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*****I** **REPORT**

on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council
on the Community Statistical Programme 2008 to 2012
(COM(2006)0687 – C6-0427/2006 – 2006/0229(COD))

Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

Rapporteur: Zsolt László Becsey

Symbols for procedures

- * Consultation procedure
majority of the votes cast
- **I Cooperation procedure (first reading)
majority of the votes cast
- **II Cooperation procedure (second reading)
*majority of the votes cast, to approve the common position
majority of Parliament's component Members, to reject or amend
the common position*
- *** Assent procedure
*majority of Parliament's component Members except in cases
covered by Articles 105, 107, 161 and 300 of the EC Treaty and
Article 7 of the EU Treaty*
- ***I Codecision procedure (first reading)
majority of the votes cast
- ***II Codecision procedure (second reading)
*majority of the votes cast, to approve the common position
majority of Parliament's component Members, to reject or amend
the common position*
- ***III Codecision procedure (third reading)
majority of the votes cast, to approve the joint text

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

Amendments to a legislative text

In amendments by Parliament, amended text is highlighted in ***bold italics***. Highlighting in *normal italics* is an indication for the relevant departments showing parts of the legislative text for which a correction is proposed, to assist preparation of the final text (for instance, obvious errors or omissions in a given language version). These suggested corrections are subject to the agreement of the departments concerned.

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DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the
Community Statistical Programme 2008 to 2012
(COM(2006)0687 – C6-0427/2006 – 2006/0229(COD))

(Codecision procedure: first reading)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the European Parliament and the Council (COM(2006)0687)¹,
 - having regard to Article 251(2) and Articles 285 of the EC Treaty, pursuant to which the Commission submitted the proposal to Parliament (C6-0427/2006),
 - having regard to Rule 51 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and the opinions of the Committee on Budgets, the Committee on Regional Development, and the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (A6-0240/2007),
1. Approves the Commission proposal as amended;
 2. Considers that the reference amount indicated in the legislative proposal must be compatible with the ceiling of heading 1a of the new multiannual financial framework (MFF) and points out that the annual amount will be decided within the annual budgetary procedure in accordance with the provisions of point 37 of the IIA of 17 May 2006.
 3. Calls on the Commission to refer the matter to Parliament again if it intends to amend the proposal substantially or replace it with another text;
 4. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council and Commission.

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendments by Parliament

Amendment 1
Recital 2

(2) In accordance with Regulation (EC) No 322/97, the Community should have timely access to statistical information comparable between the Member States which is up to date, reliable, pertinent and produced as efficiently as possible for the formulation,

(2) In accordance with Regulation (EC) No 322/97, the Community should have timely access to statistical information *that is* comparable *as* between the Member States, ***individual regions of the European Union and individual types of common***

¹ Not yet published in OJ.

application, monitoring and assessment of its policies.

classification of territorial units for statistics , in accordance with Member States' constitutional provisions, which is up to date, reliable, pertinent and produced as efficiently as possible for the formulation, application, monitoring and assessment of its policies.

Justification

This addition is necessary in order to ensure that the statistical information made available enables comparative summaries to be drawn up at both national and regional levels, which is a precondition for proper assessment of the effectiveness of cohesion policy implementation.

Amendment 2

Recital 4

(4) The specific method of drawing up Community statistics requires particularly close cooperation within a developing Community statistical system via the Statistical Programme Committee, set up by Council Decision 89/382/EEC, Euratom, as regards the adaptation of the system, notably via the introduction of legal instruments necessary to establish the said Community statistics. Account is to be taken of the burden on respondents, be they business, central or local government units, households or individuals.

(4) The specific method of drawing up Community statistics requires particularly close cooperation within a developing Community statistical system via the Statistical Programme Committee, set up by Council Decision 89/382/EEC, Euratom, as regards the adaptation of the system, notably via the introduction of legal instruments necessary to establish the said Community statistics. Account is to be taken of the burden on respondents, be they business, central, **regional** or local government units, households or individuals.

Justification

The failure to include regional units among the respondents is probably merely an oversight, but it could give rise to misunderstandings, which is why they need to be added.

A reference to the regional level must not be omitted, least of all when the national and local levels are explicitly mentioned.

Amendment 3

Recital 5

(5) The production of Community statistics within the legislative framework of the five-year programme is achieved through the close, coordinated and coherent cooperation between Eurostat and the national

(5) The production of Community statistics within the legislative framework of the five-year programme is achieved through the close, coordinated and coherent cooperation between Eurostat and the national

authorities. For that purpose, Eurostat should ensure the coordination under various forms of the national authorities in a network representing the European Statistical System (ESS) to assure the timely provision of statistics in support of European Union policy needs.

authorities. For that purpose, Eurostat should ensure the coordination under various forms of the national authorities in a network representing the European Statistical System (ESS) to assure the timely provision of statistics *of a standard allowing the necessary comparability between Member States* in support of European Union policy needs.

Justification

The criteria are in many cases so disparate that it would be difficult to produce accurate statistics reflecting actual findings.

Amendment 4 Recital 6

(6) In the production and dissemination of Community statistics under this Decision, the national and Community statistical authorities should respect the principles set out in the European Statistics Code of Practice, which was attached to the Recommendation of the Commission of 25 May 2005 on the independence, integrity and accountability of the national and Community statistical authorities.

(6) In the production and dissemination of Community statistics under this Decision, the national and Community statistical authorities should respect the principles set out in the European Statistics Code of Practice, which was attached to the Recommendation of the Commission of 25 May 2005 on the independence, integrity and accountability of the national and Community statistical authorities. ***In this process, efforts should be made to promote convergence in terms of the statistical information gathered and the possibility of scientific treatment thereof.***

Justification

Basic information should be compiled according to standard criteria so as to ensure that the findings, once processed, will lend themselves to comparison.

Amendment 5 Recital 7

(7) ***The*** preparation of the annual statistical work programmes of the Commission should take account of the need for ongoing review of statistical priorities, including the simplification of processes and the reduction of requirements of declining importance, with a view to making the best use of

(7) ***In the light of the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on reduction of the response burden, simplification and priority-setting in the field of Community statistics,*** the preparation of the annual statistical work programmes of the

available resources.

Commission should take account of the need for ongoing review of statistical priorities, including the simplification of processes and the reduction of requirements of declining importance, with a view to making the best use of available resources.

Justification

The preparation of the annual statistical work programmes should aim to make the best use of available resources in line with the principles of 'better regulation' and the above-mentioned Commission Communication.

Amendment 6 Recital 8

(8) Since the *objectives* of this Decision, namely the Community Statistical Programme 2008 to 2012, cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States and can therefore be better achieved at Community level, the Community may adopt measures, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity as set out in Article 5 of the Treaty. In accordance with the principle of proportionality, as set out in that Article, this Decision does not go beyond what is necessary in order to achieve those objectives.

(8) Since the *objective* of this Decision, namely the *establishment of the* Community Statistical Programme 2008 to 2012, cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States, ***in particular because of the need for the regular production of statistics at regional level, so as to show up disparities between the levels of development of the regions in accordance with Article 158 of the Treaty***, and can therefore, *by reason of the scale or effects of the action*, be better achieved at Community level, the Community may adopt measures, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity as set out in Article 5 of the Treaty. In accordance with the principle of proportionality, as set out in that Article, this Decision does not go beyond what is necessary in order to achieve those objectives.

Justification

The main priority of solidarity, economic and social cohesion and sustainable development is directly aimed at the data to be collected in the context of the European regional policy. In the implementation of regional policy it is necessary for statistics to be available at regional level so as to ascertain differences in regional development and monitor regional policy intervention (see Annex II, Title XVII, 'Economic and social cohesion').

Amendment 7 Recital 10 a (new)

(10 a) To allow for increased coherence and effectiveness in Community measures for cities and enable credible comparisons to be made, it is necessary for Community statistical purposes to define what is meant by ‘European city’ and ‘European metropolitan area’.

Amendment 8
Article 2, paragraph 1

1. Taking account of the available resources of the national authorities and the Commission, the programme shall be guided by the principal Community policy priorities of:

- prosperity, competitiveness and growth,
- solidarity, economic ***and*** social cohesion ***and*** sustainable development,

– ***security, and***

– ***further enlargement of the European Union.***

1. Taking account of the available resources of the national authorities and the Commission, the programme shall be guided by the principal Community policy priorities of:

- prosperity, competitiveness, ***innovation,*** and growth,
- solidarity ***and human development,*** ***and***
- economic, social ***and territorial*** cohesion, sustainable development ***and demographic challenges.***

Justification

Territorial cohesion cannot now be separated from economic and social cohesion, as it is likewise mentioned in the draft constitutional treaty.

