



**2017/0048(COD)**

23.10.2017

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## **DRAFT REPORT**

on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on European business statistics, amending Regulation (EC) no 184/2005 and repealing 10 legal acts in the field of business statistics (COM(2017)0114 – C8-0099/2017 – 2017/0048(COD))

Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

Rapporteur: Janusz Lewandowski

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

**on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on European business statistics, amending Regulation (EC) no 184/2005 and repealing 10 legal acts in the field of business statistics  
(COM(2017)0114 – C8-0099/2017 – 2017/0048(COD))**

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

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the Commission proposal to Parliament and the Council (COM(2017)0114),
  - having regard to Article 294(2) and Article 338(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, pursuant to which the Commission submitted the proposal to Parliament (C8-0099/2017),
  - having regard to Article 294(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
  - having regard to Rule 59 of its Rules of Procedure,
  - having regard to the report of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (A8-0000/2017),
1. Adopts its position at first reading hereinafter set out;
  2. Calls on the Commission to refer the matter to Parliament again if it replaces, substantially amends or intends to substantially amend its proposal;
  3. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, the Commission and the national parliaments.

### **Amendment 1**

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

#### **Recital 3 a (new)**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***(3 a) Union guidance such as Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC<sup>1a</sup> are of relevance for European business statistics. A clear and harmonised definition of an enterprise is needed to foster legal certainty and business predictability and create a level playing field for Union-based SMEs.***

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*1a. Commission Recommendation concerning the definition of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (2003/361/EC) (OJ L 124, 20.5.2003, p. 36).*

Or. en

## Amendment 2

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

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

*(20 a) Members States or national competent authorities shall endeavour to simplify the collection of statistics from European businesses to the greatest extent possible. The European business statistics system should factor in the latest digital developments at the time when the instruments and methods for collecting statistics are being established.*

Or. en

## Amendment 3

### Proposal for a regulation Recital 21

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

(21) There is a need to provide business statistics structured by sector of activity, in order to measure the productivity of businesses in the Union. In particular, there is an increasing demand of statistics on the services sector, which is the most dynamic sector of modern economies, especially in terms of that sector's potential for growth and employment creation and taking into account the relations with the manufacturing sector. Statistics on trade in

(21) There is a need to provide business statistics structured by sector of activity, in order to measure the productivity of businesses in the Union. In particular, there is an increasing demand of statistics on the services sector, which is the most dynamic sector of modern economies, especially in terms of that sector's potential for growth and employment creation and taking into account the relations with the manufacturing sector. ***This will also be the***

services are essential for monitoring the functioning of the internal market for services and assessing the impact of barriers on trade in services.

***case for creative and cultural industries as proposed in the European Parliament resolution on a coherent EU policy for cultural and creative industries<sup>1a</sup>.***

Statistics on trade in services are essential for monitoring the functioning of the internal market for services and assessing the impact of barriers on trade in services.

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<sup>1a</sup> ***P8\_TA-PROV(2016)0486.***

Or. en

#### **Amendment 4**

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

##### **Recital 30**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(30) In order to take account of economic and technical developments, the power to adopt acts in accordance with Article 290 of the Treaty should be delegated to the Commission in respect of the detailed topics set out in Annexes I and II as well as the coverage rate for intra-Union exports of goods. The Commission should also have the power to supplement the detailed topics with subjects and characteristics for the dynamic business statistics on ICT, Innovation and Global value chains and exact information to be provided by tax authorities and custom authorities. It is of particular importance that the Commission carry out appropriate consultations during its preparatory work, including at expert level, and that those consultations be conducted in accordance with the principles laid down in the Interinstitutional Agreement on Better Law-Making of 13 April 2016<sup>1</sup>. In particular, to ensure equal participation in the preparation of delegated acts, the European Parliament and Council receive all documents at the same time as Member

*Amendment*

(30) In order to take account of economic and technical developments, the power to adopt acts in accordance with Article 290 of the Treaty should be delegated to the Commission in respect of the detailed topics set out in Annexes I and II as well as the coverage rate for intra-Union exports of goods. The Commission should also have the power to supplement the detailed topics with subjects and characteristics for the dynamic business statistics on ICT, Innovation and Global value chains, ***to supplement the register detailed topics with descriptive details, to supplement the statistical data elements for the micro-data collected through surveys on intra-Union trade in goods to be provided to the Member State of import and to supplement*** exact information to be provided by tax authorities and custom authorities. It is of particular importance that the Commission carry out appropriate consultations during its preparatory work, including at expert level, and that those consultations be conducted in accordance with the principles laid down in the

States' experts, and their experts have systematic access to meetings of Commission expert groups dealing with the preparation of delegated acts.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 123, 12.5.2016, p. 1.

Interinstitutional Agreement on Better Law-Making of 13 April 2016<sup>1</sup>. In particular, to ensure equal participation in the preparation of delegated acts, the European Parliament and Council receive all documents at the same time as Member States' experts, and their experts have systematic access to meetings of Commission expert groups dealing with the preparation of delegated acts.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 123, 12.5.2016, p. 1.

