



6.2.2017

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## **DRAFT REPORT**

on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council  
Establishing a common framework for European statistics relating to persons  
and households, based on data at individual level collected from samples  
(COM(2016)0551 – C8-0345/2016 – 2016/0264(COD))

Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

Rapporteur: Tamás Meszerics

### ***Symbols for procedures***

- \* Consultation procedure
- \*\*\* Consent procedure
- \*\*\*I Ordinary legislative procedure (first reading)
- \*\*\*II Ordinary legislative procedure (second reading)
- \*\*\*III Ordinary legislative procedure (third reading)

(The type of procedure depends on the legal basis proposed by the draft act.)

### ***Amendments to a draft act***

#### **Amendments by Parliament set out in two columns**

Deletions are indicated in ***bold italics*** in the left-hand column. Replacements are indicated in ***bold italics*** in both columns. New text is indicated in ***bold italics*** in the right-hand column.

The first and second lines of the header of each amendment identify the relevant part of the draft act under consideration. If an amendment pertains to an existing act that the draft act is seeking to amend, the amendment heading includes a third line identifying the existing act and a fourth line identifying the provision in that act that Parliament wishes to amend.

#### **Amendments by Parliament in the form of a consolidated text**

New text is highlighted in ***bold italics***. Deletions are indicated using either the **■** symbol or ~~strikeout~~. Replacements are indicated by highlighting the new text in ***bold italics*** and by deleting or striking out the text that has been replaced.

By way of exception, purely technical changes made by the drafting departments in preparing the final text are not highlighted.

## CONTENTS

	<b>Page</b>
DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION.....	5
EXPLANATORY STATEMENT.....	62



## DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

**on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council  
Establishing a common framework for European statistics relating to persons and  
households, based on data at individual level collected from samples  
(COM(2016)0551 – C8-0345/2016 – 2016/0264(COD))**

**(Ordinary legislative procedure: first reading)**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the Commission proposal to Parliament and the Council (COM(2016)0551),
  - having regard to Article 294(2) and Article 338(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, pursuant to which the Commission submitted the proposal to Parliament (C8-0345/2016),
  - having regard to Article 294(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
  - having regard to Rule 59 of its Rules of Procedure,
  - having regard to the report of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (A8-0000/2017),
1. Adopts its position at first reading hereinafter set out;
  2. Calls on the Commission to refer the matter to Parliament again if it intends to amend its proposal substantially or replace it with another text;
  3. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, the Commission and the national parliaments.

### **Amendment 1**

**Proposal for a regulation  
Recital -1 (new)**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***(-1) Statistical data and indicators are the backbone of responsible evidence-based policies. To create, analyse and adapt Union, national and regional policies which address the needs of citizens, it is essential to dispose of timely, comparable and precise information about the situation so as to respond to it and this is a key responsibility of policy***

*makers.*

Or. en

## Amendment 2

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Recital 1

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(1) In the context of the Europe 2020 Strategy<sup>21</sup> and the strengthening of economic governance, social indicators play an essential role in informing and supporting the Union's key priorities for growth and job creation, the reduction of poverty and social exclusion, skills, mobility and the digital economy. In particular, social indicators must provide a sound statistical basis for developing and monitoring the policies introduced by the Union to address those priorities.

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<sup>21</sup> Communication from the Commission - EUROPE 2020 A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth COM (2010) 2020 of 3 March 2010.

*Amendment*

(1) In the context of the Europe 2020 Strategy<sup>21</sup> and the strengthening of economic governance, social indicators play an essential role in informing and supporting the Union's key priorities for ***inclusive*** growth and job creation, the reduction of poverty, ***inequality*** and social exclusion, ***and for gender equality***, skills, mobility and the digital economy. In particular, social indicators must provide a sound statistical basis for developing and monitoring the policies introduced by the Union to address those priorities.

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<sup>21</sup> Communication from the Commission - EUROPE 2020 A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth COM (2010) 2020 of 3 March 2010.

Or. en

## Amendment 3

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Recital 1 a (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***(1a) A good balance between economic and social goals in the European Semester, supported by high-quality statistics in both domains, is particularly important for the sustainability and***

*legitimacy of the economic and monetary Union. Hence, social and employment goals have become more prominent in the European Semester, with both country reports and country-specific recommendations assessing social and employment challenges and promoting policy reforms based on best practices. To that end, social statistics have a paramount role.*

Or. en

#### **Amendment 4**

##### **Proposal for a regulation Recital 1 b (new)**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***(1b) In line with the “Beyond GDP” initiative<sup>1a</sup>, it is important to complement GDP with high level indicators reflecting other dimensions in particular social aspects of progress, such as quality of life, inclusion, well-being and social cohesion.***

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*1a*

***[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/beyond\\_gdp/background\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/beyond_gdp/background_en.html)***

Or. en

#### *Justification*

*The need to improve data and indicators to complement GDP has been increasingly recognised and is the focus of a number of international initiatives. These initiatives also reflect renewed societal and political priorities. It is important to develop indicators that are as clear and appealing as GDP, but more inclusive of, inter alia, social aspects of progress. Economic indicators such as GDP were never designed to be comprehensive measures of prosperity and well-being. This new framework regulation should help improving EU indicators of progress in ways that meet citizens' concerns.*

## Amendment 5

### Proposal for a regulation Recital 1 c (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***(1c) The European Statistical System (ESS), the partnership between the Commission (Eurostat), the national statistical institutes (NSIs) and other national authorities responsible in each Member State for the development, production and dissemination of official European statistics aims to provide relevant, impartial, reliable, timely and comparable statistical data at Union level.***

Or. en

## Amendment 6

### Proposal for a regulation Recital 1 d (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***(1d) The development, production and dissemination of European statistics are governed by the following statistical principles: professional independence, impartiality, objectivity reliability and cost-effectiveness.***

Or. en

### *Justification*

*These are the core principles governing production and dissemination of EU statistics, as listed in Regulation 223/2009.*

## Amendment 7

### Proposal for a regulation Recital 1 e (new)



**(1e) European social statistics should be provided on the basis of equal opportunities to all types of users, such as policy-makers, public administrations, researchers, trade unions, students, researchers and civil society representatives, including non-governmental organisations (NGOs), which should access data freely and easily through Commission (Eurostat) databases on its website. The ESS has committed to engaging the users proactively and meeting their demands in a responsive manner.**

Or. en

*Justification*

*This principle is enshrined in the Regulation 223/2009. In practice, anyone can access online to Eurostat's Database, which contains the full range of aggregated data publicly available at Eurostat. They are presented in multi-dimensional tables with various selection features and export formats. The research community enjoys wider access in particular to confidential data, for analysis in the interest of scientific progress - this access is subject to strict rules under Regulation 557/2003.*

## Amendment 8

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Recital 2

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(2) *In view of this*, social indicators should be of the **necessary high** quality, in particular in terms of their robustness, their timeliness, their relevance, their adaptability to new users' requests, as well as their comparability and efficiency.

*Amendment*

(2) *To become excellent tools for users, including policy-makers and researchers*, social indicators should be of the **highest** quality, in particular in terms of their robustness, **accuracy**, their timeliness, their **usability and accessibility**, **their** relevance, their adaptability to new users' requests, as well as their comparability, **coherence** and efficiency.

Or. en

### *Justification*

*From the user's perspective, it is paramount that data produced by the ESS is not only of the highest quality but also comparable, consistent and accessible in a timely manner.*

## **Amendment 9**

### **Proposal for a regulation**

#### **Recital 3**

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

(3) European statistics relating to persons and households are currently collected on the basis of a number of legislative acts covering surveys on persons and households, demographic statistics, population and housing censuses and statistics mainly collected from administrative sources. Some data are also gathered from business surveys. Despite significant improvements in recent years there is a need to further integrate the collection of statistics based on surveys conducted on persons and households.

##### *Amendment*

(3) European statistics relating to persons and households are currently collected on the basis of a number of legislative acts covering surveys on persons and households, demographic statistics, population and housing censuses and statistics mainly collected from administrative sources. Some data are also gathered from business surveys. ***Research users have stressed problems with the timeliness and quality of data, including comparability.*** Despite significant improvements in recent years there is a need to further integrate ***and streamline*** the collection of statistics based on surveys conducted on persons and households. ***To have sound research on which to base policies, it is essential to further invest into high-quality data collection, not to reduce investments, as sound data are a pre-condition for responsible policy-making.***

Or. en

### *Justification*

*Improved timeliness and data quality including comparability are essential to research users. Research community has pointed to problems with data quality, comparability and timeliness. Finding the right balance between timeliness and quality and developing coherence and comparability – by trying to adapt to the users' needs -remains one of the greater challenges in the production of official statistics.*

## Amendment 10

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Recital 4

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(4) The possibility to use administrative sources for statistical purposes has widened significantly, thanks to technological advances. The use of administrative sources should be actively promoted in the area of social statistics, while always ensuring the quality, accuracy, timeliness and comparability of those statistics.