Other priorities need to be added to reflect the EU’s chief concerns. The Union has built up a fund of know-how in a whole range of technical fields. As a leading development aid partner, it could help a great deal, by means of technical and financial advice, to develop and modernise statistical systems in developing countries.

Making publicly available data on which the Community decisions are based is crucial for ensuring clarity and better understanding of the data reliability.

Amendment 9
Article 3, paragraph 1, introductory part

1. The programme shall be implemented in accordance with the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice with a view to producing and disseminating high-quality, harmonised Community statistics and to ensuring a proper functioning of the European statistical system as a whole. National authorities and the Community statistical authority shall:

1. The programme shall be implemented in accordance with the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice with a view to producing and disseminating high-quality harmonised Community statistics **disaggregated by gender, where appropriate**, and to ensuring a proper functioning of the European statistical system as a whole. National authorities and the Community statistical authority shall:

Justification

Even though data has been gathered disaggregated by gender, statistics that are elaborated upon them are quite often not published likewise.

Amendment 10

Article 3, paragraph 1, point (a)

(a) establish an institutional and organisational environment which promotes the effectiveness and credibility of national and Community statistical authorities producing and disseminating official statistics;

(a) establish an institutional and organisational environment which promotes the effectiveness and credibility of national and Community statistical authorities producing and disseminating official statistics **including regional statistics based on the Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS)**;

Justification

An explicit mention of the Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS) seems necessary in order to highlight the Community's goal to provide single uniform breakdown of territorial units for the production of regional statistics for the European Union.

Amendment 11

Article 3, paragraph 1, point (c)

(c) ensure that Community statistics comply with the European quality standards and serve the needs of European Union institutional users, governments, research institutions, civil society organisations, enterprises and the public generally.

(c) ensure that Community statistics comply with the European quality standards and serve the needs of European Union institutional users, governments, **regional and local authorities**, research institutions, civil society organisations, enterprises and the public generally.

Justification

To identify the different levels of users within a Member State.

Local and regional authorities need reliable Community statistical information in shaping their policies and defending their regional interests.

Amendment 12

Article 3, paragraph 1, point (c a) (new)

(ca) ensure that the aggregates compiled are of a standard that makes community statistics coherent and comparable with world statistics, including the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics adopted by the UN Statistical Commission on 14 April 1994;

Justification

The comparability of statistics must be ensured not just at Community level, but also in the context of the world standards.

Amendment 13

Article 3, paragraph 1, point (c b) (new)

(cb) provide, where requested and warranted, the necessary technical support in the area of statistical organisation, and enable good practice to be shared with other bodies or third countries.

Justification

As indicated above, the Union has a fund of knowledge and human and financial resources invaluable to cooperation. Worldwide comparison of statistical data is still very patchy because of the inadequacy of the material, especially in the developing countries.

Amendment 14

Article 4, paragraph 1

1. The programme shall ensure continued statistical support for decisions and evaluations in current Community policy areas and provide statistical support for any additional requirements arising from new Community policy initiatives.

1. The programme shall ensure continued statistical support for decisions and evaluations in current Community policy areas and provide statistical support for any additional requirements arising from new Community policy initiatives, ***with emphasis being placed on the reliability, quality and comparability of the statistical information.***

Justification

This addition is required in order to ensure that the statistical information made available enables accurate comparative summaries to be drawn up for the purpose of assessing the effectiveness of cohesion policy implementation.

Amendment 15 Article 4, paragraph 2

2. The Commission shall, in the preparation of the annual statistical work programmes, take account of the cost-effectiveness of the statistics produced and ensure an ongoing review of statistical priorities, with a view to making best use of available resources of the Member States and the Commission and to minimising the burden imposed on respondents.

2. The Commission shall, in the preparation of the annual statistical work programmes, take account of the cost-effectiveness of the statistics produced and ensure an ongoing review of statistical priorities, with a view to making best use of available resources of the Member States and the Commission and to minimising the burden imposed on respondents, ***taking due care to ensure the chronological continuity of the data collected.***

Justification

This addition is required in order to ensure the chronological continuity of the statistical information made available and to make sure that it covers a sufficiently long period of time to enable trends in the processes under way in the regions to be assessed. This information is of fundamental importance in assessing the effectiveness of Community cohesion policy.

Amendment 16 Article 4, paragraph 2 a (new)

2a. When preparing the annual statistical work programmes, the Commission should carry out ex-ante studies of the financial implications of any planned new statistical activities which impose additional burdens on the Member States.

Amendment 17 Article 4, paragraph 3

3. The programme shall ensure the development of instruments to increase the flexibility of the European Statistical System and to improve its ability to respond in a timely manner to changing user needs.

3. The programme shall ensure the development of instruments to increase the flexibility of the European Statistical System and to improve its ability to respond in a timely manner to changing user needs. ***The programme shall also guarantee convergence in terms of the quality of the***

statistical material gathered and the possibility of scientific processing thereof.

Justification

Basic information should be compiled according to standard criteria so as to ensure that the findings, once processed, will lend themselves to comparison.

Amendment 18
Article 4, paragraph 3 a (new)

3a. The programme shall also ensure transparency with account being taken, inter alia, of Article 1(1) and (2) of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1104/2006 of 18 July 2006 amending Regulation (EC) No 831/2002 implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 322/97 on Community Statistics, concerning access to confidential data for scientific purposes¹.

¹ OJ L 197, 19.7.2006, p. 3.

Justification

In order to enable drawing statistical conclusions for scientific purpose, this Commission Regulation establishes the conditions under which access to confidential data transmitted to the Community authority may be granted. It enumerates the different surveys and data sources to which it applies.

Amendment 19
Article 6, paragraph 1

1. During the third year of implementation of the programme, the Commission shall prepare an intermediate progress report and present it to the Statistical Programme Committee.

1. During the third year of implementation of the programme, the Commission shall prepare an intermediate progress report and present it to the Statistical Programme Committee, ***the European Parliament and the Council. Such review shall include:***
a) if appropriate, a proposal by the Commission to bring the cycle for the production of the Community Statistical Programme into line with the European

Parliament's election cycle by 2014 and in accordance with any future modification of EC Treaty;

b) an analysis of the competitive effects on SMEs brought about by the proposed cuts in the administrative burden, particularly with reference to INTRASTAT data supply, proposed in Commission Communication on reduction of the response burden, simplification and priority-setting in the field of Community statistics;

c) special attention shall be paid as part of the intended review to the issue of necessary datasets, tools and methodologies which will serve as the basis for the production of unbiased and objective analyses of the social and economic impacts of important areas which are in need of constant monitoring and review such as the Financial Perspectives, due implementation of the Directive 2006/123/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2006 on services in the internal market¹, the Common Agricultural Policy and the Stability and Growth Pact;

d) new policy areas such as innovation, energy, migration and fiscal data supply should be incorporated in the intended statistical review in 2010 to produce an unbiased objective dataset serving as a basis for evaluating developments in the new areas in question;

e) financial burden-sharing between the Community and Member State budgets related to the implementation of the programme as well as the institution capacities of the Member States should also be duly analysed taking into account the interests of the Member States that acceded to the European Union in 2004 and 2007.

¹ OJ L 376, 27.12.2006, p. 36.

Amendment 20
Annex I, point 2.1, box, bullet 3

- A process for quality labelling of European official statistics shall be put in place.

- A process for quality labelling of European official statistics shall be put in place, ***which shall also make it possible to certify the conformity of the data published regardless of its provenance, be it local, national, European or emanating from a third country, .and shall include feasibility studies for the development of suitable procedures, standards and criteria for that purpose.***

Justification

The inclusion of feasibility studies is a vital step towards introducing quality labelling of European official statistics and strengthening the credibility of statistics and of the ESS as a whole.

Amendment 21
Annex I, point 3.3

In order to improve the statistical service to the users, and in order to improve efficiency for the European Statistical System as a whole, a stronger focus on the core needs for European policies is necessary. ***This*** will be based on the ***“First for Europe” approach***, a pragmatic strategy to facilitate the compilation of European aggregates which are of particular importance for Community policies. Also, the flexibility of the European Statistical System and its ability to respond promptly to changing user needs must be strengthened.

In order to improve the statistical service to the users, and in order to improve efficiency for the European Statistical System as a whole, a stronger focus on the core needs for European policies is necessary. ***In specific cases, this*** will be based on the ***“European approach to statistics”***, a pragmatic strategy to facilitate the compilation of European aggregates which are of particular importance for Community policies. Also, the flexibility of the European Statistical System and its ability to respond promptly to changing user needs must be strengthened.

