		Former rapporteur	Appointed	
	ECON	Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy	KESTELIJN-SIERENS Marie-Paule (Mimi) (ELDR)	31/05/1995	
	Former committee for opinion		Former rapporteur for opinion	Appointed	
	BUDG	Budgets			
	RELA	External Economic Relations	PORTO Manuel (ELDR)	23/05/1995	
	JURI	Legal Affairs, Citizens' Rights	PELTTARI Seppo Viljo (ELDR)	22/11/1995	
	Council of the European Union	Council configuration		Meetings	Date
		Fisheries		1983	1996-12-20

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
		COM(1995)0099	Summary

31/03/1995	Legislative proposal published		
25/01/1996	Vote in committee		Summary
25/01/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A4-0038/1996	
16/02/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
12/03/1996	Debate in Parliament		
02/08/1996	Amended legislative proposal for reconsultation published	09512/1996	
04/10/1996	Formal reconsultation of Parliament		
20/11/1996	Vote in committee		
20/12/1996	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
20/12/1996	End of procedure in Parliament		
17/01/1997	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1995/0076(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
Amendments and repeals	Repealed by 2006/0020(COD) Amended by 1997/0232(CNS) Amended by 2001/0023(COD)
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 52-p1 EC Treaty (before Amsterdam) E 213
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ECON/4/08287 ECON/4/07620

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A4-0038/1996 OJ C 078 18.03.1996, p. 0003	25/01/1996	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T4-0123/1996 OJ C 096 01.04.1996, p. 0222-0236	14/03/1996	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament after reconsultation		T4-0693/1996 OJ C 020 20.01.1997, p. 0365-0371	13/12/1996	Summary
Council of the EU				
Document type	Reference	Date	Summary	

Amended legislative proposal for reconsultation	09512/1996	02/08/1996		
European Commission				
Document type	Reference	Date	Summary	
Legislative proposal	COM(1995)0099  OJ C 146 13.06.1995, p. 0007	31/03/1995	Summary	
Follow-up document	COM(2004)0249 	13/04/2004	Summary	
Follow-up document	COM(2007)0494 	04/09/2007	Summary	
Follow-up document	COM(2011)0242 	04/05/2011	Summary	
Other institutions and bodies				
Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0594/1995 OJ C 236 11.09.1995, p. 0061	31/05/1995	Summary
EU	Implementing legislative act	32003R1667 OJ L 244 29.09.2003, p. 0001-0031	01/09/2003	
EU	Implementing legislative act	32003R1668 OJ L 244 29.09.2003, p. 0032-0056	01/09/2003	
EU	Implementing legislative act	32003R1669 OJ L 244 29.09.2003, p. 0057-0073	01/09/2003	
EU	Implementing legislative act	32003R1670 OJ L 244 29.09.2003, p. 0074-0111	01/09/2003	

Additional information		
Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act	
Regulation 1997/0058 OJ L 014 17.01.1997, p. 0001	Summary

Structural business statistics

1995/0076(CNS) - 31/03/1995 - Legislative proposal

The general objective of the proposed regulation was to call on Member States to provide Eurostat with comparable statistical data relating to the structure, activity, competitiveness and performance of European businesses, in order to meet the needs which the Commission, the Member States, the business community and other users have for statistical information. The proposal lays down the norms, standards and definitions necessary for producing comparable statistics within the European Union, without detailing the actual collection methods to be used. Each Member State would be able to carry out the data collection exercises in the manner most appropriate to its own situation, for example to take account of national requirements for the presentation of company accounts.

Structural business statistics

1995/0076(CNS) - 04/05/2011

The Commission presents a report on the implementation of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 58/97 and of Regulation (EC) No 295/2008 concerning structural business statistics (recast) which repealed and replaced Regulation No 58/97. The report has been prepared partly under the provisions of Article 14(1) of Regulation No 58/97 as regards final data for reference year 2007 and partly under the provisions of Article 13(1) of Regulation No 295/2008 as regards preliminary data for reference year 2008.