*Amendment*

(4) ***To improve data quality and efficiency, the use of administrative records should be encouraged to the extent possible;*** the possibility to use administrative sources for statistical purposes has ***already*** widened significantly, thanks to technological advances. The use of administrative sources should be ***further*** actively promoted in the area of social statistics, while always ensuring the quality, accuracy, timeliness and comparability of those statistics ***and while maintaining other instruments adapted to persons or relevant subjects which cannot be accessed through administrative records.***

Or. en

*Justification*

*The use of administrative data has to happen in a balanced way - it can support efficiency, but it is important that persons outside administrative coverage are not left behind in statistics. Also administrative data cannot cover all the needed domains, their comparability may be lower (as the administrative underlying concept is not necessarily what is wanted), they are not everywhere timely enough, they are volatile (some administration may decide not to get some data anymore).*

## Amendment 11

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Recital 6

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(6) In 2011, the European Statistical System (ESS) endorsed in Wiesbaden its Memorandum on a New Conceptual Design for Household and Social Statistics. In its view, the European surveys that provide data relating to persons and

*Amendment*

(6) In 2011, the European Statistical System (ESS) endorsed in Wiesbaden its Memorandum on a New Conceptual Design for Household and Social Statistics. In its view, the European surveys that provide data relating to persons and

households should be streamlined, and additional, less frequent microdata collections should be used to complement those core social surveys. Furthermore, there should be better access to administrative data, and the re-use of existing data sources and access to new data sources should be developed at national and EU level.

households should be streamlined, and additional, less frequent microdata collections should be used to complement those core social surveys. Furthermore, there should be better access to administrative data, and the re-use of existing data sources and access to new data sources should be developed at national and EU level. ***It is of the utmost importance that input by all stakeholders, including policy and academic users, producers, the civil society and interest groups is duly taken into account when adapting and modernising the social surveys.***

Or. en

### *Justification*

*Modernising and adapting the social surveys has to be done as a cooperative process with all concerned - users, producers and where appropriate respondents.*

## **Amendment 12**

### **Proposal for a regulation**

#### **Recital 7**

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

(7) The developments described above need to be gradually streamlined, and statistical legislation in the area of social statistics needs to be modernised, in order to ensure that the high quality social indicators are produced in a more integrated, flexible and efficient manner. At the same time, due consideration must be given to the needs of users, to ***the burden placed on*** respondents, to Member States resources, the reliability and accuracy of the methods used, technical feasibility of producing the statistics, the time within which they can be available and the reliability of the results.

##### *Amendment*

(7) The developments described above need to be gradually streamlined, and statistical legislation in the area of social statistics needs to be modernised, in order to ensure that the high quality social indicators are produced in a more integrated, ***adaptable***, flexible and efficient manner. At the same time, ***whilst by no means reducing quality, efficiency or timeliness***, due consideration must be given to the needs of users, to ***respecting needs of the*** respondents, to Member States ***capacities and*** resources the reliability and accuracy of the methods used, technical feasibility of producing the statistics, the time within which they can be available and the reliability of the results.

*Justification*

*There is a certain tendency to perceive new demands to improve quality and timeliness as “burden”. The quality of the data as well as the timeliness is essential when statistics are to be used as source for policy-making and research.*

**Amendment 13****Proposal for a regulation****Recital 8***Text proposed by the Commission*

(8) This Regulation sets up a framework for European statistics relating to persons and households based on data at individual level collected from samples. It specifies the data and information to be collected and submitted by Member States, and includes the fundamental quality requirements to be met by the data. ***It provides for more detailed technical specifications to be given in delegated acts and implementing measures.*** It allows the various data collections to be integrated with one another and with the use of administrative data, while consolidating and simplifying existing legislation.

*Amendment*

(8) This Regulation sets up a framework for European statistics relating to persons and households based on data at individual level collected from samples. It specifies the data and information to be collected and submitted by Member States, and includes the fundamental quality requirements to be met by the data ***as well as the frequency of data collection.*** . It allows the various data collections to be integrated with one another and with the use of administrative data, while consolidating and simplifying existing legislation. ***In order to ensure uniform conditions for the implementation of this Regulation, it provides for more detailed technical specifications to be given in implementing measures. It also provides for the possibility to adopt delegated acts in order to supplement or amend this Regulation in a democratic, flexible and inclusive manner. With regard to delegated acts, it is of particular importance that the Commission carry out appropriate consultations during its preparatory work, including at expert level. The Commission, when preparing and drawing-up delegated acts, should ensure a simultaneous, timely and appropriate transmission of relevant documents to the European Parliament and to the Council.***

**Amendment 14****Proposal for a regulation****Recital 9***Text proposed by the Commission*

(9) In order to better streamline and rationalise the reference framework for European social statistics collected from samples, existing European statistics on persons and households based on data at individual level should be brought together under one framework. This would guarantee that European social statistics collected from samples including the domains of labour market, income and living conditions, health, education and training and use of information and communication technologies would be undertaken in a consistent, coherent and coordinated way.

*Amendment*

(9) In order to better streamline and rationalise the reference framework for European social statistics collected from samples, existing European statistics on persons and households based on data at individual level should be brought together under one framework. This would guarantee that European social statistics collected from samples including the domains of labour market, income and living conditions, *time use, consumption*, health, education and training and use of information and communication technologies would be undertaken in a *more* consistent, coherent and coordinated way.

Or. en

*Justification***Amendment 15****Proposal for a regulation****Recital 9 a (new)***Text proposed by the Commission**Amendment*

***(9a) While complying with the objectives of this Regulation and in order to improve the quality of data sets and social indicators, the Commission should adopt measures implementing feasibility and pilot studies aiming to improve quality of social statistics, including comparability, at modernising data collection and at meeting users' new demands in a cost-efficient and responsive***

*manner. Member States should cooperate with regard to those feasibility and pilot studies and the Commission should be able to provide financial support for their implementation.*

Or. en

*Justification*

*Feasibility and other pilot studies should be carried out, as mentioned in article 13, before significantly modifying this legislative framework, both in terms of methodologies and of content.*

**Amendment 16**

**Proposal for a regulation**  
**Recital 9 b (new)**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

*(9b) For the labour market and income and living conditions domain, in order to adapt to users' needs and new expectations, data can be collected on ad-hoc subject, at a specific point in time in order to allow the variables permanently collected with supplementary variables to be complemented, highlighting unexplored aspects of labour market and income and living conditions. In justified cases, those data could also cover topics not foreseen in this Regulation.*

Or. en

*Justification*

*See article 4. In order to adapt to emerging needs, a certain degree of adaptability and flexibility is necessary.*

**Amendment 17**

**Proposal for a regulation**  
**Recital 9 c (new)**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***(9c) A core set of harmonised variables should be collected for every domain, with a view to better exploiting and disseminating the data available to the Commission (Eurostat) and, in particular, as a prerequisite for data matching and cross-cutting analyses. This will help increase the analytical potential of datasets through the application of modelling techniques and achieve economies of scale.***

Or. en

*Justification*

*Including a core, harmonised set of variables allows the users to work cross-survey. Without additional cost, this substantially improves the analytical possibilities.*

## **Amendment 18**

### **Proposal for a regulation**

#### **Recital 9 d (new)**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***(9d) Household income is the key factor determining living standards and the reference budget approach is the most detailed methodology defining the minimum level of resources required to adequately participate in society as well as the price of the necessary basket of goods and services. There is a need to improve data collection and methodology of reference budget estimations on a regional basis in cooperation with international partners possibly through pilot studies.***

Or. en

*Justification*

*It is essential to better understand the relation between income and the expenditure side of*



*European households to be able to estimate the sufficiency of our social and welfare systems and their sufficiency to provide the minimum needs to be able to participate in the society. The social consequences and economic cost of such insufficiency can be significant and most likely to be underestimated.*

## **Amendment 19**

### **Proposal for a regulation Recital 9 e (new)**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***(9e) There should be a methodological investigation through pilot studies of the extent to which people are "missing from the surveys covered by this Regulation. This investigation would need to be followed up by proposals to adjust and adapt where feasible for survey underrepresentation and non-coverage by surveys and would be important material for the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda.***

Or. en

## **Amendment 20**

### **Proposal for a regulation Recital 9 f (new)**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***(9f) As it is difficult for surveys to reach specific sub-populations, and those sub-populations are sometimes more vulnerable than the general population, or present other specific characteristics, there is a need to seek better coverage of those sub-populations through methodological investigation aiming to make proposals to adjust and adapt the scope of the surveys. In the meantime, Member States should report on the scope and extent of non-coverage of persons not living in private households, such as***

*persons in care homes and homeless people.*

Or. en

### *Justification*

*Data should be based on representative samples, however, there are hard-to-reach sub-populations (e.g. homeless people) who are de facto not included and this has likely an impact on the statistics that are produced (e.g. on poverty). There should be methodological investigation and sharing of best practices within the ESS and, more widely, within the UN statistical system aiming at, in the long run, overcoming those obstacles.*

## **Amendment 21**

### **Proposal for a regulation** **Recital 10**

#### *Text proposed by the Commission*

(10) Data collections in the domains of time use and consumption are currently carried out voluntarily by many Member States, on the basis of agreed general guidelines. These two domains should be modernised, so as to take full advantage of new technological advances. Data collections in these two domains should be organized in accordance with this Regulation so as to open possibilities and create opportunities for further developments in the future, ensuring data that are more timely and relevant, and produced more efficiently. In the meantime, the Member States' current approaches *should not be changed*.