Justification

The 'European approach to statistics' should be applied only in certain cases relating to specific policy issues and territorial requirements.

Amendment 22
Annex I, point 3.5, box, bullet

- Joint structures, tools and processes shall be established, involving national authorities and relevant EC services and facilitating the specialisation of certain Member States in

- Joint structures, tools and processes shall be established, involving national authorities and relevant EC services, ***developing the ESS networks*** and facilitating the

specific statistical activities for the benefit of the European Statistical System as a whole.

specialisation of certain Member States in specific statistical activities for the benefit of the European Statistical System as a whole.

Justification

It is important to develop the ESS networks in order to work on specific areas of excellence, while avoiding duplication of effort and improving the efficiency of the European Statistical System (ESS).

Amendment 23

Annex II, title I, Main initiatives 2008-2012, bullet 1

- A single flow system for Intrastat will be proposed by the Commission for entry into force in 2010;

- A single flow system for Intrastat will be proposed by the Commission for entry into force in 2010. ***to simplify Intrastat statistics, specific studies should be launched with a view to identifying methods of simplifying them as much as possible while ensuring an acceptable level of data quality and timeliness;***

Amendment 24

Annex II, title IV, Main initiatives 2008-2012, bullet 2

- Statistics providing socio-economic information about migrant populations shall be developed, including the implementation of ad hoc modules in the Labour Force Survey and the collection of migrant information as part of the 2011 Community Census Programme;

- Statistics providing socio-economic information about migrant populations shall be developed ***and disaggregated by gender, where appropriate***, including the implementation of ad hoc modules in the Labour Force Survey and the collection of migrant information as part of the 2011 Community Census Programme;

Amendment 25

Annex II, title V, Current situation, paragraph 2

The coverage of statistics on flows of passengers and goods and on traffic is good for all transport modes except for transport of passengers by road and non-motorised modes. Moreover, statistics on traffic for all modes of transport currently lack some important data necessary to monitor congestion, emissions to air and further negative environmental impacts. Statistics on freight transport are still mainly centred on single modes of transport and do not

The coverage of statistics on flows of passengers and goods and on traffic is good for all transport modes except for transport of passengers by road and non-motorised modes. Moreover, statistics on traffic for all modes of transport currently lack some important data necessary to monitor congestion, emissions to air and further negative environmental impacts. Statistics on freight transport are still mainly centred on single modes of transport and do not

provide sufficient information on inter-modal transport chains.

provide sufficient information on inter-modal transport chains. ***For cost-saving reasons they fail to take account of the conditions actually affecting inter- and intra-modal competition, particularly with regard to the various aspects of operating conditions: tax, use and toll rates, salary costs and tariffs.***

Justification

Community transport statistics fail to take adequate account of the operating conditions of the various transport modes, which would make it possible to ascertain their respective competitiveness.

Amendment 26

Annex II, title V, Main initiatives 2008-2012, bullets 2 a and 2 b (new)

- ***Comparative studies shall be compiled and circulated concerning the conditions of inter- and intra-modal competition, including, in particular, direct and indirect tax rates, use tax and toll rates, salary costs and tariff scales.***
- ***On the basis of the study which the Commission has pledged to publish in 2008, the global cost indicators for the various transport modes shall be published regularly, including - and paying particular attention to - their external costs.***

Justification

Community transport statistics should be supplemented by additional indicators which would make it possible to compare the competitiveness of each transport mode.

Amendment 27

Annex II, title VIII, Current situation, paragraph 1

Labour market statistics are governed by a solid legal framework to assure regular data transmission for the estimation of employment, unemployment, earnings and labour cost. Nevertheless, new policy areas will require the extension of the statistical legislation to other domains such as (i) job vacancy statistics, evaluating the demand side of the labour market and

Labour market statistics are governed by a solid legal framework to assure regular data transmission for the estimation of employment, unemployment, earnings and labour cost. Nevertheless, new policy areas will require the extension of the statistical legislation to other domains such as (i) job vacancy statistics, evaluating the demand side of the labour market and

complementing statistics on employment and unemployment, (ii) the labour market situation of migrants, promoting better integration of this population **and (iii)** the transition from school to work, underpinning adequate policies assuring a smooth incorporation of the young into the labour market. Other areas as quality in work and employment in an ageing labour force context, adaptability of workers and enterprises as well as the labour market needs of the information society will continue to focus the attention for the development of statistics.

complementing statistics on employment and unemployment, (ii) the labour market situation of migrants, promoting better integration of this population, **iii) the labour market situation of older workers and (iv)** the transition from school to work, underpinning adequate policies assuring a smooth incorporation of the young into the labour market. Other areas as quality in work and employment in an ageing labour force context, adaptability of workers and enterprises as well as the labour market needs of the information society will continue to focus the attention for the development of statistics. ***Statistics on employment and unemployment are mainly designed to meet macro-economic requirements. In so doing they fail to take full account of existing territorial disparities, particularly in certain urban areas..***

Amendment 28

Annex II, title VIII, Main initiatives 2008-2012, bullet 3 a (new)

- ***Statistics on employment and unemployment shall include more focused territorial indicators, particularly for urban and agglomeration areas in order to take fuller account of local variations in employment and unemployment. Urban audits carried out by ESS should better focus on this aspect. The Commission will, in its mid-term review in 2010, examine the cost of the possible introduction of urban surveys for agglomerations of above 500 000 inhabitants.***

Amendment 29

Annex II, title XI, Current situation, [paragraph 5 a \(new\)](#)

In its mid-term review in 2010, the European Commission will examine whether the UN Human Development Indicator can be extended in the European Union to take into account housing and employment/unemployment factors as well.

Amendment 30
Annex II, title XI, Main initiatives 2008-2012, bullet 6

- Statistics on youth need to be built up successively using existing sources and, when needed, integrating them better in existing surveys;

- Statistics on youth ***at all educational levels and on the economic and social integration of young people*** need to be built up successively using existing sources and, when needed, integrating them better in existing surveys;

Amendment 31
Annex II, title XI, Main initiatives 2008-2012, bullet 6 a (new)

- ***Statistics on children with reference to the internationally agreed age limit of childhood, which is 18 years, pursuant to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, must be complied with as regards the social situation of and poverty among children;***

Amendment 32
Annex II, title XI, Main initiatives 2008-2012, bullet 7 a (new)

- ***A memorandum of understanding will be drawn up in cooperation with the European Institute for Gender Equality in order to define the practical cooperation modalities;***

Amendment 33
Annex II, title XIII, Main initiatives 2008-2012, bullet 3

- The availability, comparability, timeliness and policy relevance of statistics on public health – including statistics on disability and on health care – shall be improved, with specific attention to further methodological development and taking into account the different contexts in each country.

- The availability, comparability, timeliness and policy relevance of statistics on public health – including statistics on disability and on health care, ***disaggregated by gender*** – shall be improved, with specific attention to further methodological development and taking into account the different contexts in each country.

Amendment 34
Annex II, title XX, Main initiatives 2008-2012, bullet 3

- A particular emphasis shall be put on the measurement and monitoring of poverty, progress on social cohesion, environmental sustainability and the Millennium Development Goal Indicators.

- A particular emphasis, ***taking into account the gender dimension***, shall be put on the measurement and monitoring of poverty, progress on social cohesion, environmental sustainability and the Millennium Development Goal Indicators.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. BACKGROUND

The proposed five-year programme for 2008 - 2012 is the seventh successive medium-term programme of work prepared by Eurostat. The aim of each programme has been to provide an overview of the strategies, priorities and work plans foreseen for each planning period. The current plan, relating to 2003 - 2007, was initiated by Decision 2367/2002/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2002. The five-year programmes are supported by annual programmes which provide more detailed work objectives for each year.

The Council Regulation (EC) No 322/97¹ on Community Statistics requires the preparation of a Community statistical programme 'which defines the approaches, the main fields and the objectives of the actions envisaged for a period not exceeding five years'.

The proposed decision is now subject to co-decision under Article 285 of the European Community Treaty.

2. THE PRESENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME

The Explanatory Memorandum of the Commission's proposal contains general observations concerning the programme. The document is organised in the same way as the previous programme submitted to Parliament and consists of the following elements:

- (a) Explanatory Memorandum;
An explanation of the background of the current proposal;
- (b) Judicial act
The essential elements within the legal framework;
- (c) Annex 1: Approaches
Priorities and the way in which the Commission intends to manage the annual operational programmes;
- (d) Annex II: Objectives and actions

Following a section on Cross-sectional Statistical Activities in support of the overall Community policy priorities is found a description of the statistical work proposed by the report in respect of each of the 20 'titles' of the Treaty.. For each 'title' the Annex provides a description of the work to be carried out under the headings of Legal Framework, Current Situation and the Main Initiatives foreseen for 2008 - 2012.

