Basic information

2006/0217(COD) COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Decision	Procedure completed
Statistics: European Advisory Committee on Community Statistical Information Policy (repeal. Decision 91/116/EEC) **Subject** 8.60 European statistical legislation	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs	VAN DEN BURG Ieke (PSE)	12/12/2006

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
IMCO Internal Market and Consumer Protection	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Economic and Financial Affairs ECOFIN	2828	2007-11-13
Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs	2803	2007-05-30
Education, Youth, Culture and Sport	2848	2008-02-14

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Eurostat - European statistics	ALMUNIA Joaquín

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
03/11/2006	Legislative proposal published	COM(2006)0653	Summary
29/11/2006	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
30/05/2007	Act adopted by Council after Parliament's 1st reading		
11/09/2007	Vote in committee, 1st reading		Summary
18/09/2007	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A6-0328/2007	

22/10/2007	Debate in Parliament		
24/10/2007	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T6-0462/2007	Summary
24/10/2007	Results of vote in Parliament		
13/11/2007	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		Summary
14/02/2008	Act adopted by Council after Parliament's 1st reading		
11/03/2008	Final act signed		
11/03/2008	End of procedure in Parliament		
15/03/2008	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2006/0217(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 285
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ECON/6/42342

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE388.658	14/05/2007	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE390.649	19/06/2007	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A6-0328/2007	18/09/2007	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T6-0462/2007	24/10/2007	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Draft final act	03663/2007/LEX	11/03/2008	

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2006)0653	03/11/2006	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2007)6028	21/11/2007	

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0202/2007	16/02/2007	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
National parliaments	IPEX	
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Decision 2008/0234
OJ L 073 15.03.2008, p. 0013 Summary

Statistics: European Advisory Committee on Community Statistical Information Policy (repeal. Decision 91/116/EEC)

2006/0217(COD) - 03/11/2006 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: the establishment of a “European Advisory Committee on Community Statistical Information Policy”

PROPOSED ACT: Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council.

BACKGROUND: the “European Advisory Committee on *Statistical Information in the Economic and Social Spheres”* or CEIES was set up in 1991 on the initiative of the then President of the European Commission Jacques Delors. Its purpose is to assist in the co-ordination of the Community’s statistical information policy. CEIES helps assess the relevance of the Community’s statistical programme; it helps monitor the statistical programmes; and it assesses costs incurred.

Both the Commission, in its 2005 Communication on the independence, integrity and accountability of national and Community statistical authorities, and the Council in November 2005, recognised the need to reform CEIES. Reforming CEIES should lead to greater improvements in the governance of the European Statistical system and enhance the quality of Community statistics.

CONTENT: the purpose of this proposal is to repeal Decision 91/116/EEC *on the establishment of CEIES* and to propose a new Decision setting up a reformed committee. The reform takes account of EU expansion and the increase in EU members from 15 to 25. Concretely speaking the proposed provisions are as follows:

- Name change: The Commission is proposing to drop “Economic and Social Spheres” from the existing heading and rename it: The “European Advisory Committee on Community *Statistical Information Policy.”*
- More vigorous provisions are proposed regarding the preparation of the Community’s statistical programme as well as the Commission’s annual statistical work programme.
- The Committee may offer advice on user’s needs.
- The Commission will have to report annually on how it has taken the Committee’s views into account when formulating policies.
- Membership of the Committee will be reduced from 79 members to 20 members. Composition of the new committee will include representatives from civil society as well as statisticians. The Director General of Eurostat will be a member.
- Temporary working parties may be set up to report to the Committee.

Statistics: European Advisory Committee on Community Statistical Information Policy (repeal. Decision 91/116/EEC)

2006/0217(COD) - 11/03/2008 - Final act

PURPOSE: to establish the European Statistical Advisory Committee.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Decision No 234/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the European Statistical Advisory Committee and repealing Council Decision 91/116/EEC.

CONTENT: the European Statistical Advisory Committee assists the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission in ensuring that user requirements and the costs borne by information providers and producers are taken into account in coordinating the strategic objectives and priorities of the Community's statistical information policy. That assistance shall cover all statistical domains relevant to the Community's statistical information policy.

The Commission shall consult the Committee at an early stage in the preparation of the Community statistical programme. The Committee shall deliver an opinion addressing in particular: (a) the relevance of the Community statistical programme to the requirements of European integration and development, as expressed by the Community institutions, national and regional authorities, the various economic and social categories and scientific circles; (b) the relevance of the Community statistical programme in relation to the activities of the Community, taking into account economic, social and technical developments; (c) the balance as regards priorities and resources between different areas in the Community statistical programme; (d) the adequacy of the resources needed to implement the Community statistical programme; (e) the costs related to the provision of statistical information by information providers, as well as the possibilities of reducing the response burden, with particular reference to the burden on small and medium-sized enterprises.

The Committee shall comprise 24 members. Twelve members shall be appointed by the Commission, after consulting the European Parliament and the Council. Eleven members shall be appointed directly by the institutions and bodies to which they belong (one member shall represent the European Parliament).

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 15/06/2008.

Statistics: European Advisory Committee on Community Statistical Information Policy (repeal. Decision 91/116/EEC)

2006/0217(COD) - 24/10/2007 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution drafted by Ieke **van den BURG** (PES, NL) on the proposal for a decision setting up a European Advisory Committee on Community Statistical Information Policy. Compromise amendments were agreed between the rapporteur, the Commission and the Council Presidency. The main amendments were as follows:

Name: the name of the Committee is changed to the European Statistical Advisory Committee.