Generally, the aim of the report is to provide information on the actions undertaken by the European Commission to ensure that high quality European structural business statistics are made available to users, and also on the manner and extent to which each of the Member

States has implemented the SBS Regulations. Moreover, it provides information on the burden on businesses and the actions taken by Member States in order to reduce that burden.

Compliance: compliance with the SBS Regulation is evaluated on the basis of the punctuality of data transmitted by the Member States, and also on the completeness of the data and the number of versions needed before the final release. Overall, the compliance level for 2007 data has been increased relative to the compliance level recorded in the previous report. A full analysis of all compliance issues, in particular those related to comparability, will not be possible until the renewed quality reports are available in May 2011.

Punctuality has improved generally over the years. However, some countries continue to send their data with some delay, which has influenced the punctuality of the dissemination of EU aggregates. Compared with the previous report, the most notable improvements from the punctuality point of view were made by Belgium, Ireland, Greece and Slovenia. However, Belgium and Greece sent their data with some delay. First data for 2007 were provided by Malta with a major delay.

As far as the **completeness of the datasets** transmitted by the countries is concerned, when all datasets for the definitive series of Annexes I to IV provided by the EU-27 and Norway are taken together, they make up 90% of the required data. This represents a significant improvement in comparison with the situation described in the previous report provided to the European Parliament and to the Council in 2007, but it is still insufficient.

Several countries are taking action to improve **data availability**. Preliminary 2008 data were provided by most of the countries before the deadline set in the Regulation. A few countries sent their data with some delay, for instance around 20 days after the deadline in the case of Belgium and Italy, and with a delay of more than one month for Greece and Poland. In general, punctuality has not improved for these data sets compared to last year, but this situation was due to the fact that the 2008 reference year was affected by the implementation of NACE Rev.2. Overall, 94% of the required data is available.

Data for Annexes V to VII were still missing for some series. Overall, 73 % of the required data for financial annexes is available.

Eurostat has carried out actions in order to increase the level of compliance in two areas:

- a compliance report has been submitted to the SBS Steering Group twice yearly and to the Business Statistics Directors once a year. Letters from the Director-General of Eurostat to the Heads of National Statistical Institutes have also been used to address cases of serious non-compliance. In addition to monitoring and reporting, bilateral contacts have been made in order to investigate and resolve shortcomings in compliance;

- Eurostat has tried to find ways to facilitate data transmission, e.g. by simplifying the data transmission formats and by streamlining the data requirements, especially with the new SBS Recast Regulation.

Further development: the European Statistical System is constantly looking to identify ways of dealing with new and emerging needs for statistics, whilst at the same time making great efforts to reduce both the burden on respondents and the costs of producing statistics.

Moreover, given the increasing importance of European statistics - at EU level - for the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of EU policies, the Commission (Eurostat) has issued a [Communication](#) on the production method for EU statistics - a vision for the next decade. This Communication offers a vision for reforming the way in which European statistics are produced.

Lastly, the [MEETS programme](#) for the modernisation and better integration of enterprise and trade statistics is taking practical steps to implement this vision.

Structural business statistics

1995/0076(CNS) - 13/12/1996 - Text adopted by Parliament after reconsultation

The European Parliament approved the proposal for a regulation on structural business statistics.

Structural business statistics

1995/0076(CNS) - 31/05/1995 - Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report

The ESC approved the draft Regulation and hoped sincerely that the module dealing with financial services would be proposed as quickly as possible. In addition, further data was required for the statistics presented in the module on the distributive trade. Finally, the ESC considered that the European Parliament's suggestion that Eurostat become an autonomous body could make a positive contribution to better clarification of the roles of both Eurostat and the European Commission.

Structural business statistics

1995/0076(CNS) - 14/03/1996 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

In adopting the report by Mrs MARIE-PAULE KESTELIJS-SIERENS (ELDR) on the proposal for a regulation on structural business statistics, the European Parliament made a series of amendments aimed at ensuring a better balance between the need for fast and reliable statistics and the interests of the data suppliers. An initial series of amendments aims at ensuring that the technique of sampling is used, whenever practicable, for firms below a certain size threshold. A second series of amendments seeks to address the problem of the considerable costs of collecting data and compiling statistics. Finally, the EP takes the view that the results of statistical surveys should be produced and disseminated as quickly as possible.