¹ OJ L 52, 22.2.1997, p. 1.

(e) Financial statement

This contains a tabular summary of the main aspects of the programme and the allocation of the resources proposed by year and type of resource. This is accompanied by a text which, amongst others things, addresses the questions of monitoring and evaluation, as well as anti fraud measures.

3. The rapporteur's comments

Your rapporteur by and large endorses the proposals by the Commission. However, he proposes amendments:

Article 3.1 of Council Regulation 322/1997 requires that the span of the Community Statistical Programme shall not exceed five years. At present the cycle for the production of the Community Statistical Programme does not follow the legislative cycle of either the European Parliament or the Commission. It is therefore proposed that as part of the intended review in 2010 as specified in the Council Regulation 322/1997 the Commission shall bring forth proposals to bring the two cycles in line from 2014. This proposal accords with the European Parliament's desire to bring the legislative cycle in line with the budgetary cycle.

It is necessary to ensure that the complex dataset produced by the Community Statistical Programme remains relevant and coherent, and to ensure that the red tape associated with its collection does not become an administrative burden, particularly to SME's, as this would run counter to the Lisbon Strategy and the intention of the generic reduction in red tape of 25% agreed by Member States. It is therefore imperative that the proposals in the Commission communication on 'reduction of the response burden, simplification, and priority setting in the field of statistics' be implemented in a timely fashion. It is therefore proposed that the intended review in 2010 evaluate the competitive effects on SME's brought about by these proposed cuts in the administrative burden related to statistics (COM 2006) 693) particularly with reference to INTRASTAT data supply.

Moreover he makes the following observations:

Bearing in mind the intention agreed at the EU Summit in December 2005 to adopt a solution to the constitutional impasse by June 2009 it will be necessary on the occasion of the proposed three year review in 2010 to adjust the sectoral breakdown of the task lists ('titles') in Annex II as these are presently based on those in the Nice Treaty.

NACE 2 will replace NACE 1 by 2008. However, it will not be adopted by National Statistical Authorities in full until 2011. The need for parallel running of systems will place a budgetary burden on National Statistical Authorities until coherent and consistent statistical accounting is achieved. The operation of parallel systems would be very costly, particularly for newly admitted Member States.

As part of the review in 2010 the Commission should address the question of the necessary datasets, tools and methodologies which will serve as the basis for the production of unbiased and objective analysis of the social and economic impacts of important areas which are in

need of constant monitoring and reviewing such as the Financial Perspective, due implementation of the Service Directive and the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy.

The 2010 review should give a detailed analysis of the burden-sharing of the programme between EU budget and the Member States, particularly in the case of the recently acceded States.

New policy areas such as innovation, energy, migration and fiscal data supply should be incorporated in the intended statistical review in 2010 to enable the production of an unbiased and objective dataset, serving as a basis for evaluating developments in the areas in question.

11.4.2007

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON BUDGETS

for the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Community Statistical Programme 2008 to 2012
(COM(2006)0687 – C6-0427/2006 – 2006/0229(COD))

Draftsman: Janusz Lewandowski

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

Main features of the proposed programme

The main purpose of official Community Statistics is to underpin on a recurring basis the development, monitoring and evaluation of Community policies with reliable, objective, comparable and coherent factual information.

Against this background, the objective of the proposal is to put in place a comprehensive strategic programme for official Community statistics. It will comprise the production and delivery of products and services to the users, the improvement of the quality of statistics and the further development of the European Statistical System (ESS - the partnership comprising Eurostat, national statistical authorities and other national authorities responsible in each Member State for producing and disseminating European Statistics).

The programme is guided by the following policy priorities:

- prosperity, competitiveness and growth,
- solidarity, economic and social cohesion and sustainable development,
- security, and
- further enlargement of the European Union.

The requirement for a multi-annual Community Statistical Programme (CSP) follows from article 3.1 of Council Regulation 322/97 according to which the CSP shall define the

approaches, the main fields and the objectives of the actions envisaged for a period not exceeding five years and constitute the framework for the production of all Community statistics. The CSP is implemented via annual work programmes which provide more detailed work objectives for each year and via specific legislation for major actions. The CSP is subject to mid-term progress reporting and formal evaluation after the expiry of the programme period.

Financial implication

The operational resource requirements for Eurostat for implementing the programme is set at 274,2 million € over the programme period (2008-2012) This amount represents the Eurostat budgetary resources necessary to engage all of the activities described in the programme, but excludes:

- Expenditure on staff and administration,
- Operational resources on other statistical budget lines which could be additionally opened to cover new regulatory needs over the period 2008-2012 (Edicom type actions),
- Operational resources made available by other Directorates General on their budget lines,
- Resources at the national and regional level.

Eurostat will redeploy its own operational and human resources to respect the overall priorities of the programme. However, in view of the development of statistical work – and despite the aim to re-allocate resources on the basis of review of priorities – the Commission anticipates that the level of resources envisaged may not be sufficient to meet all of the requirements. In such circumstances, the Commission will indicate in the annual programmes of work any need to defer work envisaged in this programme in the light of:

- the resources allocated to the Commission by the budgetary authorities, and
- the resources available across the ESS to carry out the work.

Amendments proposed by the draftsman

It should be pointed out that the budgetary authority aims at setting a financial reference amount which has to be regarded as sufficient to meet all the requirements that are likely to come up during the period of the programme (2008-2012). The draftsman therefore considers that the Commission's intention to defer work envisaged in the programme will create confusion and will reduce the clarity of the budget in terms of budgetary appropriations assigned to a certain policy area.

Secondly, the draftsman is of the opinion that it would have been useful to set up a programme that covers - as nearly all multi-annual Community programmes - the whole period of the current multi-annual financial framework-MFF (2007-2013). In the current MFF "statistics" are part of "other actions" including the margin left under heading 1 a. For reasons of clarity the next MFF should set out clearly how much money is spent for the multi-annual statistical programme. This would make it easier for the budgetary authority to assess the real

margin left under a certain heading.

The draftsman proposes two amendments:

1. A standard amendment which refers to art. 37 of the IIA and which aims at respecting the overall ceiling of sub-heading 1.
2. The second amendment makes sure that the two arms of the budgetary authority receive the mid-term evaluation report. Otherwise it would be impossible for the budgetary authority to dispose of a first evaluation of the current programme when negotiation on the next MFF and the following multi-annual programmes.

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Budgets calls on the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following amendments in its report:

Draft legislative resolution

Amendment 34
Paragraph 1 a (new)

1a. Considers that the reference amount indicated in the legislative proposal must be compatible with the ceiling of heading 1a of the new multiannual financial framework (MFF) and points out that the annual amount will be decided within the annual budgetary procedure in accordance with the provisions of point 37 of the IIA of 17 May 2006.

Justification

Standard amendment

Proposal for a decision

Text proposed by the Commission¹

Amendments by Parliament

Amendment 35
Article 6, paragraph 1

1. During the third year of implementation of the programme, the Commission shall prepare an intermediate progress report and present it to the Statistical Programme Committee.

1. During the third year of implementation of the programme, the Commission shall prepare an intermediate progress report and present it to the Statistical Programme Committee, ***the European Parliament and the Council.***

Justification

The European Parliament and the Council have to be informed of the intermediate progress report. The final report covering the whole period of the programme (to be completed by 2013) will be delivered too late in order to make sure that its findings will be included in the next multi-annual statistical programme as well as the next multi-annual financial framework.

¹ OJ C xx, xx, p. xx.

PROCEDURE

| | |
|---|---|
| Title | Community Statistical Programme, 2008-2012 |
| References | COM(2006)0687 - C6-0427/2006 - 2006/0229(COD) |
| Committee responsible | ECON |
| Opinion by Date announced in plenary | BUDG 12.12.2006 |
| Drafts(wo)man Date appointed | Janusz Lewandowski 13.12.2006 |
| Discussed in committee | 11.4.2007 |
| Date adopted | 10.4.2007 |
| Result of final vote | +: 18 -: 1 0: 0 |
| Members present for the final vote | Reimer Böge, Herbert Bösch, Simon Busuttil, Joan Calabuig Rull, Hynek Fajmon, Szabolcs Fazakas, Louis Grech, Nathalie Griesbeck, Catherine Guy-Quint, Jutta Haug, Anne E. Jensen, Wiesław Stefan Kuc, Janusz Lewandowski, Nils Lundgren, Vladimír Maňka, Francesco Musotto, Gérard Onesta, Kyösti Virrankoski |
| Substitute(s) present for the final vote | Margarita Starkevičiūtė |

4.5.2007

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

for the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Community Statistical Programme 2008 to 2012
(COM(2006)0687 – C6-0427/2006 – 2006/0229(COD))

Draftsman: Mieczysław Edmund Janowski

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

In the financial framework for the period 2007-2013 that was adopted in 2006 the Member States decided to allocate more than one third of the budget to regional policy measures, with the overriding aim of implementing the principles of cohesion and solidarity between more-developed and less-developed EU regions.