Tasks: Parliament's re-definition of the tasks of the Committee now include delivering an opinion on the following, inter alia: the balance between different areas in the Community statistical programme, the annual statistical work programme of the Commission, and possibilities of re-prioritising statistical work; the sufficiency of the resources needed to implement the Community statistical programme, and whether the scope, level of detail, and costs of European statistics are commensurate with users' needs; the costs related to the provision of statistical information by information providers and possibilities of reducing the response burden, with particular reference to the burden on SMEs. The Statistical Advisory Committee will also draw the Commission's attention to areas in which it may be necessary to develop new statistical activities and shall advise the Commission on how to improve the relevance of the European statistics to users. For the performance of its tasks the Statistical Advisory Council may commission studies and hold seminars.

The Statistical Advisory Council shall cooperate with the Statistical Programme Committee and the Committee on Monetary, Financial and Balance of Payments Statistics. It shall regularly inform those two committees of its opinions regarding the tasks and shall send them opinions and reports that it has drawn up.

Composition: the Statistical Advisory Board shall consist of 24 members. a) 12 members of the Statistical Advisory Board shall be appointed by the Commission after consultation of the European Parliament and the Council. They shall act independently. With a view to the appointment of these members, each Member State shall provide the Commission with a list of three candidates with a well-established qualification in the field of statistics. The Commission shall endeavour to ensure that the selection of those twelve members represents equally users, respondents and other stakeholders in European statistics (including the scientific community, the social partners and civil society). Those members shall perform their duties in their personal capacity b) 11 members shall be directly appointed by the bodies to which they belong (including one from the European Data Protection Supervisor). The Director-General of Eurostat shall be an ex-officio member of the Statistical Advisory Board without a voting right.

Duration of mandate: Members of the Statistical Advisory Council shall be appointed for a term of 5 years (as opposed to 4 as proposed by the Commission), renewable once. The Chair shall be appointed for a term of five years, renewable once.

Operation: the expenses of the Statistical Advisory Committee shall be included in the budgetary estimates of the Commission.

Lastly, Parliament stated that the decision should enter into force three months after publication in the Official Journal.

This proposal is closely linked to the proposal for the establishment of a European Statistical Governance Advisory Board (please see **COD/2006/0199**).

Statistics: European Advisory Committee on Community Statistical Information Policy (repeal. Decision 91/116/EEC)

2006/0217(COD) - 13/11/2007

Following the priorities set-out in the ECOFIN Council on 8 November 2005 on statistical governance, on 7 November 2006 on the Status Report on Information Requirements in EMU and on the public communication of major statistical revisions, and on 28 November 2006 on the reduction of the administrative burden related to statistics, the ECOFIN Council reviewed progress made in these areas. It adopted the following conclusions:

2007 EFC Status Report on Information Requirements: the Council endorses the 2007 EFC Status Report on Information Requirements in the EMU. In particular, it welcomes the progress achieved with the Principal European Economic Indicators (PEEIs), following the recommendations of the 2006 EFC Status Report. It encourages ongoing efforts to promote best practices and data sharing and reiterates the need to strengthen the accuracy and reliability of the indicators. The Council calls upon the European Statistical System to step up efforts to also ensure the regular availability and high quality of the statistics for structural analysis. Eurostat and the ECB are invited to provide an updated Status Report on the fulfilment of EMU statistical requirements in 2008 and to review the scope, timeliness and quality of the PEEIs in the light of the results achieved, the constraints encountered and the evolving users' needs for economic and monetary policy purposes.

Reduction of statistical burden: noting that available measurements have not indicated a significant reduction in the overall statistical burden since 2006, the Council underlines that the right balance has to be found between minimising the response burden and providing sufficiently high quality statistics for Community policies. The Council in particular: i) emphasises the desirability of respondents to report only once by combining reporting for different purposes and make the best use of the data that is already available by integrating existing statistics, including administrative data, to the extent possible; ii) welcomes the examination by the Commission (Eurostat), the Statistical Programme Committee (SPC) and the Committee for Monetary, Financial and Balance of Payments Statistics (CMFB) regarding the simplification of Intrastat; iii) agrees with the objective to reduce the coverage ratio in the short term while preparing a move to an alternative method in the long term, such as the single flow method, which requires further study; iv) invites the Commission to step up its efforts to enhance the measurement of the statistical response burden with a view to develop agreed criteria to assess progress objectively and to make a further assessment of the change in overall burden by October 2008.

Statistical Governance: the Council welcomes the agreement reached with the European Parliament and the Commission on the establishment of the European Statistical Governance Advisory Board (ESGAB) and the European Statistical Advisory Committee (ESAC), and anticipates their swift establishment. Furthermore, it welcomes the initiative to modernise the current legal framework governing the development, production and dissemination of European Statistics and takes note that the Commission forwarded to the Council, in accordance with the procedure laid down in article 251 of the Treaty (co-decision), a proposal for a Regulation on European Statistics. The Council recognises the major efforts required by National Statistical Institutes and Eurostat in the peer review exercise, as well as the high commitment of the partners involved. It looks forward to the report to the European Parliament and the Council on progress with the compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice in 2008 and underlines the importance that all Member States provide the necessary input to Eurostat according to the agreed timetable.

Communication of Major Statistical Revisions: the Council underlines that major revisions of macro-economic and social statistics in Member States can have substantive implications for European economic policies and for the credibility of the European Statistical System as a whole. It believes that a proper communication of the impacts of major revisions within the EU is crucial. Therefore, the Council welcomes the guidelines on the public communication of major statistical revisions in the European Union as set up by the CMFB, in response to the conclusions of the Ecofin Council of 7 November 2006. Lastly, it invites Member States to follow these guidelines.