Structural business statistics

1995/0076(CNS) - 13/04/2004 - Follow-up document

This report covers the implementation of Council Regulation 58/97/EC, Euratom ("the SBS Regulation"). It seeks to provide information about the manner and the extent to which each of the Member States have implemented the SBS Regulation as well as to report on the actions undertaken by the Commission to work towards producing comparable European structural business statistics. The Commission analysis is based on the state of play end 2002. The effectiveness of the SBS is based on a set number of targets relating, inter alia, to data availability, coverage and freshness of data. The provisions of the Regulation are analysed as follows: - Regulatory evolutions: Since the Regulation was first adopted two amendments have taken place and one adaptation process was implemented using the Comitology procedure. As a result of these changes the following new elements were introduced. First a fifth annex concerning a framework for structural business statistics for life and non-life insurance activities was inserted, with a starting reference period of 1996. Secondly, less useful parts of the statistical requirements were reduced thus leaving greater room in the future for new investigations or developments of the SBS Regulation. Thirdly, two new annexes concerning credit institutions and pension funds, and two variables relating to expenditure on environmental protection, were added. - Data availability: The Commission reports a dramatic improvement in the volume of data availability. On average, the availability ratio for sixteen countries and for the main series has increased from 54% to 82%. - Confidentiality: Whilst confidentiality remains a concern there have, nevertheless, been some improvements in this field. Firstly, national confidentiality rules have become more and more harmonised. Secondly, IT investments in tools for automatic treatment of confidentiality have been made with the co-operation of National Statistical Institutes. - Timeliness: Based on the data received, the average delay after the deadline, fell from more than 5 months for reference year 1996 to 1.5 months for reference year 2000. - Evaluation of quality: In the 1999 Member State reports, information for each of the points was provided except in a few cases concerning the item "non-response" - Assessment of burden: Progress remains slow on the assessment of response burden as very few Member States regularly collect such information. - Users' needs and SBS developments: Users' needs for structural business statistics have continued to grow and diversify. An analysis of progress in the new Member States is annexed to the Report. To conclude, since the adoption of the Regulation, most Member States and Norway have made great strides in the making of high quality data available to users of the European SBS data. Those who have not achieved all of the implementation measures have, nevertheless, continued their efforts in 1999 and 2000. Ireland needs to make some improvements, particularly as far as the thresholds which need to be removed in industry and construction are concerned. Similarly, the poor availability of Greek data is the largest single problem in the implementation of the Regulation. In response to its analysis the Commission proposes a number of actions and recommendations. They are: - A Eurostat report system that will be regularly updated to show progress on implementation. - On going Commission/Member State contact through the National Statistical Offices to encourage a full implementation of the SBS Regulation. - The development of a quality programme in which quality will be measured and quality problems will be addressed. - Continuing efforts by Eurostat to make data available more rapidly as well as the improvement of data treatment procedures. - The launching of a second round of consultation on the possibility of adapting parts of the SBS Regulation that were not considered in the first round of adaptations completed in September 2002.

Structural business statistics

1995/0076(CNS) - 20/12/1996 - Final act

OBJECTIVE: To provide a common framework for the collection, transmission, development and assessment of comparable statistical data relating to the structure, activity, competitiveness and performance of the European business Community. **COMMUNITY MEASURE:** Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 58/97 concerning structural business statistics. **SUBSTANCE:** The Regulation lays down the norms, standards and definitions necessary for producing comparable statistics within the European Union, without detailing the actual collection methods to be used. Each Member State may conduct the data collection exercises in the manner most appropriate to its own situation, for example to take account of national

requirements for the presentation of company accounts. Statistics are compiled in the following domains: - the structure of the activities, and their evolution; - the factors of production used; - the regional, national, Community and international development of businesses and markets; - business conduct; - the SMUs; - the specific elements for the study of particular regroupings of activities. DATE OF ENTRY INTO FORCE: 6 February 1997.