Given the scope and complexity of regional policy and the massive financial resources brought to bear, it is essential to establish effective means of monitoring progress in the implementation of structural policy at regional level and of assessing the effectiveness of the action taken.

The availability of reliable statistics that are as comprehensive as possible is an essential precondition for effective monitoring and assessment.

It should also be stressed that, from the standpoint of cohesion policy and structural fund implementation, the provision of statistics enabling summaries to be drawn up at Community, Member State and regional level is of essential importance.

Moreover, the statistics must not only be accurate and comprehensive but must also cover all parts of the European Union and a sufficiently long period of time, with due attention being paid to the need for continuity of provision, so as to enable the situation in individual regions to be compared and trends in the processes under way in the regions to be assessed.

It is unacceptable, for example, for the pursuit of short-term priorities or temporary organisational problems to be allowed to lead to a situation in which the collection of such data is suspended for a period of time, since this would in the medium term result in only an incomplete or fragmentary picture of the situation being obtained.

We shall only be able to assess the true extent of regional development and the role played by cohesion policy in that development if we have access to reliable and comprehensive

statistics.

This will enable a more accurate assessment to be made of the effectiveness of individual measures and, in turn, allow future measures to be targeted in such a way as to maximise their effectiveness and impact.

It should be emphasised that the information generated by the statistical analysis methods currently used in the regional policy field, based on the NUTS statistical units in force, is not always completely reliable. This is due in particular to the averaging of data in regions in which the level of economic development of the capital city is clearly higher than that of other areas in the region. There is objective evidence for this, based on the use of smaller territorial statistical units and backed up by what can be seen with one's own eyes. Bearing this in mind, efforts therefore need to be made to ensure that the statistics paint a faithful picture of the true economic situation.

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Regional Development calls on the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following amendments in its report:

Text proposed by the Commission¹

Amendments by Parliament

Amendment 36 Recital 2

(2) In accordance with Regulation (EC) No 322/97, the Community should have timely access to statistical information comparable between the Member States which is up to date, reliable, pertinent and produced as efficiently as possible for the formulation, application, monitoring and assessment of its policies.

(2) In accordance with Regulation (EC) No 322/97, the Community should have timely access to statistical information *that is* comparable *as* between the Member States, ***individual regions of the European Union and individual types of common classification of territorial units for statistics (NUTS)***, which is up to date, reliable, pertinent and produced as efficiently as possible for the formulation, application, monitoring and assessment of its policies.

Justification

This addition is necessary in order to ensure that the statistical information made available enables comparative summaries to be drawn up at both national and regional levels, which is a precondition for proper assessment of the effectiveness of cohesion policy implementation.

¹ Not yet published in OJ.

Amendment 37
Recital 4

(4) The specific method of drawing up Community statistics requires particularly close cooperation within a developing Community statistical system via the Statistical Programme Committee, set up by Council Decision 89/382/EEC, Euratom, as regards the adaptation of the system, notably via the introduction of legal instruments necessary to establish the said Community statistics. Account is to be taken of the burden on respondents, be they business, central or local government units, households or individuals.

(4) The specific method of drawing up Community statistics requires particularly close cooperation within a developing Community statistical system via the Statistical Programme Committee, set up by Council Decision 89/382/EEC, Euratom, as regards the adaptation of the system, notably via the introduction of legal instruments necessary to establish the said Community statistics. Account is to be taken of the burden on respondents, be they business, central, **regional** or local government units, households or individuals.

Justification

The failure to include regional units among the respondents is probably merely an oversight, but it could give rise to misunderstandings, which is why they need to be added.

A reference to the regional level must not be omitted, least of all when the national and local levels are explicitly mentioned.

Amendment 38
Recital 5

(5) The production of Community statistics within the legislative framework of the five-year programme is achieved through the close, coordinated and coherent cooperation between Eurostat and the national authorities. For that purpose, Eurostat should ensure the coordination under various forms of the national authorities in a network representing the European Statistical System (ESS) to assure the timely provision of statistics in support of European Union policy needs.

(5) The production of Community statistics within the legislative framework of the five-year programme is achieved through the close, coordinated and coherent cooperation between Eurostat and the national authorities. For that purpose, Eurostat should ensure the coordination under various forms of the national authorities in a network representing the European Statistical System (ESS) to assure the timely provision of statistics, **of a standard allowing the necessary comparability between Member States**, in support of European Union policy needs.

Justification

The criteria are in many cases so disparate that it would be difficult to produce accurate statistics reflecting actual findings.

Amendment 39
Recital 6

(6) In the production and dissemination of Community statistics under this Decision, the national and Community statistical authorities should respect the principles set out in the European Statistics Code of Practice, which was attached to the Recommendation of the Commission of 25 May 2005 on the independence, integrity and accountability of the national and Community statistical authorities.

(6) In the production and dissemination of Community statistics under this Decision, the national and Community statistical authorities should respect the principles set out in the European Statistics Code of Practice, which was attached to the Recommendation of the Commission of 25 May 2005 on the independence, integrity and accountability of the national and Community statistical authorities. ***In this process, efforts should be made to promote convergence in terms of the statistical information gathered and the possibility of scientific treatment thereof.***

Justification

Basic information should be compiled according to standard criteria so as to ensure that the findings, once processed, will lend themselves to comparison.

Amendment 40
Recital 6 a (new)

(6a) In accordance with the Community's objectives regarding equality between men and women set out in Articles 2 and 3 of the EC Treaty and in Article 16 of Regulation (EC) 1083/2006 laying down general provisions on the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund, Member States are required to keep separate statistics on men and women at least where such statistics are a direct or indirect precondition for financing from the European Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund.

Justification

Statistics have to differentiate between men and women, as in accordance with Community objectives on equal treatment it must be possible to ascertain how European policies are having gender-specific effects. This is directly connected with the main priority of solidarity, economic and social cohesion and sustainable development, because these European policy areas are committed to the aim of gender mainstreaming (see Article 16 of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006).

Amendment 41
Recital 8

(8) Since the objectives of this Decision, namely the Community Statistical Programme 2008 to 2012, cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States and can therefore be better achieved at Community level, the Community may adopt measures, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity as set out in Article 5 of the Treaty. In accordance with the principle of proportionality, as set out in *that Article*, this Decision does not go beyond what is necessary in order to achieve those objectives.

(8) Since the objectives of this Decision, namely the Community Statistical Programme 2008 to 2012, cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States and can therefore be better achieved at Community level, the Community may adopt measures, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity as set out in Article 5 of the Treaty, ***in particular by regularly requiring the production of statistics at regional level, so as to show up disparities between the levels of development of the regions in accordance with Article 158 of the EC Treaty.*** In accordance with the principle of proportionality, as set out in *Article 5 of the Treaty*, this Decision does not go beyond what is necessary in order to achieve those objectives.

Justification

The main priority of solidarity, economic and social cohesion and sustainable development is directly aimed at the data to be collected in the context of the European regional policy. In the implementation of regional policy it is necessary for statistics to be available at regional level so as to ascertain differences in regional development and monitor regional policy intervention (see Annex II, Title XVII, 'Economic and social cohesion').

Amendment 42
Recital 10 a (new)

(10 a) To make for increased coherence and effectiveness in Community measures for cities and enable credible comparisons to be made, it is necessary for Community statistical purposes to define what is meant by 'European city' and 'European metropolitan area'.

Amendment 43
Article 2, paragraph 1

1. Taking account of the available resources of the national authorities and the Commission, the programme shall be guided

(1) Taking account of the available resources of the national authorities and the Commission, the programme shall be guided

by the principal Community policy priorities of:

- prosperity, competitiveness and growth,
- solidarity, economic **and** social cohesion **and** sustainable development,
- security, and
- further enlargement of the European Union.

by the principal Community policy priorities of:

- prosperity, competitiveness, **innovation**, and growth,
- solidarity, economic, social **and territorial** cohesion, sustainable development **and demographic challenges**,
- **education and youth**,
- security, **transparency**,
- **development cooperation**, and
- further enlargement of the European Union.