#### *Amendment*

(10) Data collections in the domains of time use and consumption *at Union level* are currently carried out voluntarily by many Member States, on the basis of *an agreement and* general guidelines. *Data collection are also in place at national level in the domain of consumption, and in a majority of Member States in the domain of time use.* These two domains *provide important multi-purpose data for Union policies affecting the lives of citizens. They* should be modernised, so as to take full advantage of new technological advances *and be made fully available at Union level so as to underline policy-making with a sound statistical basis*. Data collections in these two domains should be organized in accordance with this Regulation so as to open possibilities and create opportunities for further developments in the future, ensuring data that are more timely, *comparable* and relevant, and produced more efficiently. *Whenever possible, Union financial support should be provided for the modernisation and implementation of these data collections.* In the meantime, the Member States' current approaches

*could continue but should be adapted to new developments and policy needs over time, including at Union level, and convergence towards greater comparability.*

Or. en

#### *Justification*

*Currently, the Household Budget (HBS) and the Time Use Survey (TUS) are carried out based on an agreement across Member States only. Both subjects are of key importance for policy-making, and should therefore be given regular status, providing for reliable data and statistics from all Member States.*

### **Amendment 22**

#### **Proposal for a regulation**

##### **Recital 12**

###### *Text proposed by the Commission*

(12) Statistics are no longer considered as just one of many sources of information for policy-making purposes, but instead play a central role in the decision-making process. Evidence-based decision-making requires statistics that meet high-quality criteria, as set out in Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>25</sup>, in accordance with the purposes they are serving.

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<sup>25</sup> Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on European statistics and repealing Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1101/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the transmission of data subject to statistical confidentiality to the Statistical Office of the European

###### *Amendment*

(12) Statistics are no longer considered as just one of many sources of information for policy-making purposes, but instead play a central role in the decision-making process. Evidence-based decision-making requires statistics that meet high-quality criteria, as set out in Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>25</sup>, in accordance with the purposes they are serving. ***Statistical data is essential to describe, assess and support the improvement of life and well-being of citizens, the economy and the environment. It is of utmost importance for Union policies to be embraced by citizens.***

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<sup>25</sup> Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on European statistics and repealing Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1101/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the transmission of data subject to statistical confidentiality to the Statistical Office of the European

Communities, Council Regulation (EC) No 322/97 on Community Statistics, and Council Decision 89/382/EEC, Euratom establishing a Committee on the Statistical Programmes of the European Communities (OJ L 87, 31.3.2009, p. 164).

Communities, Council Regulation (EC) No 322/97 on Community Statistics, and Council Decision 89/382/EEC, Euratom establishing a Committee on the Statistical Programmes of the European Communities (OJ L 87, 31.3.2009, p. 164).

Or. en

### *Justification*

*Access to high-quality statistical data is essential in order for EU policymakers to be able to take appropriate, evidence-based decisions and monitor their outcomes.*

## **Amendment 23**

### **Proposal for a regulation**

#### **Recital 14**

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

(14) Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 provides a reference framework for European statistics and requires Member States to comply with the statistical principles and quality criteria specified in the Regulation. Quality reports are essential for assessing, improving and communicating on the quality of European statistics. The European Statistical System Committee (ESSC) has endorsed an ESS Standard for Quality Reports Structure, in accordance with Article 12 of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009. This should contribute to the harmonisation of quality reporting under this Regulation.

##### *Amendment*

(14) ***To guarantee the quality of results, European social statistics should be developed, produced and disseminated on the basis of uniform standards and of harmonised methods.*** Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 provides a reference framework for European statistics and requires Member States to comply with the statistical principles and quality criteria specified in the Regulation. Quality reports are essential for assessing, improving and communicating on the quality of European statistics. The European Statistical System Committee (ESSC) has endorsed an ESS Standard for Quality Reports Structure, in accordance with Article 12 of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009. ***Moreover, in 2014, the ESS published the ESS vision 2020, "Building the future of European statistics"<sup>1a</sup>, as the guiding frame for the ESS development during the years up to 2020. Against this background, Member States should provide the Commission (Eurostat) with reports on the quality of the data transmitted and covering, among other, the following dimensions: methodology, relevance, accuracy and***

*reliability, timeliness and punctuality, coherence and comparability, accessibility and clarity. The Commission (Eurostat) should assess the quality of data transmitted and should prepare and publish reports on the quality of European statistics. This should contribute to the harmonisation of quality reporting under this Regulation.*

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*1a*

*<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/42577/6906243/ESS+vision+2020+brochure/4baffcaa-9469-4372-b1ea-40784ca1db62>*

Or. en

### *Justification*

*Quality is of primary importance in the world of social statistics. With Regulation 223/2009, the European Statistics Code of Practice and the adoption of the Communication "Towards robust quality management for European Statistics" the ESS has clearly expressed that quality is at the heart of all statistical considerations. Quality reporting underpins quality assessment as the starting point for quality improvements and should include components such as methodology, relevance, accuracy etc.*

## **Amendment 24**

### **Proposal for a regulation Recital 14 a (new)**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

*(14a) This Regulation respects the right to respect for private and family life and to the protection of personal data, as provided for in Articles 7 and 8 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. This Regulation also ensures the protection of individuals as regards the processing of personal data and specifies, as far as European statistics are concerned, the rules laid down in Directive 95/46/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>1a</sup>.*

*<sup>1a</sup> Directive 95/46/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 1995 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data (OJ L 281, 23.11.1995, p. 31).*

Or. en

## Amendment 25

### Proposal for a regulation Recital 16

#### *Text proposed by the Commission*

(16) Statistics are needed at national and at regional level as well. In accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003<sup>27</sup>, all Member States' statistics that are transmitted to the Commission and that are to be broken down by territorial units should use the NUTS classification. Consequently, in order to establish comparable regional statistics, data on the territorial units should be provided in accordance with the NUTS classification.

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<sup>27</sup> Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 May 2003 on the establishment of a common classification of territorial units for statistics (NUTS) (OJ L 154, 21.6.2003, p. 1).

#### *Amendment*

(16) ***Reliable*** statistics are needed at national and at regional level as well ***and it is important that data are made available for comparable territorial units such as NUTS2***. In accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003<sup>27</sup>, all Member States' statistics that are transmitted to the Commission and that are to be broken down by territorial units should use the NUTS classification. Consequently, in order to establish comparable regional statistics, data on the territorial units should be provided in accordance with the NUTS classification.

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<sup>27</sup> Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 May 2003 on the establishment of a common classification of territorial units for statistics (NUTS) (OJ L 154, 21.6.2003, p. 1).

