

Commitment on Confidence in Statistics

Citizens' summary

The European Statistical System is a partnership between the statistical authorities of the EU Member States and Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Union. The European Statistical System provides accurate and reliable statistics of high quality to support the European and the national policies.

A legal framework has been created in order to ensure this quality. It consists of a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the one hand, and of a Code of Practice on the other hand. The Regulation was amended on 29 April 2015 in order to strengthen the governance of the European Statistical System, to maintain its credibility and to meet the data needs resulting from the strengthened coordination of the economic policies in the European Union. One of the amendments is the signature by every Member State, represented by its government, of a so-called "Commitment on Confidence in Statistics".

In Belgium, a cooperation agreement made the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice applicable to all public statistics produced by the statistical authorities of the federal state, the regions and communities.

With this document, the federal government and the governments of the Regions and Communities commit themselves to do everything in their power to ensure the fundamental principles and the high quality of public statistics.

In particular, they shall:

- ensure the professional independence of statistical authorities;
- provide appropriate, sufficient and permanent resources to guarantee the quality and relevance of public statistics;
- ensure that the statistical authorities have access to administrative data and, at the same time, can reduce the overall response burden;
- safeguard the rights of the respondents and ensure the observance of statistical confidentiality.

Moreover, the statistical authorities shall establish, individually and jointly, a statistical programme and the quality of the statistics included in these programmes shall be monitored.

In case the statistical authorities appoint other services for part of the public statistics, they should make sure that these statistics are produced according to the same principles and and quality standards.