Justification

Territorial cohesion cannot now be separated from economic and social cohesion, as it is likewise mentioned in the draft constitutional treaty.

Other priorities need to be added to reflect the EU's chief concerns. The Union has built up a fund of know-how in a whole range of technical fields. As a leading development aid partner, it could help a great deal, by means of technical and financial advice, to develop and modernise statistical systems in developing countries.

Making publicly available data on which the Community decisions are based is crucial for ensuring clarity and better understanding of the data reliability.

Amendment 44

Article 3, paragraph 1, introductory sentence

1. The programme shall be implemented in accordance with the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice with a view to producing and disseminating high-quality, harmonised Community statistics and to ensuring a proper functioning of the European statistical system as a whole. National authorities and the Community statistical authority shall:

1. The programme shall be implemented in accordance with the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice with a view to producing and disseminating high-quality, harmonised Community statistics and to ensuring *the* proper functioning of the European statistical system as a whole, **with due regard to the need to ensure timely provision of the necessary statistical information**. National authorities and the Community statistical authority shall:

Justification

Due attention should be drawn to the need for timely provision of statistical information by

Member States, which is a precondition for the proper functioning of the European statistical system.

Amendment 45
Article 3, paragraph 1, point (a)

(a) establish an institutional and organisational environment which promotes the effectiveness and credibility of national and Community statistical authorities producing and disseminating official statistics;

(a) establish an institutional and organisational environment which promotes the effectiveness and credibility of national and Community statistical authorities producing and disseminating official statistics ***and regional statistics based on the Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS)***;

Justification

An explicit mention of the Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS) seems necessary in order to highlight the Community's goal to provide single uniform breakdown of territorial units for the production of regional statistics for the European Union.

Amendment 46
Article 3, paragraph 1, point (c)

(c) ensure that Community statistics comply with the European quality standards and serve the needs of European Union institutional users, governments, research institutions, civil society organisations, enterprises and the public generally.

(c) ensure that Community statistics comply with the European quality standards and serve the needs of European Union institutional users, governments, ***regional and local authorities***, research institutions, civil society organisations, enterprises and the public generally;

Justification

To identify the different levels of users within a Member State.

Local and regional authorities need reliable Community statistical information in shaping their policies and defending their regional interests.

Amendment 47
Article 3, paragraph 1, point (c a) (new)

(ca) ensure that the summaries compiled are of a standard that makes Community statistics fully comparable with world statistics;

Justification

The comparability of statistics must be ensured not just at Community level but also in the context of the world economy, so as to enable a more accurate assessment to be made of the real situation in the European Union, its Member States and its regions in comparison with competitors at world level.

Amendment 48

Article 3, paragraph 1, point (c b) (new)

(cb) ensure that summaries are compiled to such a standard as to render Community statistics fully compatible with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics adopted by the UN Statistical Commission on 14 April 1994;

Justification

The comparability of statistics must be ensured not just at Community level, but also in the context of the world standards.

Amendment 49

Article 3, paragraph 1, point (c c) (new)

(cc) provide, where requested and warranted, the necessary technical support in the area of statistical organisation, and enable good practice to be shared with other bodies or third countries.

Justification

As indicated above, the Union has a fund of knowledge and human and financial resources invaluable to cooperation. Worldwide comparison of statistical data is still very patchy because of the inadequacy of the material, especially in the developing countries.

Amendment 50

Article 4, paragraph 1

1. The programme shall ensure continued statistical support for decisions and evaluations in current Community policy areas and provide statistical support for any additional requirements arising from new Community policy initiatives.

1. The programme shall ensure continued statistical support for decisions and evaluations in current Community policy areas and provide statistical support for any additional requirements arising from new Community policy initiatives, ***with emphasis being placed on the reliability,***

quality and comparability of the statistical information.

Justification

This addition is required in order to ensure that the statistical information made available enables accurate comparative summaries to be drawn up for the purpose of assessing the effectiveness of cohesion policy implementation.

Amendment 51
Article 4, paragraph 2

2. The Commission shall, in the preparation of the annual statistical work programmes, take account of the cost-effectiveness of the statistics produced and ensure an ongoing review of statistical priorities, with a view to making best use of available resources of the Member States and the Commission and to minimising the burden imposed on respondents.

2. The Commission shall, in the preparation of the annual statistical work programmes, take account of the cost-effectiveness of the statistics produced and ensure an ongoing review of statistical priorities, with a view to making best use of available resources of the Member States and the Commission and to minimising the burden imposed on respondents, ***taking due care to ensure the chronological continuity of the data collected.***

Justification

This addition is required in order to ensure the chronological continuity of the statistical information made available and to make sure that it covers a sufficiently long period of time to enable trends in the processes under way in the regions to be assessed. This information is of fundamental importance in assessing the effectiveness of Community cohesion policy.

Amendment 52
Article 4, paragraph 3

3. The programme shall ensure the development of instruments to increase the flexibility of the European Statistical System and to improve its ability to respond in a timely manner to changing user needs.

3. The programme shall ensure the development of instruments to increase the flexibility of the European Statistical System and to improve its ability to respond in a timely manner to changing user needs. ***The programme shall also guarantee convergence in terms of the statistical material gathered and the possibility of scientific processing thereof.***

Justification

Basic information should be compiled according to standard criteria so as to ensure that the findings, once processed, will lend themselves to comparison.

Amendment 53
Article 4, paragraph 3 a (new)

(3a) The programme shall ensure transparency, with account being taken, inter alia, of Article 1(1) and (2) of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1104/2006 of 18 July 2006 amending Regulation (EC) No 831/2002 implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 322/97 on Community Statistics, concerning access to confidential data for scientific purposes¹.

¹ OJ L 197, 19.7.2006, p. 3.

Justification

In order to enable drawing statistical conclusions for scientific purpose, this Commission Regulation establishes the conditions under which access to confidential data transmitted to the Community authority may be granted. It enumerates the different surveys and data sources to which it applies.

Amendment 54
Annex II, Title XVII, subheading 4

Main initiatives 2008-2012

The work to be undertaken under the 2008–2012 statistical programme will be determined by the shape of the new Community regional policy within the new programming period for the structural funds. Consolidation work on the existing data will be continued, notably in the urban audit, transport, environment and research & development areas. The implementation of a legislative framework for Regional Population data and the anticipated revision of the ESA 95 regulation encompassing the Regional Accounts data will be of significant importance for the structural indicators work. The methodological consistency of regional statistics shall be improved by the inclusion of more rigorous methodology in the relevant legislative framework when revised and the application of quality standards already commenced in

Main initiatives 2008-2012

The work to be undertaken under the 2008–2012 statistical programme will be determined by the shape of the new Community regional policy within the new programming period for the structural funds. Consolidation work on the existing data will be continued, notably in the urban audit, transport, environment and research & development areas. The implementation of a legislative framework for Regional Population data and the anticipated revision of the ESA 95 regulation encompassing the Regional Accounts data will be of significant importance for the structural indicators work. The methodological consistency of regional statistics shall be improved by the inclusion of more rigorous methodology in the relevant legislative framework when revised, ***by ensuring the production and quotation of separate***

regional accounts data shall be extended to other regional statistics to assure comparability and timeliness.

statistics on men and women, and **by** the application of quality standards already commenced in regional accounts data **which** shall be extended to other regional statistics to assure comparability and timeliness.

Justification

Statistics have to differentiate between men and women, as in accordance with Community objectives on equal treatment it must be possible to ascertain how European policies are having gender-specific effects. This is directly connected with the main priority of solidarity, economic and social cohesion and sustainable development, because these European policy areas are committed to the aim of gender mainstreaming (see Article 16 of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006).