Or. en

## Amendment 26

### Proposal for a regulation Recital 16 a (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***(16a) Data aggregated at high regional level are sometimes not sufficient to understand the diversity of the phenomena over the territory, at local level. Efforts towards achieving a more detailed geolocalisation of respondents, based on the infrastructure set up by the Directive 2007/2/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>1a</sup> is therefore needed. In order to be able to disseminate high-quality and comparable data at NUTS 2 level in the longer term and to overcome methodological difficulties relating to geolocalisation, feasibility studies in that direction should be provided for, as well as links between this Regulation and developments in the context of population and housing censuses.***

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***<sup>1a</sup> Directive 2007/2/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 March 2007 establishing an Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community (INSPIRE) (OJ L 108, 25.4.2007, p. 1).***

Or. en

## Amendment 27

### Proposal for a regulation Recital 17

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

(17) In order to take account of economic, social and technical developments, the power to adopt acts in

(17) In order to take account of economic, social and technical developments, the power to adopt acts in

accordance with Article 290 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union should be delegated to the Commission in respect of the detailed topics set out in Annex I. The Commission should also have the power to put in place or adapt the eight-year multiannual rolling planning for the collection of data covered by this Regulation in accordance with the periodicity specified in Annex IV. It is of particular importance that the Commission carry out appropriate consultations during its preparatory work, including at expert level, and that those consultations are conducted in accordance with the principles laid down in the Interinstitutional Agreement on Better Law-Making of 13 April 2016. In particular, to ensure equal participation in the preparation of delegated acts, the European Parliament and the Council receive all documents at the same time as Member States' experts, and their experts systematically have access to meetings of Commission expert groups dealing with the preparation of delegated acts.

accordance with Article 290 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union should be delegated to the Commission in respect of the detailed topics set out in Annex I, *the number and description of variables, the precise characteristics of the statistical populations, the observation units and the respondents, as well as for certain derogations*. The Commission should also have the power to put in place or adapt the eight-year multiannual rolling planning for the collection of data covered by this Regulation in accordance with the periodicity specified in Annex IV. It is of particular importance that the Commission carry out appropriate consultations during its preparatory work, including at expert level, and that those consultations are conducted in accordance with the principles laid down in the Interinstitutional Agreement on Better Law-Making of 13 April 2016. In particular, to ensure equal participation in the preparation of delegated acts, the European Parliament and the Council receive all documents at the same time as Member States' experts, and their experts systematically have access to meetings of Commission expert groups dealing with the preparation of delegated acts.

Or. en

## **Amendment 28**

### **Proposal for a regulation**

#### **Recital 18**

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

(18) In order to ensure uniform conditions for the implementation of this Regulation, implementing powers should be conferred on the Commission in respect of the technical specifications of the particular data sets, the technical items when they are common to several data sets,

##### *Amendment*

(18) In order to ensure uniform conditions for the implementation of this Regulation, implementing powers should be conferred on the Commission in respect of the technical specifications of the particular data sets, the technical items when they are common to several data sets,



the technical standards needed to facilitate the exchange and sharing of information between the Commission (Eurostat) and the Member States, the sampling frames, notably setting out their minimum requirements, the modalities and content of the quality reports, **and in respect of any derogations**. Those powers should be exercised in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 182/2011<sup>28</sup>.

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<sup>28</sup> Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 laying down the rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers (OJ L 55, 28.2.2011, p. 13).

the technical standards needed to facilitate the exchange and sharing of information between the Commission (Eurostat) and the Member States, the sampling frames, notably setting out their minimum requirements, the modalities and content of the quality reports. Those powers should be exercised in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 182/2011<sup>28</sup>.

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<sup>28</sup> Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 laying down the rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers (OJ L 55, 28.2.2011, p. 13).

Or. en

## Amendment 29

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Recital 19

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

(19) Implementation of this Regulation could require major adaptations to the national statistical systems, and the Commission may therefore grant derogations to Member States.

##### *Amendment*

(19) Implementation of this Regulation could require major adaptations to the national statistical systems, and the Commission may therefore grant **limited** derogations to Member States **as well as financial support, where appropriate and especially for capacity-building purposes and in order to support feasibility and pilot studies, and in accordance with Regulation (EU, Euratom ) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament<sup>1a</sup>** .

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<sup>1a</sup> **Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general**

## **Amendment 30**

### **Proposal for a regulation**

#### **Recital 20**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(20) Directive 95/46/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>29</sup> and Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>30</sup> should apply to the statistical data covered by this Regulation. In particular, statistical data that are required for the purpose of developing and monitoring Union and national actions and strategies in the areas of public health and health and safety at work should be regarded as data processed for reasons of substantial public interest.

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<sup>29</sup> Directive 95/46/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 1995 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data (OJ L 281, 23.11.1995, p. 31).

<sup>30</sup> Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2000 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data (OJ L 8, 12.1.2001, p. 1).

*Amendment*

(20) Directive 95/46/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>29</sup> and Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>30</sup> should apply to the statistical data covered by this Regulation. In particular, statistical data that are required for the purpose of developing and monitoring Union and national actions and strategies in the areas of public health and health and safety at work should be regarded as data processed for reasons of substantial public interest, ***in accordance with Article 8(4) of Directive 95/46/EC.***

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<sup>29</sup> Directive 95/46/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 1995 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data (OJ L 281, 23.11.1995, p. 31).

<sup>30</sup> Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2000 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data (OJ L 8, 12.1.2001, p. 1).

## Amendment 31

### Proposal for a regulation Recital 20 a (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***(20a) In order to ensure coherence and comparability of European social statistics produced in accordance with the principles laid down in Article 285(2) TFEU, cooperation and coordination should be reinforced between the authorities that contribute to the development, production and dissemination of European social statistics.***

Or. en

*Justification*

*Cooperation within the ESS and between relevant national authorities is paramount.*

## Amendment 32

### Proposal for a regulation Recital 20 b (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***(20b) It is important to ensure close methodological cooperation and appropriate coordination between the ESS and other actors in the international statistical system in order to promote the use of international concepts, classifications and methods, in particular with a view to ensuring more coherence and better comparability between social statistics at a global level.***

Or. en

*Justification*

*Cooperation beyond the ESS, in particular with the UN statistical system, with OECD etc. can create important synergies.*

## Amendment 33

### Proposal for a regulation Recital 20 c (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***(20c) Data collection at individual level other than those established by this Regulation exist at the Union level, and are conducted by other institutions and the academic communities. As these sources can have complementarities, synergies among them should be sought.***

Or. en

#### *Justification*

*In the EU, there are social surveys that are carried out outside the ESS (e.g. the Household Finance and Consumption Survey - HFCS) by the ECB providing micro-level data on households' wealth and consumption expenditure in EMU; The European Working conditions survey, carried out by Eurofound; The Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe, carried out by a network of research institutes). Creating synergies between those surveys and data collected by the ESS would be beneficial to all.*

## Amendment 34

### Proposal for a regulation Recital 21

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

(21) The objective of this Regulation, namely the establishment of a common framework for European statistics relating to persons and households, based on data at individual level collected from samples, cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States but can instead, for reasons of harmonisation and comparability, be better achieved at EU level. The EU may therefore adopt measures, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity set out in Article 5 of the Treaty on European Union. In accordance with the principle of proportionality, as set out in that Article,

(21) The objective of this Regulation, namely the establishment of a common framework for European statistics relating to persons and households, based on data at individual level collected from samples, cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States but can instead, for reasons of harmonisation, ***data quality*** and comparability, be better achieved at EU level. The EU may therefore adopt measures, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity set out in Article 5 of the Treaty on European Union. ***Statistics that are collected in a uniform, high-quality***

this Regulation does not go beyond what is necessary in order to achieve that objective.

*manner, provide a major added value to policy-making at Union and Member State level.* In accordance with the principle of proportionality, as set out in that Article, this Regulation does not go beyond what is necessary in order to achieve that objective.

Or. en

### *Justification*

*As mentioned above, high-quality and especially comparable statistical data are paramount for evidence-based policy-making.*

## **Amendment 35**

### **Proposal for a regulation Article 1 – paragraph 2**

#### *Text proposed by the Commission*

2. This Regulation does not apply to population and housing censuses referred to in Regulation (EC) No 763/2008<sup>33</sup>.

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<sup>33</sup> Regulation (EC) No 763/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 July 2008 on population and housing censuses (OJ L 218, 13.8.2008, p. 14).

#### *Amendment*

2. This Regulation does not apply to population and housing censuses *as* referred to in Regulation (EC) No 763/2008<sup>33</sup>.

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<sup>33</sup> Regulation (EC) No 763/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 July 2008 on population and housing censuses (OJ L 218, 13.8.2008, p. 14).

Or. en

## **Amendment 36**

### **Proposal for a regulation Article 2 – paragraph 1 – introductory part**

#### *Text proposed by the Commission*

For the purposes of this Regulation, the following definitions *shall* apply:

#### *Amendment*

For the purposes of this Regulation, the following definitions apply:

Or. en

## Amendment 37

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point a

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(a) ‘pre-checked ***data or microdata***’ means ***data or microdata*** verified by the Member States, on the basis of agreed common validation rules;

*Amendment*

(a) ‘pre-checked’ means verified by the Member States, on the basis of agreed common validation rules;

Or. en

## Amendment 38

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point b

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(b) ‘domain’ means one or several data sets organised ***in order*** to cover particular topics;

*Amendment*

(b) ‘domain’ means one or several data sets organised to cover particular topics, ***as set out in the first column of Annex I***;

Or. en

## Amendment 39

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point d

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(d) ‘topic’ means the content of the information to be collected about the observation units, ***each topic covering a number of detailed topics***;

*Amendment*

(d) ‘topic’ means the content of the information to be collected about the observation units, ***as set out in Article 3(2)***;

Or. en

## Amendment 40

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point e

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(e) ‘administrative records’ mean data generated by a non-statistical source, ***usually a public body***, the aim of which is not to provide statistics, for its own purposes;

*Amendment*

(e) ‘administrative records’ mean data generated by a non-statistical source, the aim of which is not to provide statistics, for its own purposes;

Or. en

## Amendment 41

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point g

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(g) ‘headline indicator’ means widely used ***information*** that serves to monitor a central objective of EU policy.

