

Commitment on Confidence in Statistics

Having regard to Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council on European statistics, in particular article 11 (3) thereof;

Whereas reliable statistics are a necessary condition for evidence-based policy making and a well-functioning democracy;

Whereas the European Statistics Code of Practice provides a good basis for the reliability and quality of public statistics;

The federal Belgian government, the governments of the Regions and Communities, the United College of the Common Community Commission and the College of the French Community Commission commit themselves to:

- Appoint each a service which holds the position of statistical authority and is established by or under the terms of a law, decree or ordinance;
- Bring laws, decrees or ordinances on public statistics fully into line with European regulations, and in particular Regulation 223/2009 on European statistics;
- Ensure that the statistical authorities, within their sphere of competence, can carry out their missions taking into account the guiding principles of public statistics, in accordance with the European Statistics Code of Practice, as agreed in the European Statistical System;
- Guarantee the professional independence of the statistical authorities and their heads, within their sphere of competence;
- Provide appropriate, sufficient and permanent resources to guarantee the quality and relevance of public statistics within their sphere of competence; to this end statistical authorities may establish partnerships with one another;
- Ensure that the statistical authorities have unlimited and full access to all administrative data at all levels and, at the same time, can reduce the overall response burden;
- Safeguard the rights of the respondents and ensure the observance of statistical confidentiality, in particular by making sure that the statistical authorities appoint a data protection delegate and adopt a code of practice which lays down the rules and regulations concerning confidentiality, privacy protection, business secrecy and data protection which are imposed on the members of the service.

To this end, the statistical authorities, united in the Interfederal Statistical Institute, shall establish, individually and jointly, a statistical programme. The quality of the statistics included in these programmes shall be monitored according to the single audit principles and shall be promoted through self-assessments, improvement actions and monitoring mechanisms.

The statistical authorities, each within their sphere of competence, may appoint other services which are responsible for part of the public statistics. The statistical authorities make sure that these statistics are established according to the same principles and quality standards as those of the statistical authorities and ensure regular monitoring thereof.