PROCEDURE

| | |
|---|---|
| Title | Proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Community Statistical Programme 2008-2012 |
| References | COM(2006)0687 - C6-0427/2006 - 2006/0229(COD) |
| Committee responsible | ECON |
| Opinion by Date announced in plenary | REGI 12.12.2006 |
| Drafts(wo)man Date appointed | Mieczysław Edmund Janowski 1.2.2007 |
| Discussed in committee | 20.3.2007 |
| Date adopted | 2.5.2007 |
| Result of final vote | +: 44 -: 0 0: 2 |
| Members present for the final vote | Alfonso Andria, Stavros Arnautakis, Jean Marie Beaupuy, Rolf Berend, Wolfgang Bulfon, Antonio De Blasio, Vasile Dîncu, Gerardo Galeote, Iratxe García Pérez, Eugenijus Gentvilas, Ambroise Guellec, Gábor Harangozó, Jim Higgins, Alain Hutchinson, Mieczysław Edmund Janowski, Gisela Kallenbach, Tunne Kelam, Evgeni Kirilov, Miloš Koterec, Constanze Angela Krehl, Mario Mantovani, Miguel Angel Martínez Martínez, Yiannakis Matsis, Miroslav Mikolášik, Lambert van Nistelrooij, Jan Olbrycht, Maria Petre, Markus Pieper, Elisabeth Schroedter, Stefan Sofianski, Grażyna Staniszevska, Oldřich Vlasák, Vladimír Železný |
| Substitute(s) present for the final vote | Bastiaan Belder, Brigitte Douay, Den Dover, Riitta Myller, Zita Pleštinská, Christa Prets, Miloslav Ransdorf, Richard Seeber, László Surján, Károly Ferenc Szabó |
| Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote | Véronique De Keyser, Henrik Lax, Samuli Pohjamo |

4.5.2007

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY

for the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the
Community Statistical Programme 2008 to 2012
(COM(2006)0687 – C6-0427/2006 – 2006/0229(COD))

Draftswoman: Edit Bauer

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality calls on the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following amendments in its report:

Text proposed by the Commission¹

Amendments by Parliament

Amendment 55
Recital 2 a (new)

(2a) The Council of Europe's 1998 report on Gender Mainstreaming -conceptual framework, methodology and presentation of good practices states that regular production and use of gender-disaggregated statistics in policy development and review is a key element of the mainstreaming approach to equal opportunities.

¹ Not yet published in OJ.

Amendment 56
Recital 2 b (new)

(2b) In its Communication on incorporating equal opportunities for women and men into all Community policies and activities (Gender Mainstreaming Communication), the Commission reaffirms its commitment to gender mainstreaming: taking systematic account of the differences between the conditions, situations and needs of women and men in all Community policies and actions .

Amendment 57
Recital 3 a (new)

(3a) In order to obtain adequate information on the position of women in the European Union, make systematic cross-national comparisons, track changes over time and to guarantee the monitoring and evaluation of the measures implemented, gender-disaggregated statistics should be collected, compiled, analysed, harmonised and disseminated on a regular basis.

Justification

We need to have the necessary tools both to be able to grasp the situation of women and to implement gender mainstreaming in all EU policies.

Amendment 58
Recital 6

(6) In the production and dissemination of Community statistics under this Decision, the national and Community statistical authorities should respect the principles set out in the European Statistics Code of Practice, which was attached to the Recommendation of the Commission of 25 May 2005 on the independence, integrity and accountability of the national and

(6) In the production and dissemination of Community statistics under this Decision, the national and Community statistical authorities should respect ***the Commission and Council of Europe's recommendations to disaggregate statistics by gender and*** the principles set out in the European Statistics Code of Practice, which was attached to the Recommendation of the Commission of 25 May 2005 on the independence, integrity

Community statistical authorities.

and accountability of the national and
Community statistical authorities.

Justification

Even though data has been gathered disaggregated by gender, statistics that are elaborated upon them are quite often not published likewise.

Amendment 59
Article 2, paragraph 1, indent 2

– solidarity, economic and social cohesion
and sustainable development,

– solidarity, **gender equality**, economic and
social cohesion and sustainable
development,

Justification

As stated in articles 2 and 3(2) ECT, equality between women and men is an over-arching objective to be pursued by the Union.

Amendment 60
Article 3, paragraph 1, introductory part

1. The programme shall be implemented in accordance with the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice with a view to producing and disseminating high-quality, harmonised Community statistics and to ensuring a proper functioning of the European statistical system as a whole. National authorities and the Community statistical authority shall:

1. The programme shall be implemented in accordance with the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice with a view to producing and disseminating high-quality harmonised Community statistics **disaggregated by gender** and to ensuring a proper functioning of the European statistical system as a whole. National authorities and the Community statistical authority shall:

Justification

Even though data has been gathered disaggregated by gender, statistics that are elaborated upon them are quite often not published likewise.

Amendment 61
Article 3, paragraph 1, point (c)

(c) ensure that Community statistics comply with the European quality standards and serve the needs of European Union institutional users, governments, research

(c) ensure that Community statistics comply with the European quality standards, **take into account a gender perspective, are easy to comprehend** and serve the needs of

institutions, civil society organisations, enterprises and the public generally.

European Union institutional users, governments, research institutions, civil society organisations, enterprises and the public generally.

Justification

Even though data has been gathered disaggregated by gender, statistics that are elaborated upon them are quite often not published likewise.

Amendment 62

Article 3, paragraph 1, point (c a) (new)

(ca) guarantee the harmonisation of statistics in such a way that data, parameters, hierarchies and categories established by the Member States are also directly comparable from a gender perspective.

Justification

There are some difficulties in the harmonisation of statistics related to gender aspects which hinder the incorporation of a gender perspective in the definition and evaluation of EU policies.

Amendment 63

Article 4, paragraph 3 a (new)

3a. The programme shall guarantee that the whole statistic process takes into account a gender perspective ensuring that not only the gathering, but also the publication and diffusion of data is disaggregated by gender.

Justification

Even though data has been gathered disaggregated by gender, statistics that are elaborated upon them are quite often not published likewise.

Amendment 64

Annex I, section 1, paragraph 1

Trustworthy statistical information about the

Trustworthy statistical information

economic, social and environmental situation in the EU and its components at national and regional level is a necessary precondition for the European integration process. It provides the EU Institutions, Member States and citizens with the necessary factual means to assess the need for, and progress of, European policy initiatives. Harmonised and comparable statistics are also indispensable for the understanding of Europe among the general public, for the participation of citizens in the debate and democratic process about Europe's future and for the participation of economic operators in the single market.

disaggregated by gender about the economic, social and environmental situation in the EU and its components at national and regional level is a necessary precondition for the European integration process. It provides the EU Institutions, Member States and citizens with the necessary factual means to assess the need for, and progress of, European policy initiatives **and allows for the integration of equal opportunities**. Harmonised and comparable statistics are also indispensable for the understanding of Europe among the general public, for the participation of citizens in the debate and democratic process about Europe's future, **for obtaining adequate information on the equality of women and men** and for the participation of economic operators in the single market.

Justification

Statistics disaggregated by gender are a crucial part of gender mainstreaming.

Amendment 65

Annex II, title, "Cross-sectional statistical activities in support of overall Community policy priorities", subtitle -1 "Gender indicators" (new)

Gender indicators

Legal framework

Article 2, and in particular Article 3(2), of the EC Treaty, require the European Union, in all the activities it develops to achieve its objectives, to attempt to eliminate inequalities between men and women and to promote equality. As shown by the Commission's Gender Mainstreaming Communication) and the European Parliament's resolution of 16 September 1997 on that Commission Communication, the European Union has developed several gender indicators to assess the progress made in promoting gender equality in a range of policies, such as education, research, social and employment policy, regional policy,

development cooperation, gender balance in decision-making, reconciliation of work and private life, wage equality and domestic violence.

Current situation

The regular compilation and use of gender-disaggregated statistics and indicators for the framing and development of policies is a key element in the mainstreaming of equal opportunities. However, despite all the progress made, it is still hard to obtain an adequate overview of the situation of women in the European Union, to make systematic cross-correlations of data, or to study the changes that have occurred over time.

Main initiatives 2008-2012

- *Gender will be mainstreamed into the entire statistical process in such a way that there is gender-disaggregation not only of every data return, but also in its processing, publication and dissemination.*

- *Definition, similarly, of a system of gender indicators enabling mapping of the gender situation and the steering of policies.*

Justification

Ever since its inclusion in the Treaty of Amsterdam, the Union has incorporated gender mainstreaming as an policy overarching objective.

Amendment 66

Annex II, title IV, Main initiatives 2008-2012, indent 2

- Statistics providing socio-economic information about migrant populations shall be developed, including the implementation of ad hoc modules in the Labour Force Survey and the collection of migrant information as part of the 2011 Community Census Programme;

- Statistics providing socio-economic information about migrant populations shall be developed **and disaggregated by gender**, including the implementation of ad hoc modules in the Labour Force Survey and the collection of migrant information as part of the 2011 Community Census Programme;

Amendment 67
Annex II, title VIII, Current situation, paragraph 1

Labour market statistics are governed by a **solid legal framework** to assure regular data transmission for the estimation of employment, unemployment, earnings and labour cost. Nevertheless, new policy areas will require the extension of the statistical legislation to other domains such as (i) job vacancy statistics, evaluating the demand side of the labour market and complementing statistics on employment and unemployment, (ii) the labour market situation of migrants, promoting better integration of this population *and (iii) the transition **from school** to work*, underpinning adequate policies assuring a smooth incorporation of the young into the labour market. Other areas as **quality in work and employment** in an ageing labour force context, adaptability of workers and enterprises as well as the labour market needs of the information society will continue to focus the attention for the development of statistics.