*Amendment*

(g) ‘headline indicator’ means ***a*** widely used ***indicator*** that serves to monitor a central objective of EU policy;

Or. en

## Amendment 42

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point g a (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***(ga) "metadata" means information that is needed to be able to use and interpret statistics and which describes data in a structured way by giving definitions of and information on matters such as populations, objects, variables, methodology and quality;***

Or. en

## Amendment 43

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point g b (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

**(gb) "quality report" means a report conveying information about all the dimensions of the quality of a statistical product or process;**

Or. en

*Justification*

*Quality improvements are a core new element of the Framework regulation, we should therefore seek to define quality reporting. The definition is taken from the Eurostat Glossary*

## Amendment 44

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point g c (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

**(gc) "private household" is either of the following:**

**(i) a one-person household consisting of a person who lives alone in a separate housing unit or who occupies, as a lodger, a separate room (or rooms) of a housing unit but does not join the other occupants of the housing unit to form part of a multi-person household;**

**(ii) a multi-person household consisting of a group of two or more related or unrelated persons who occupy the whole or part of a housing unit and provide themselves with food and other essentials for living, which may also pool their income.**

Or. en



### *Justification*

*It is important to define private households in the main legislative text so that all stakeholders are fully aware of who is covered by the surveys. The definition is adapted from the statistical division of the United Nation Economic Commission for Europe, which focuses on raising UNECE countries' capacity in official statistics by helping national statistical offices and other stakeholders to coordinate their work and fill statistical gaps. Its work aims to address the increasing demand for high quality and comparable data among countries.*

#### **Amendment 45**

##### **Proposal for a regulation**

##### **Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point g d (new)**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

**(gd) "sampling frames" means a list, map or other specification of the units which define a population to be completely enumerated or sampled.**

Or. en

### *Justification*

*This definition comes from Eurostat's Reference And Management Of Nomenclatures (RAMON).*

#### **Amendment 46**

##### **Proposal for a regulation**

##### **Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point c**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

(c) job tenure and previous work experience,

(c) job tenure, **work biography** and previous work experience,

Or. en

#### **Amendment 47**

##### **Proposal for a regulation**

##### **Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point e**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

(e) educational attainment and background,

(e) educational attainment, **educational continuity** and background,

Or. en

*Justification*

*The EU Semester has a target to reduce early school leaving. To assess this properly, it is important to look at continuity and longitude - education and work biographies. This also is backed by research on actors at risk - the longitudinal data allows for more precise prediction of who is at risk than attainment.*

**Amendment 48**

**Proposal for a regulation**

**Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point g**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

(g) health: status and disability, care and determinants,

(g) health: status and disability, care, **access, availability and use** and determinants,

Or. en

**Amendment 49**

**Proposal for a regulation**

**Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point h**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

(h) income, consumption and wealth, including debts,

(h) income, consumption, **deprivation** and wealth, including debts,

Or. en

**Amendment 50**

**Proposal for a regulation**

**Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point i**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

(i) living conditions, including material deprivation, housing, living environment and access to services,

(i) living conditions, including material deprivation, housing, living environment and access to services, **health and education, unmet needs and assessment of own needs,**

Or. en

*Justification*

*Beyond deprivation, it is important for policy-design to also look at needs and health and education are essential elements of participation.*

**Amendment 51**

**Proposal for a regulation**

**Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point j**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

(j) quality of life, including social and cultural participation and wellbeing,

(j) quality of life, including social, **societal, civil** and cultural participation, **inclusion** and wellbeing,

Or. en

**Amendment 52**

**Proposal for a regulation**

**Article 3 – paragraph 3 a (new)**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

**3a. Member States and the Commission shall collect data that allows deriving information valid at NUTS2 level, even when not required to do so pursuant to Annex II or III, in order to allow for better cross-country data comparability.**

Or. en

### *Justification*

*Only certain data is published in NUT2 level so far. Policy responses can tackle problems better, fundings can have a larger impact if they are applied at the right level . Therefore NUTS2 level data would lead to more efficient policy-making in the EU where population and regional differences among Member States are very significant. The proposal gives the mandate to the Commission to look deeper into the aggregation level problem and find feasible and justified ways to improve the situation.*

### **Amendment 53**

#### **Proposal for a regulation**

#### **Article 3 – paragraph 4 – introductory part**

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

4. The Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 15 to amend the detailed topics listed in Annex I so as to reflect relevant technical, social and economic developments and respond to the new needs of users. ***In exercising this power, the Commission shall ensure that:***

##### *Amendment*

4. The Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 15 to amend the detailed topics listed in Annex I so as to reflect relevant ***legislative***, technical, social, ***societal***, and economic developments and respond to the new needs of users.

Or. en

### **Amendment 54**

#### **Proposal for a regulation**

#### **Article 3 – paragraph 4 – point a**

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

(a) ***such delegated acts do not impose a significant additional burden or cost on the Member States or on respondents;***

##### *Amendment*

***deleted***

Or. en

### *Justification*

*Any legislative act is checked for proportionality and subsidiarity before publication and would therefore already have assessed burdens. It must be possible to adapt legislation to new needs in line with the Better Regulation Agenda.*

## Amendment 55

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 3 – paragraph 4 – point b

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(b) no more than 20 per cent of the detailed topics listed in Annex I are changed for each domain by delegated acts. For the domains for which data are collected with an infra-annual or annual periodicity, these changes shall represent a maximum of 10 per cent of the list of detailed topics. Those maximum percentages shall apply to four consecutive years. The number of detailed topics that may be changed shall be rounded up to the nearest integer.

*Amendment*

***Unless duly justified by exceptional circumstances***, no more than 20 per cent of the detailed topics listed in Annex I are changed for each domain by delegated acts. For the domains for which data are collected with an infra-annual or annual periodicity, these changes shall represent a maximum of 10 per cent of the list of detailed topics. Those maximum percentages shall apply to four consecutive years. The number of detailed topics that may be changed shall be rounded up to the nearest integer.

Or. en

*Justification*

*To better respond to e.g. policy changes or unforeseen situations, it might be necessary to adjust the detailed topics for more than 20%. The EP also trusts Eurostat to use this flexibility to go above the 20% in a responsible manner and only in exceptional circumstances.*

## Amendment 56

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 4 – paragraph 1

*Text proposed by the Commission*

1. The Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 15 to establish or adapt a multiannual rolling planning for eight years for the collection of data covered by this Regulation, in accordance with the periodicity specified in Annex IV. ***The Commission shall ensure that such delegated acts do not impose a significant additional burden or cost on the Member States or on the respondents.***

*Amendment*

1. The Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 15 to establish or adapt a multiannual rolling planning for eight years for the collection of data covered by this Regulation, in accordance with the periodicity specified in Annex IV.

**Amendment 57****Proposal for a regulation****Article 4 – paragraph 2 – point b***Text proposed by the Commission*

(b) ad hoc subjects requested by the users, for the labour market and income and living conditions domains, as provided for in Annex IV. In ***exceptional and*** justified cases, these data may cover detailed topics other than those listed in Annex I.

*Amendment*

(b) ad hoc subjects requested by the users, for the labour market and income and living conditions domains, as provided for in Annex IV. In justified cases, these data may cover detailed topics other than those listed in Annex I.