Structural business statistics

1995/0076(CNS) - 04/09/2007 - Follow-up document

This report covers the implementation of Council Regulation No 58/97 ('the SBS Regulation') as amended by Council Regulation No 410/1998 and Regulation 2056/2002. The report aims to provide information on the actions undertaken by the Commission to ensure that high quality European structural business statistics are made available to users, and also on the manner and extent to which each of the Member States has implemented the SBS Regulation. It provides information on the burden on business and actions taken to reduce that burden.

Availability of SBS to users: in very broad terms, the Commission concludes that data sets delivered to Eurostat are reasonably complete from most Member States. There are gaps for some countries, however, which affect the availability of data to users. The Commission also states that the availability of data to users is considerably reduced by the existence of confidential data. Many data are confidential, especially in the smaller countries. The confidentiality rules at national level are not yet fully harmonised. In all countries, data relating to one or a small number of enterprises are protected. Rules for determining the EU aggregates that need to be suppressed have been laid down in a Confidentiality Charter agreed with the Member States. Of all EU aggregates for which data were available for the reference year 2004 in the annual enterprise statistics, 32% could not be published for reasons of confidentiality. The Commission is currently investigating ways of making more EU aggregates available in order to satisfy the users' need for information. Ways of calculating estimates for the confidential EU aggregates that afford sufficient protection to the data of individual respondents, while at the same time guaranteeing a certain level of accuracy of the aggregates, will be explored. The recast of the SBS Regulation contains a possibility for Member States to flag data as "contribution to European totals only", which is also expected to increase the number of available European aggregates.

With regard to **accuracy**, the aggregate EU coefficients of variation for most NACE groups are below 1.5 %. In general, coefficients of variation are lower for the NACE groups in industry. For construction, trade and especially services, coefficients of variation are higher. This means that in general the data presented for the industrial activities are more precise. The non-response rates vary between Member States; in a few cases they are above 20 percent.

The **coherence** between structural business statistics and short-term statistics reveals certain differences in methodology. Further investigation is therefore needed. A similar comparison has been made between SBS data on employment and other sources of labour data. Again, differences in methodology and also in definitions were observed. Further harmonisation work needs to be undertaken.

Compliance with the SBS Regulation is evaluated on the basis of the timeliness of transmission of the data by the Member States, as well as of the completeness of the datasets sent. Overall, the compliance level has risen when compared to the evaluation made for the previous report. Other compliance issues, such as the quality of the data transmitted, cannot yet be fully evaluated. The timeliness of the data transmission has generally improved over the years. However, some countries still send the data with significant delays, which influences the timely dissemination of EU aggregates. National action plans have been drafted by the Member States concerned in order to ensure that the Regulation deadlines are respected in future. As far as the completeness of the datasets transmitted by the countries is concerned, when all datasets for the definitive series of Annexes 1 to 4 provided by the EU27 countries and Norway are taken together, this represents 85% of the required data overall. This is a marked improvement on the situation described in the previous report to the European Parliament and the Council, but it is still insufficient. Several countries are taking action to improve data availability.

The burden on business: the report describes the SBS recast (COM(2006)0066) which aims to keep the burden on enterprises as light as possible, by taking away a number of mandatory variables, moving other variables from annual to multi-annual collection, and deleting the optional variables. It describes burden measurement, and states that from the number of hours spent on SBS, it is possible to make a very rough estimate of the cost to enterprises: if this average time spent is applied across the EU as a whole, the burden on the economy due to SBS Annexes I – IV would add up to about €75 million for the whole Community. On average, enterprises with less than 50 employees account for 70% of the time spent by all enterprises. Although large enterprises are normally included in the surveys, small enterprises contribute quite considerably.

Lastly, the report describes **actions taken by Member States to reduce burden**. In many Member States there is a growing preference for using administrative data instead of surveys. However, there are obstacles to the increased use of administrative data, which normally differ from statistical data in terms of formats, codes, transmission protocols, etc., so making these data usable for statistics requires investment. Political support is needed in order for agreements to be reached between the NSIs and the relevant governmental organisations. Changing the use of administrative data also requires additional internal resources, as NSIs have to adjust their internal workings to make good use of this investment.