Labour market statistics are governed by a **solid legal framework** to assure regular data transmission for the estimation of employment, unemployment, earnings and labour cost. Nevertheless, new policy areas will require the extension of the statistical legislation to other domains such as (i) job vacancy statistics, evaluating the demand side of the labour market and complementing statistics on employment and unemployment, (ii) ***statistics on informal work, including unpaid family work***, (iii) the labour market situation of migrants, promoting better integration of this population, *iv) **the labour market situation of older workers***, and *v) the transition to work **from education and training at every level***, underpinning adequate policies assuring a smooth incorporation of the young into the labour market. Other areas *such as **quality in work and employment** in an ageing labour force context, **women's participation in the labour market, the reconciliation of family life and work***, adaptability of workers and enterprises as well as the labour market needs of the information society will continue to focus the attention for the development of statistics.

Amendment 68
Annex II, title XI, Current situation, paragraph 2 a (new)

For the purposes of the collection of youth data, the existing indicators should be adjusted to enable information to be gathered that makes it possible to establish at national and European level both the number of students who have family responsibilities and their living conditions, and the extent to which family responsibilities are a factor in young people, and young women in particular,

abandoning their studies.

Amendment 69

Annex II, title XI, Main initiatives 2008-2012, indent 6

- Statistics on youth need to be built up successively using existing sources and, when needed, integrating them better in existing surveys;

- Statistics on youth ***at all educational levels and on youth economic and social integration*** need to be built up successively using existing sources and, when needed, integrating them better in existing surveys;

Amendment 70

Annex II, title XI, Main initiatives 2008-2012, indent 6 a (new)

- ***Statistics on children with reference to the internationally agreed age limit of childhood, which is 18 years, pursuant to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, must be complied with as regards the social situation of and poverty among children;***

Amendment 71

Annex II, title XI, Main initiatives 2008-2012, indent 7

- All social data collected on individuals at EU level shall be disaggregated by gender and a core set of indicators on the equality between men and women will be defined;

- All social data collected on individuals at EU level shall be disaggregated by gender and a core set of indicators on the equality between men and women will be defined, ***in particular as regards the conciliation of professional, family and private life, the participation in the decision-making process and all forms of income;***

Amendment 72

Annex II, title XI, Main initiatives 2008-2012, indent 7 a (new)

- ***A memorandum of understanding will be drawn up in cooperation with the European Institute for Gender Equality in order to define the practical cooperation modalities;***

Amendment 73

Annex II, title XI, Main initiatives 2008-2012, indent 7 b (new)

- ***Existing indicators will be adjusted to take into consideration the reconciliation of education and family life;***

Amendment 74

Annex II, title XI, Main initiatives 2008-2012, indent 8

- A common methodology to obtain or to improve existing statistical data on the extent and impact of discrimination will be developed and implemented.
- A common methodology to obtain or to improve existing statistical data on the extent and impact of discrimination ***within the meaning of Article 13 of the EC Treaty*** will be developed and implemented.

Amendment 75

Annex II, title XIII, Main initiatives 2008-2012, indent 3

- The availability, comparability, timeliness and policy relevance of statistics on public health – including statistics on disability and on health care – shall be improved, with specific attention to further methodological development and taking into account the different contexts in each country.
- The availability, comparability, timeliness and policy relevance of statistics on public health – including statistics on disability and on health care, ***disaggregated by gender*** – shall be improved, with specific attention to further methodological development and taking into account the different contexts in each country.

Amendment 76

Annex II, title XX, Main initiatives 2008-2012, indent 3

- A particular emphasis shall be put on the measurement and monitoring of poverty, progress on social cohesion, environmental sustainability and the Millennium Development Goal Indicators.
- A particular emphasis, ***taking into account the gender dimension***, shall be put on the measurement and monitoring of poverty, progress on social cohesion, environmental sustainability and the Millennium Development Goal Indicators.

PROCEDURE

| | |
|---|--|
| Title | Community Statistical Programme, 2008-2012 |
| References | COM(2006)0687 - C6-0427/2006 - 2006/0229(COD) |
| Committee responsible | ECON |
| Opinion by Date announced in plenary | FEMM 12.12.2006 |
| Drafts(wo)man Date appointed | Edit Bauer 16.1.2007 |
| Discussed in committee | 11.4.2007 2.5.2007 |
| Date adopted | 2.5.2007 |
| Result of final vote | +: 14 -: 4 0: 3 |
| Members present for the final vote | Katerina Batzeli, Edit Bauer, Emine Bozkurt, Ilda Figueiredo, Věra Flasarová, Anneli Jäätteenmäki, Livia Járóka, Piia-Noora Kauppi, Urszula Krupa, Pia Elda Locatelli, Astrid Lulling, Siiri Oviir, Marie Panayotopoulos-Cassiotou, Christa Prets, Amalia Sartori, Eva-Britt Svensson, Anna Záborská |
| Substitute(s) present for the final vote | Anna Hedh, Kartika Tamara Liotard, Marusya Ivanova Lyubcheva, Heide Rühle |
| Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote | Daciana Octavia Sârbu |

PROCEDURE

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|---|---|------------|------------|------------|
| Title | Community Statistical Programme, 2008-2012 | | | |
| References | COM(2006)0687 - C6-0427/2006 - 2006/0229(COD) | | | |
| Date submitted to Parliament | 16.11.2006 | | | |
| Committee responsible Date announced in plenary | ECON 12.12.2006 | | | |
| Committee(s) asked for opinion(s) Date announced in plenary | AFET | DEVE | INTA | BUDG |
| | 12.12.2006 | 12.12.2006 | 12.12.2006 | 12.12.2006 |
| | CONT | EMPL | ENVI | ITRE |
| | 12.12.2006 | 12.12.2006 | 12.12.2006 | 12.12.2006 |
| | IMCO | TRAN | REGI | AGRI |
| 12.12.2006 | 12.12.2006 | 12.12.2006 | 12.12.2006 | |
| PECH | CULT | JURI | LIBE | |
| 12.12.2006 | 12.12.2006 | 12.12.2006 | 12.12.2006 | |
| AFCO | FEMM | PETI | | |
| 12.12.2006 | 12.12.2006 | 12.12.2006 | | |
| Not delivering opinions Date of decision | AFET | DEVE | INTA | CONT |
| | 28.11.2006 | 19.12.2006 | 18.12.2006 | 27.11.2006 |
| | ENVI | ITRE | IMCO | TRAN |
| | 27.2.2007 | 27.2.2007 | 19.12.2006 | 19.12.2006 |
| | AGRI | PECH | CULT | JURI |
| | 19.12.2006 | 21.12.2006 | 28.11.2006 | 10.4.2007 |
| | LIBE | AFCO | PETI | |
| | 21.5.2007 | 1.3.2007 | 2.5.2007 | |
| Rapporteur(s) Date appointed | Zsolt László Becsey 12.12.2006 | | | |
| Discussed in committee | 10.4.2007 | 10.4.2007 | 8.5.2007 | |
| Date adopted | 5.6.2007 | | | |
| Result of final vote | +: 40 | | | |
| | -: 0 | | | |
| | 0: 1 | | | |
| Members present for the final vote | Gabriele Albertini, Zsolt László Becsey, Pervenche Berès, Sharon Bowles, Udo Bullmann, David Casa, Manuel António dos Santos, Christian Ehler, Jonathan Evans, José Manuel García-Margallo y Marfil, Jean-Paul Gauzès, Robert Goebbels, Donata Gottardi, Dariusz Maciej Grabowski, Karsten Friedrich Hoppenstedt, Sophia in 't Veld, Guntars Krasts, Andrea Losco, Astrid Lulling, Cristobal Montoro Romero, Joseph Muscat, Joop Post, John Purvis, Alexander Radwan, Dariusz Rosati, Heide Rühle, Eoin Ryan, Antolín Sánchez Presedo, Cristian Stănescu, Margarita Starkevičiūtė, Ivo Strejček, Ieke van den Burg, Sahra Wagenknecht | | | |
| Substitute(s) present for the final vote | Harald Ettl, Ján Hudacký, Werner Langen, Maria Petre, Gilles Savary, | | | |

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| | Andreas Schwab |
| Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote | Neena Gill, Anne Ferreira |