Or. en

*Justification*

*To better respond to e.g. policy changes or unforeseen situations, there should be the possibility that ad-hoc subjects requested by the users cover new detailed topics which are not listed in Annex I. The EP also trusts Eurostat to use this flexibility in a responsible manner and for justified cases only.*

**Amendment 58****Proposal for a regulation****Article 5 – paragraph 2 a (new)***Text proposed by the Commission**Amendment*

***2a. Member States shall aim to extend the coverage of the data collections beyond private households, provided that the data transmitted allows the identification of the observation units that do not belong to private households and that usually reside in that Member State.***

Or. en

*Justification*

*Member States should try to cover citizens beyond private households. This is an important long-term goal, as statistics will improve if also persons living in care homes - be it elderly,*

*disabled, chronically ill or others - and homeless persons could be covered in the data collections.*

## **Amendment 59**

### **Proposal for a regulation**

#### **Article 6 – title**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

**Technical** specifications of data sets

Specifications of data sets

Or. en

## **Amendment 60**

### **Proposal for a regulation**

#### **Article 6 – paragraph 1 – introductory part**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

1. The Commission shall ***be empowered to adopt*** implementing acts ***for the purpose of specifying*** the following technical items of the individual data sets:

1. The Commission shall, ***by means of*** implementing acts, ***specify*** the following technical items of the individual data sets:

Or. en

## **Amendment 61**

### **Proposal for a regulation**

#### **Article 6 – paragraph 1 – point a**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

(a) ***the number and description of variables;***

***deleted***

Or. en

## **Amendment 62**

### **Proposal for a regulation**

#### **Article 6 – paragraph 1 – point c**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

(c) *the precise characteristics of the statistical populations, the observation units and the respondents;* **deleted**

Or. en

### **Amendment 63**

#### **Proposal for a regulation**

#### **Article 6 – paragraph 1 – point d**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

(d) *the reference periods and dates;* **deleted**

Or. en

### **Amendment 64**

#### **Proposal for a regulation**

#### **Article 6 – paragraph 1 – point f**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

(f) *where necessary* to achieve a high level of comparability for employment and unemployment data in the labour market domain, *the methodology to be used to collect the data. This may include, where necessary*, the order and placing of the questions in the questionnaire. *This necessity shall be duly justified.*

(f) to achieve a high level of comparability *the methodology to be used to collect the data* for employment and unemployment data in the labour market domain *and for material deprivation data in the income and living conditions domain, including* the order and placing of the questions in the questionnaire.

Or. en

#### *Justification*

*The Board of European Directors of Social Statistics generally support the importance of having some input harmonisation for the employment and unemployment data. While recognising that various elements (such as data collection modes) may have significant impact on comparability, they highlighted the importance of the order of questions that should be the same for all countries. Similar way, the comparability of statistics on income*



*and living conditions could be increased.*

## **Amendment 65**

### **Proposal for a regulation**

#### **Article 6 – paragraph 1 a (new)**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***1a. The Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 15 to specify the following items of the individual data sets:***

***(a) the number and description of variables;***

***(b) the precise characteristics of the statistical populations, the observation units and the respondents;***

***(c) the reference periods and dates.***

Or. en

#### *Justification*

*Here delegation of power appears to be desirable (in terms of flexibility); those items of the individuals data sets have to be specified by non-legislative acts of general application to supplement the basic act, i.e. by delegated acts - this is of general application and concerns non-essential elements). Criteria for Delegated acts are therefore met.*

## **Amendment 66**

### **Proposal for a regulation**

#### **Article 6 – paragraph 2 – introductory part**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

2. When items are common to several data sets, the Commission shall be empowered to adopt ***implementing acts for the purpose of specifying*** the following ***technical*** characteristics of the data sets:

2. When items are common to several data sets, the Commission shall be empowered to adopt ***delegated acts in accordance with Article 15 concerning*** the following characteristics of the data sets:

Or. en

## Justification

*Delegation of power is necessary both in terms of flexibility and policy-making; characteristics of the individuals data sets have to be specified by non-legislative acts of general application to supplement the basic act, i.e. by delegated acts - this is of general application and concerns non-essential elements). Criteria for Delegated acts are therefore met.*

### Amendment 67

#### Proposal for a regulation

##### Article 6 – paragraph 3 – introductory part

*Text proposed by the Commission*

3. For the data sets on monthly unemployment relating to the labour market domain, the Commission shall ***be empowered to adopt*** implementing acts ***for the purpose of describing*** the variables and the length, quality requirements and level of detail of the time series to be transmitted.

*Amendment*

3. For the data sets on monthly unemployment relating to the labour market domain, the Commission shall, ***by means of*** implementing acts, ***describe*** the variables and the length, quality requirements and level of detail of the time series to be transmitted.

Or. en

### Amendment 68

#### Proposal for a regulation

##### Article 7 – paragraph 3 – introductory part

*Text proposed by the Commission*

3. The Commission shall ***be empowered to adopt*** implementing acts to establish the technical standards referred to in paragraph 1. These implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 16(2).

*Amendment*

3. The Commission shall, ***by means of*** implementing acts, establish the technical standards referred to in paragraph 1. These implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 16(2).

Or. en

### Amendment 69

#### Proposal for a regulation

##### Article 8 – paragraph 1 – introductory part

*Text proposed by the Commission*

1. Member States shall provide the data referred to in Article 1 by using one or a combination of the following sources, provided that they meet the quality requirements given in Article 12:

*Amendment*

1. Member States shall provide the data referred to in Article 1 by using one or a combination of the following sources, provided that they meet the quality requirements given in Article 12 ***and are collected and further processed in accordance with and subject to the safeguards provided in applicable data protection law:***

Or. en

**Amendment 70**

**Proposal for a regulation  
Article 8 – paragraph 1 – point a**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(a) information directly provided by the respondents;

*Amendment*

(a) information directly provided by the respondents ***on a voluntary basis, unless the provision of information is specifically required under Union or national law in accordance with applicable data protection law;***

Or. en

**Amendment 71**

**Proposal for a regulation  
Article 8 – paragraph 1 – point b**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(b) administrative records and any other sources, methods or innovative approaches in so far as they allow for the production of data that are comparable and compliant with the applicable specific requirements laid down by this Regulation.

*Amendment*

(b) administrative records and any other sources, methods or innovative approaches, ***including small area estimation techniques, intending to cover the territorial diversity*** in so far as they allow for the production of data that are comparable and compliant with the

applicable specific requirements laid down by this Regulation.

Or. en

### *Justification*

*It is important to introduce small area estimation techniques, they allow for data to be aggregated at a smaller level and will therefore fundamentally help cross-country comparability.*

## **Amendment 72**

### **Proposal for a regulation Article 8 – paragraph 2**

#### *Text proposed by the Commission*

2. Member States shall provide the Commission (Eurostat) with detailed information on the sources and methods used.

#### *Amendment*

2. Member States shall provide the Commission (Eurostat) with detailed information on the sources and methods used ***together with the data sets***.

Or. en

## **Amendment 73**

### **Proposal for a regulation Article 10 – paragraph 2**

#### *Text proposed by the Commission*

2. For every data set, Member States shall transmit to the Commission (Eurostat) pre-checked microdata without direct identification.

#### *Amendment*

2. For every data set, Member States shall transmit to the Commission (Eurostat), ***through secure transmission systems***, pre-checked microdata without direct identification.

Or. en

## **Amendment 74**

### **Proposal for a regulation Article 10 – paragraph 4 a (new)**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

**4a.** *The Commission (Eurostat) shall, save in duly justified cases, publish the aggregated data within six months of the date of receipt of the microdata.*

Or. en

*Justification*

*Timeliness has to apply to all actors of the ESS, national statistical institutes as well as Eurostat.*

## **Amendment 75**

### **Proposal for a regulation Article 11 – paragraph 1**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

1. Data shall be based on representative samples drawn from sampling frames set up at national level that allow persons or households to be selected at random, with a known probability of selection. The sampling frames shall aim to cover exhaustively and exclusively *the* population *of interest* and shall be regularly updated. They shall contain all the information necessary for the sample design, such as information needed for stratification purposes and for contacting the persons or households. The sampling frame shall also include the information needed to link persons to other administrative records, in so far as is allowed under data protection *rules*.

1. Data shall be based on representative samples drawn from sampling frames set up at national level that allow persons or households to be selected at random, with a known probability of selection. The sampling frames shall aim to cover exhaustively and exclusively *all the resident* population and shall be regularly updated. They shall contain all the information necessary for the sample design, such as information needed for stratification purposes and for contacting the persons or households. The sampling frame shall also include the information needed to link persons to other administrative records, in so far as is allowed under *applicable* data protection *law, including Union or national data protection law. The sampling frame shall provide for appropriate safeguards.*

Or. en

## Amendment 76

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 11 – paragraph 2 – point b a (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

**(ba) give information about the size of sub-populations that are difficult to reach;**

Or. en

#### *Justification*

*Data should be based on representative samples drawn from sampling frames set up at national level that allow every persons or households to be selected at random. In practice, however, there are hard-to-reach sub-population (e.g. homeless people) who are de facto not included in the sampling frame and this has likely an impact on the statistics that are produced (e.g. on poverty). It is essential that information about the size of the subpopulation difficult to reach is given.*

## Amendment 77

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 11 – paragraph 3 – introductory part

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

3. The Commission shall **be empowered to adopt** implementing acts **laying** down uniform conditions for the sampling frames, notably setting out minimum requirements. These implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 16(2).

3. The Commission shall, **by means of** implementing acts, **lay** down uniform conditions for the sampling frames, notably setting out minimum requirements. These implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 16(2).

