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With a view to the meeting of the Working Party on Statistics on 11 January 2024, delegations will find attached the Belgian Presidency Flash note.

Presidency Flash

Meeting of the Council Working Party on Statistics

11 January 2024



Dear colleagues,

We are pleased to invite you to the first meeting of the Council Working Party on Statistics (CWPS) under the Belgian Presidency, which will take place on Thursday 11 January 2024 at 10:00 in Brussels (Justus Lipsius Building). The meeting will be chaired by Mr. Olivier Goddeeris, Deputy Director-General of Statistics Belgium.

The first part of the meeting will be devoted to the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on European Union labour market statistics on businesses, repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 530/1999 and Regulations (EC) No 450/2003 and (EC) No 453/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

Based on the discussions that took place during the previous CWPS meetings under the Spanish Presidency, as well as the comments received through the written consultation, the Belgian Presidency has prepared a compromise text on the Regulation that has been shared with the delegates.

The following is a summary of the main changes to the Commission's proposal:

For article 2 on definitions, the main concern was to align the definitions with regulations already in place (such as EBS¹ and SAIO²). Additionally, a new definition on privately held data has been added and the definition on 'data collection period' has been removed from this article as a consequence of the modification made in article 4 par. 7 (e).

With regards to article 3 on sources and methods, no standard formulation exists between statistical regulations. The changes introduced in this article are made to better align the wording with SAIO as well as with the mandate of the Council on ESOP³. New wording has been introduced as well as a new paragraph on the commitment to use innovative sources.

For article 4 on data requirements extra safeguards have been included in this article. This applies to both delegated and implementing acts. Furthermore, deciding on the 'data collecting period' or 'precision targets' should be left to the Member States and should not be amended by implementing act; for this reason rows 90 and 92 have been removed.

Regarding article 5 on 'Early estimates', the wording 'shall be allowed' in paragraph 3 has been replaced by 'may discontinue' to clarify that no prior authorisation by the Commission is required to discontinue transmitting early

¹ Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2019 on European business statistics, repealing 10 legal acts in the field of business statistics (Text with EEA relevance)

² Regulation (EU) 2022/2379 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 November 2022 on statistics on agricultural input and output, amending Commission Regulation (EC) No 617/2008 and repealing Regulations (EC) No 1165/2008, (EC) No 543/2009 and (EC) No 1185/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Directive 96/16/EC (Text with EEA relevance)

³ Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on European statistics on population and housing, amending Regulation (EC) No 862/2007 and repealing Regulations (EC) No 763/2008 and (EU) No 1260/2013.

estimates when they fall below the 3% thresholds.

Taking into account the feedback of Member States expressed in writing and/or during the Council Working Party of 5 december 2023, article 7 on ad hoc data requirements has been removed. It is not common practice to use ad hoc modules in the domain of Labour market statistics on businesses and it has long been stable in terms of the number and structure of variables. Moreover, if ad hoc data would be needed, other mechanisms in the field of statistics could be considered.

Concerning article 8 on quality requirements and quality reporting, some small modifications were made: the addition of an extra safeguard in paragraph 5 and the removal of a deadline of 3 months in paragraph 6.

In the first paragraph of article 10 on financing ‘may’ has been replaced by ‘shall’ to better ensure financial contributions. This is consistent with recently adopted statistical legislation. The changes made in lines 149 and 150 are consistent with the Council mandate on ESOP.

Regarding article 12, when major adaptations to the national statistical system are necessary to implement this new framework regulation, a longer period for derogations is needed. The addition of a ‘starting point’ in paragraph 1 together with the possibility of prolonging the period of a derogation by 2 years, will alleviate the burden on Member States to meet new requirements and takes better into account the four-year periodicity of some topics.

Concerning article 13 on ‘exercise of delegation’, the power to adopt delegated acts should be conferred on the Commission in periods of five years. This is a standard clause in sectoral statistical legislation. The reference to article 7(1) is deleted since article 7 is removed from the text.

Finally some modifications were introduced in the annex: in rows 200 and 207 ‘and a representative month in that year’ is added. Rows 223 ‘quarterly index of total labour costs’ and 224 ‘quarterly index of hours worked’ have been deleted. A new line 232a has been added to include a first reference period for annual labour costs.

The next agenda item will be devoted to the regulations that are currently subject to interinstitutional negotiations:

- Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on European statistics on population and housing, amending Regulation (EC) No 862/2007 and repealing Regulations (EC) No 763/2008 and (EU) No 1260/2013;
- Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) No 691/2011 as regards introducing new environmental economic accounts modules;
- Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics State of play of the negotiations with the European Parliament

Our main aim for this agenda item is to inform delegations on the state of play of these

files.

Finally, under AOB, the Presidency will update on the progress made on other files of interest.

Please do not hesitate to contact us in case of questions. We look forward to seeing you in Brussels!

The Belgian Presidency Team on Statistics