

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Committee on Budgets

2007/0156(COD)

8.4.2008

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 a Programme for the Modernisation of European Enterprise and Trade
Statistics (MEETS)
(COM(2007)0433 – C6-0234/2007 – 2007/0156(COD))

Draftswoman: Margarita Starkevičiūtė

PA_Legam

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

Introduction

The Commission proposal for a programme on Modernisation of European Enterprise and Trade Statistics (MEETS) aims to finance the development of enterprise and trade statistics for a period of 6 years (2008-2013).

The Programme objective is to adapt statistics to major changes in economy, due to the globalisation, and to the stronger European integration. These two changes justify the need for new types of indicators providing information by using new sources of information.

The Programme aims 4 specific objectives:

- identify new areas via the definition of target sets of indicators to be agreed in order to produce comparable data
- enforce the integration of concepts and methods in business statistics
- integrate data collection and treatment
- continue to simplify the Intrastat system (thresholds, ICT improvements, nomenclatures etc.).

Budgetary Implication

The financial envelope foreseen is of EUR 42 500 000 for the 6 years.

Total reference amount

		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013 and later	Total
Commitment Appropriations	a+c	5,000	6,500	11,500	9,000	6,500	4,000	42,500
Payment Appropriations	b+c	0,908	7,5695	9,175	10,1625	7,6625	7,0225	42,500

Draftswoman's position

The Draftswoman supports the Programme presented by the Commission. She believes that it is important to define priority areas and indicators in order to develop statistics and harmonise definitions. This will be extremely useful for the EU enterprises, as data will be comparable and more usable.

She does not wish to amend the Commission proposal, but she nevertheless raises some points that should be taken into account for a larger debate.

1. One of the concerns of the draftswoman is the link between the availability of data about enterprises and trade and the innovation policy, which is one of the most relevant points of the Lisbon Strategy. A clear definition of innovation and data related to it would be extremely useful to define the financing of specific budget lines in the EU budget and better orient the EU support to innovative enterprises. Only clear

and comparable indicators can support the clear definition of which expenditure categories are eligible for getting support for innovation.

2. The Draftswoman is concerned that although one of the main goals set for the Programme is to continue reducing the statistical burden on enterprises the Commission has not consulted enterprises, but just proceeded to an internal consultation within its working groups and national statistical offices. Enterprises should have been consulted, being the major providers of data and the ones which should benefit most from the MEETS programme.
3. The Draftswoman calls for clear and comparable data not only in the field of internal trade, but also external trade. In this respect she believes that this information could be a useful instrument to identify the expenses categories to be financed under heading 4 of the EU budget.
4. The draftswoman points out that the lack of coordination in setting the objectives of different statistical programmes does not allow a more efficient use of the funds allocated for the statistical programmes in the EU budget.

Finally the Draftswoman presents an amendment to the legislative resolution of the Parliament, in order to stress that the financial envelope indicated in the MEETS Programme legislative proposal must be compatible with the ceiling of the correspondent heading of the new multiannual financial framework (MFF) - in this case heading 1A - and that the annual amount for the Programme must be decided within the annual budgetary procedure in accordance with the provisions of point 37 of the Interinstitutional Agreement of 17 May 2006.

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:

Amendment 1

Draft legislative resolution Paragraph 1 a (new)

Draft legislative resolution

Amendment

1a. Considers that the financial envelope indicated in the Commission proposal must be compatible with the ceiling of subheading 1a of the 2007-2013 multiannual financial framework (MFF) as revised by Decision 2008/29/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2007 amending the

Interinstitutional Agreement of 17 May 2006 on budgetary discipline and sound financial management as regards the multiannual financial framework¹, and points out that the annual amount will be decided as part of the annual budgetary procedure in accordance with point 37 of the Agreement of 17 May 2006;

¹ OJ L 6, 10.1.2008, p. 7.

PROCEDURE

Title	Programme for the Modernisation of European Enterprise and Trade Statistics (MEETS)	
References	COM(2007)0433 – C6-0234/2007 – 2007/0156(COD)	
Committee responsible	ECON	
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	BUDG 3.9.2007	
Drafts(wo)man Date appointed	Margarita Starkevičiūtė 24.10.2007	
Discussed in committee	2.4.2008	8.4.2008
Date adopted	8.4.2008	
Result of final vote	+: 26	–: 0
	0: 0	
Members present for the final vote	Laima Liucija Andrikienė, Richard James Ashworth, Reimer Böge, Paulo Casaca, Brigitte Douay, Szabolcs Fazakas, Salvador Garriga Polledo, Ingeborg Gräßle, Louis Grech, Catherine Guy-Quint, Jutta Haug, Anne E. Jensen, Wiesław Stefan Kuc, Janusz Lewandowski, Vladimír Maňka, Cătălin-Ioan Nechifor, Margaritis Schinas, Esko Seppänen, Nina Škottová, Theodor Dumitru Stolojan, László Surján, Helga Trüpel, Kyösti Virrankoski, Ralf Walter	
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Richard Corbett, Libor Rouček	