Or. en

## Amendment 78

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 12 – paragraph 1

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

1. Member States shall take the measures necessary to ensure the quality of

1. Member States shall take the measures necessary to ensure the **highest**

the data and metadata transmitted.

quality of the data and metadata transmitted.

Or. en

## Amendment 79

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 12 – paragraph 4 – point a

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(a) metadata describing the methodology used and how technical specifications were achieved by reference to those laid down by this Regulation;

*Amendment*

(a) metadata describing the methodology used, ***including the data sources and methods referred to in Article 8***, and how technical specifications were achieved by reference to those laid down by this Regulation;

Or. en

## Amendment 80

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 12 – paragraph 4 – point b a (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***(ba) information about the sub-populations that have not been reached by the data collection.***

Or. en

#### *Justification*

*Data should be based on representative samples drawn from sampling frames set up at national level that allow every persons or households to be selected at random. In practice, however, there are hard-to-reach sub-population (e.g. homeless people) who are de facto not included in the sampling frame and this has an impact on the statistics that are produced (e.g. on poverty).It is essential that information about the size of the subpopulation difficult to reach is given.*

## Amendment 81

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 12 – paragraph 5

*Text proposed by the Commission*

5. Member States shall transmit the metadata and information referred to in paragraph 4 by, at the latest, three months after the deadline for transmitting the data and microdata. This additional information shall be provided in the form of quality reports that demonstrate, in particular, how the data and microdata transmitted, and the metadata and information, meet the quality requirements.

*Amendment*

5. Member States shall transmit the metadata and information referred to in paragraph 4 **of this Article and in Article 11** by, at the latest, three months after the deadline for transmitting the data and microdata. This additional information shall be provided in the form of quality reports that demonstrate, in particular, how the data and microdata transmitted, and the metadata and information, meet the quality requirements. ***The Commission (Eurostat) shall make that information public, with due respect for personal data protection law.***

Or. en

*Justification*

*Meeting users' needs in a timely and transparent way is paramount - hence, Eurostat shall provide all kind of users with access not only to aggregated data, but also to metadata and quality reports.*

## Amendment 82

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 12 – paragraph 6 – introductory part

*Text proposed by the Commission*

6. The Commission shall ***be empowered to adopt*** implementing acts ***specifying*** the modalities and ***content*** of the quality reports. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 16(2).

*Amendment*

6. The Commission shall, ***by means of*** implementing acts ***specify*** the modalities and ***format*** of the quality reports. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 16(2).

Or. en



## Amendment 83

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 13 – paragraph 1

*Text proposed by the Commission*

In order to improve the data sets, the Commission (*Eurostat*) shall, *where necessary*, institute and Member States shall cooperate in *several* feasibility and pilot studies, *in particular, to improve quality including comparability, to contribute to modernising the consumption and time use domains, to explore and implement new ways of improving responsiveness to users' needs, to better integrate the collection of data and the use of other data sources, and to make data collection in Member States more efficient, taking into account technological developments.*

*Amendment*

*While complying with the objectives of this Regulation and* in order to improve the data sets *and social indicators*, the Commission shall institute and Member States shall cooperate in feasibility and pilot studies, *evaluating alternative methodologies in particular in order to:*

Or. en

*Justification*

*Before adopting, in the longer term and by legal acts, significant modifications of the current social surveys (both in terms of methodologies and of content), feasibility and other pilot studies should be carried out.*

## Amendment 84

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 13 – paragraph 1 – point a (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

*(a) improve quality including comparability;*

Or. en

## Amendment 85

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 13 – paragraph 1 – point b (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

**(b) extend the coverage of the data collection to persons not living in private households or to sub-population that are difficult to reach;**

Or. en

## **Amendment 86**

**Proposal for a regulation**

**Article 13 – paragraph 1 – point c (new)**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

**(c) develop alternative methodologies to cover sub-population that are difficult to reach;**

Or. en

## **Amendment 87**

**Proposal for a regulation**

**Article 13 – paragraph 1 – point d (new)**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

**(d) develop, assess and implement techniques allowing better coverage of the territorial diversity at NUTS2 level and at local level;**

Or. en

## **Amendment 88**

**Proposal for a regulation**

**Article 13 – paragraph 1 – point e (new)**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

*(e) follow up on statistical coverage of migrating citizens changing country of residence;*

Or. en

## **Amendment 89**

**Proposal for a regulation**

**Article 13 – paragraph 1 – point f (new)**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

*(f) develop and test new detailed topics for data collection;*

Or. en

## **Amendment 90**

**Proposal for a regulation**

**Article 13 – paragraph 1 – point g (new)**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

*(g) contribute to modernising the consumption and time use domains, including consumption volume data;*

Or. en

## **Amendment 91**

**Proposal for a regulation**

**Article 13 – paragraph 1 – point h (new)**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

*(h) explore and implement new ways of improving responsiveness to users'*

*needs;*

Or. en

## **Amendment 92**

### **Proposal for a regulation**

#### **Article 13 – paragraph 1 – point i (new)**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

**(i) better integrate the collection of data and the use of other data sources; and**

Or. en

## **Amendment 93**

### **Proposal for a regulation**

#### **Article 13 – paragraph 1 – point j (new)**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

**(j) make data collection in Member States more efficient, taking into account technological developments.**

Or. en

## **Amendment 94**

### **Proposal for a regulation**

#### **Article 17 – paragraph 1**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

1. If applying this Regulation, or the implementing measures and delegated acts adopted under it, in a Member State's national statistical system would necessitate major adaptations, the

1. If applying this Regulation, or the implementing measures and delegated acts adopted under it, in a Member State's national statistical system would necessitate major adaptations, the

Commission may grant, by means of **implementing** acts, a derogation for up to three years. A derogation may only be granted if it will not compromise the comparability of Member States' data relating to headline indicators, or hamper the calculation of the required timely and representative European aggregates.

Commission may grant, by means of **delegated** acts, a derogation for up to three years. A derogation may only be granted **provided that the authorisation referred to in paragraph 3 has not been granted and** if it will not compromise the comparability of Member States' data relating to headline indicators, or hamper the calculation of the required timely and representative European aggregates.

Or. en

#### *Justification*

*Implementing acts deal with technical matters and do not affect the efficiency of the Regulation. Derogations and special authorisations are key issues for the success of this Regulation. In case of the delegated act procedure the authorisation will be given in a short period of time, which makes the delegated act process sufficient to use in case of derogation and special authorisations. The Parliament's right to safeguard the success of the regulation should not be jeopardized.*

#### **Amendment 95**

##### **Proposal for a regulation Article 17 – paragraph 2**

###### *Text proposed by the Commission*

2. Where a derogation is still justified at the end of the period for which it was granted, the Commission may grant a subsequent derogation for a maximum period of **three years**, by means of **implementing** acts.

###### *Amendment*

2. Where a derogation is still justified at the end of the period for which it was granted, the Commission may grant a subsequent derogation for a maximum period of **one year**, by means of **delegated** acts.

Or. en

#### *Justification*

*Implementing acts deal with technical matters and do not affect the efficiency of the Regulation. Derogations and special authorisations are key issues for the success of this Regulation. In case of the delegated act procedure the authorisation will be given in a short period of time, which makes the delegated act process sufficient to use in case of derogation and special authorisations. The Parliament's right to safeguard the success of the regulation should not be jeopardized.*

## Amendment 96

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 17 – paragraph 3

*Text proposed by the Commission*

3. When the only means by which a Member State can provide the required data sets is by using methods other than those laid down in this Regulation, or in the implementing measures and delegated acts adopted under it, the Commission may exceptionally authorise the use of such methods for a maximum duration of five years, by means of **implementing** acts.

*Amendment*

3. When the only means by which a Member State can provide the required data sets is by using methods other than those laid down in this Regulation, or in the implementing measures and delegated acts adopted under it, **and in the event that the derogation referred to in paragraph 1 has not been granted**, the Commission may exceptionally authorise the use of such methods for a maximum duration of five years, by means of **delegated** acts.

Or. en

*Justification*

*Implementing acts deal with technical matters and do not affect the efficiency of the Regulation. Derogations and special authorisations are key issues for the success of this Regulation. In case of the delegated act procedure the authorisation will be given in a short period of time, which makes the delegated act process sufficient to use in case of derogation and special authorisations. The Parliament's right to safeguard the success of the regulation should not be jeopardized.*

## Amendment 97

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 17 – paragraph 4

*Text proposed by the Commission*

4. Where the authorisation is still justified at the end of the period for which it was granted, the Commission may grant a subsequent authorisation for a maximum period of **five** years, by means of **implementing** acts.

*Amendment*

4. Where the authorisation is still justified at the end of the period for which it was granted, the Commission may grant a subsequent authorisation for a maximum period of **two** years, by means of **delegated** acts.

Or. en

## *Justification*

*Implementing acts deal with technical matters and do not affect the efficiency of the Regulation. Derogations and special authorisations are key issues for the success of this Regulation. In case of the delegated act procedure the authorisation will be given in a short period of time, which makes the delegated act process sufficient to use in case of derogation and special authorisations. The Parliament's right to safeguard the success of the regulation should not be jeopardized.*

### **Amendment 98**

#### **Proposal for a regulation**

#### **Annex I – topic “Labour market participation”**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

Labour market participation

Employment status

Duration of contract

Duration of contract – secondary information

Full- or part-time status - reason

Dependent self-employment

Supervisory responsibilities

Establishment size

Workplace

Working at home

Search for work

Willingness to work

Availability

Second job

Search for another job

Reconciliation between work and family life

Young people on the labour market

Labour market situation of migrants and their immediate descendants

Transition into retirement

Care needs

*Amendment*

Labour market participation

Employment status

Duration of contract  
Duration of contract – secondary information  
Full- or part-time status - reason  
Dependent self-employment  
Supervisory responsibilities  
Establishment size  
***Visible underemployment***  
Workplace  
Working at home  
Search for work  
Willingness to work  
Availability  
Second job  
Search for another job  
Reconciliation between work and family life  
Young people on the labour market  
Labour market situation of migrants and their immediate descendants  
Transition into retirement  
Care needs ***and obligations***

Or. en

### *Justification*

*Addition of “Visible underemployment”: this detailed topic is reintroduced from the existing labour force sample survey. Visible underemployment is an important indicator for quality of work and career potential*

### **Amendment 99**

#### **Proposal for a regulation**

#### **Annex I – topic “Job tenure and previous work experience”**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

Job tenure and previous work experience

Start of job

Way job found



Previous work experience

*Amendment*

Job tenure and previous work experience

Start of job

Way job found

***End of job***

***Career continuity and breaks***

Previous work experience

Or. en

## **Amendment 100**

### **Proposal for a regulation**

**Annex I – topic “Quality of life, including social and cultural participation and wellbeing”**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

Quality of life, including social and cultural participation and wellbeing

Quality of life

Social and cultural participation

Well-being

*Amendment*

Quality of life, including social, ***societal, civil*** and cultural participation and wellbeing

Quality of life

Social and cultural participation

Well-being

Or. en

## **Amendment 101**

### **Proposal for a regulation**

**Annex I – topic “Living conditions, including material deprivation, housing, living environment, access to services”**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

Living conditions, including material deprivation, housing, living environment, access to services

Material deprivation

Child deprivation  
Main housing characteristics  
Housing conditions details, incl.  
deprivation  
Housing costs including imputed rent  
Living environment  
Use of services, including care services  
Affordability  
Unmet needs and reasons  
Childcare

*Amendment*

Living conditions, including material deprivation, housing, living environment, access to services

Material deprivation

Child deprivation  
Main housing characteristics  
Housing conditions details, incl.  
deprivation  
Housing costs including imputed rent  
Living environment  
***Housing difficulties***  
Use of services, including care services  
Affordability  
Unmet needs and reasons  
***Assessment of own needs***  
Childcare  
***Care***

Or. en

**Amendment 102**

**Proposal for a regulation**

**Annex I – topic “Income, consumption and wealth, including debts”**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

Income, consumption and wealth,

Income from work

including debts

Income from allowances  
Income from pensions  
Other incomes  
Taxes and contributions  
Total income  
Over-indebtedness  
Arrears  
Wealth  
Main consumption components  
Intergenerational transmission of disadvantages

*Amendment*

Income, *deprivation*, consumption and wealth, including debts

Income from work  
  
Income from allowances  
Income from pensions  
Other incomes  
Taxes and contributions  
Total income  
Over-indebtedness *including reasons*  
Arrears  
Wealth  
Main consumption components  
Intergenerational transmission of disadvantages

Or. en

**Amendment 103**

**Proposal for a regulation**

**Annex I – topic “Health: status and disability, care and determinants”**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

Health: status and disability, care and determinants

Minimum European Health Module

Diseases and chronic conditions  
Accidents and injuries  
Pain  
Mental health  
Functional limitations  
Difficulties in personal care activities  
Difficulties in household activities  
Temporary limitation in activity (due to health problems)  
Barriers to participation in specific life domains  
Use of health and long-term care  
Medicine use  
Preventive care  
Access to health care  
Height and weight  
Physical activity  
Nutritional habits  
Smoking  
Alcohol consumption  
Social and environmental factors

*Amendment*

Health: status and disability, care and determinants

Minimum European Health Module

Diseases and chronic conditions  
Accidents and injuries  
Pain  
Mental health  
**Addiction**  
Functional limitations  
**Disability**  
Difficulties in personal care activities  
Difficulties in household activities  
Temporary limitation in activity (due to health problems)

Barriers to participation in specific life domains

Use of health and long-term care

Medicine use

Preventive care

Access to health care

Height and weight

Physical activity

Nutritional habits

Smoking

Alcohol consumption

Social and environmental factors

Or. en

#### **Amendment 104**

##### **Proposal for a regulation Annex IV – point 3**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

3. For the Health domain, the data shall be collected every **6** years.

*Amendment*

3. For the Health domain, the data shall be collected every **5** years.

Or. en

#### **Amendment 105**

##### **Proposal for a regulation Annex IV – point 4**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

4. For the Education and Training domain, the data shall be collected every **6** years.

*Amendment*

4. For the Education and Training domain, the data shall be collected every **5** years.

Or. en

#### **Amendment 106**

##### **Proposal for a regulation Annex IV – point 6**

6. For the Time Use domain, the data shall be collected every **6** years.

6. For the Time Use domain, the data shall be collected every **5** years.

Or. en

## **EXPLANATORY STATEMENT**

Reliable and quality statistics are the backbone of good policy-making. As policy-makers we need to have well-founded information about the labour market situation, the living and income conditions of European citizens, their state of health, education and training conditions, their consumption habits, their time use and use of technology so as to be able to develop sound and evidence-based policies. This Statistical Framework which brings together seven household surveys is a remarkable step in this direction and will pave the way towards the further quality development of social statistics. It therefore is important that together we develop a legislation that is sound, works in practice, delivers high-quality, timely, comparable and reliable data and can be adapted to changing needs over time.

In the Parliament's draft report I reinforced the elements and developed further proposals in order to emphasise the following objectives. European statistics should collect reliable and comparable quality data adapted to the needs of the users, be it policy-makers, researchers or any other stakeholders. It should also respond effectively to the social challenges the Union faces to be able to support well founded policy measures.

It is important to address the issue of scope for data reliability. Household surveys cover persons living in private households, while those who are living in institutions or are homeless will not be interviewed which is of great concern especially in case of health related data. National statistics offices should report on the amount of existing non-coverage. In the long run all actors should develop alternative ways to cover citizens beyond private households. The Survey on Income and Living Condition survey provides invaluable information on homelessness in the form of retrospective questions, that needs to be further developed by looking at what is best termed as "housing difficulties".

For reasons of comparability and good quality the level of aggregation of statistical data should be of similar size. Comparing Luxembourg with Germany can have its statistical shortcomings while comparing urbanised regions with rural regions would provide essential additional information. I would welcome if this framework opened the way to start aggregating data at NUTS2 level. NUTS2 has been defined as statistical regions of geographical units of comparable size. Better comparability is one of the major objectives of the reform. I have therefore suggested that Member States and Eurostat aim at addressing this in the long run.

The surveys in this legislative framework produce key for data on income and consumption and these are essential to get a clearer picture about the well-being of households as well as inputs to evaluate the proper functioning of markets. The data collection and analysis would need to concentrate more on complex indicators such as reference budgeting.

I am very much in favour of regulating at the right level. The European Parliament should be the actor safeguarding the success of the Regulation in terms of enforceability and quality (e.g. content and scope of surveys and derogations), therefore these elements should be decided either in the main legislative act itself or in delegated acts. Only purely technical matters should be regulated in implementing acts.

Financial consequences are offset by the better targeted quality policy-making potential that it enables as well as early stage adjustment of methods and better use of new technological developments. Saving on cost of producing statistical data and statistical analysis would directly lead to a society where policymakers and the opinion leaders of a society can no longer argue on the basis of well-founded knowledge, but on beliefs, fears and pseudo-facts. We constantly need to develop the comparability, timeliness, precision and the scope of our data collection. I welcome and highlight that the Commission can provide grants to the national statistical institutes especially for capacity-building purposes. I advocate for making the framework adaptable to sufficiently address new needs and developments therefore pilot studies should be prepared to address new challenges.

Statistics are among the best tools we have to understand the current status of our society and economy and this knowledge is the single greatest asset a policy-maker can have.