Or. en

## **Amendment 5**

### **Proposal for a regulation**

#### **Recital 31**

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

(31) In order to ensure uniform conditions for the technical implementation of certain elements of requirements including for business registers, the format, security and confidentiality measures and the procedure for the exchange of confidential data for the purpose of the European network of statistical business registers, the data and metadata transmission, data quality and metadata reports and derogations implementing powers should be conferred on the Commission. With the same purpose additional implementing powers should be conferred on the Commission with regards to the modalities of and the format, security and confidentiality measures and the procedure for the exchange of confidential data for the purpose of the intra-Union trade in goods statistics, the specifications of the relevant metadata, the timetable, the modalities of the collection and compilation of the statistical information on intra-Union exports of

##### *Amendment*

(31) In order to ensure uniform conditions for the technical implementation of certain elements of requirements including for business registers, the format, security and confidentiality measures and the procedure for the exchange of confidential data for the purpose of the European network of statistical business registers, the data and metadata transmission, data quality and metadata reports and derogations implementing powers should be conferred on the Commission. With the same purpose additional implementing powers should be conferred on the Commission with regards to the modalities of and the format, security and confidentiality measures and the procedure for the exchange of confidential data for the purpose of the intra-Union trade in goods statistics, the specifications of the relevant metadata, the timetable, the modalities of the collection and compilation of the statistical information on intra-Union exports of



goods provided to the Member State of import, the modalities for the application of the coverage rate of the total intra-Union exports of goods, *the statistical data elements for the micro-data collected through surveys on intra-Union trade in goods to be provided to the Member State of import* and the *related simplifications*. Those powers should be exercised in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and the Council<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 laying down the rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers (OJ L 55, 28.2.2011, p. 13).

goods provided to the Member State of import, the modalities for the application of the coverage rate of the total intra-Union exports of goods, and the *detailed arrangements for the simplification of the statistical data elements for the micro-data collected through surveys on intra-Union trade in goods to be provided to the importing Member State*. Those powers should be exercised in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and the Council<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 laying down the rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers (OJ L 55, 28.2.2011, p. 13).

Or. en

## Amendment 6

### Proposal for a regulation Article 3 – paragraph 2 – introductory part

#### *Text proposed by the Commission*

2. The European network of statistical business registers shall cover the national business registers and the EuroGroups Register, as well as the exchanges between them.

#### *Amendment*

2. The European network of statistical business registers shall cover the national *statistical* business registers and the EuroGroups Register, as well as the exchanges between them *in accordance with Article 10*.

Or. en

## Amendment 7

### Proposal for a regulation Article 6 – paragraph 4

*Text proposed by the Commission*

4. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 21 for the purpose of amending the detailed topics specified in Annex I and for the purpose of *specifying* subjects and characteristics covered by the detailed topics of Innovation and ICT usage and e-commerce and Global value chains.

*Amendment*

4. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 21 for the purpose of amending the detailed topics specified in Annex I and for the purpose of *supplementing* subjects and characteristics covered by the detailed topics of Innovation and ICT usage and e-commerce and Global value chains.

Or. en

## Amendment 8

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 6 – paragraph 5 – point b

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(b) not more than a maximum of one detailed topic for the subject area "short term business statistics", five detailed topics for the subject area "country-level business statistics", two detailed topics for the subject area "regional business statistics" and two detailed topics for the subject area "statistics on international activities" in an existing delegated act are **added or** replaced by another detailed topic over a period of five consecutive years. The maximum does not apply to amendments that result from agreements, Treaties and conventions and from other international institutions in which the Union is a member, and to changes that result from the changes to accounting frameworks of national and regional accounts in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 549/2013 and of balance of payments statistics in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 184/2005. The number of characteristics for detailed topics of dynamic business statistics shall not increase significantly between two

*Amendment*

(b) not more than a maximum of one detailed topic for the subject area "short term business statistics", five detailed topics for the subject area "country-level business statistics", two detailed topics for the subject area "regional business statistics" and two detailed topics for the subject area "statistics on international activities" in an existing delegated act are replaced by another detailed topic **over a period of five consecutive years. Not more than a maximum of one detailed topic for the subject areas in an existing delegated act are added** over a period of five consecutive years. The maximum does not apply to amendments that result from agreements, Treaties and conventions and from other international institutions in which the Union is a member, and to changes that result from the changes to accounting frameworks of national and regional accounts in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 549/2013 and of balance of payments statistics in accordance with Regulation (EC) No

consecutive reference periods and shall not exceed the number of characteristics of the first year of implementation of this Regulation;

184/2005. The number of characteristics for detailed topics of dynamic business statistics shall not increase significantly between two consecutive reference periods and shall not exceed the number of characteristics of the first year of implementation of this Regulation;

Or. en

## Amendment 9

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 6 – paragraph 5 – point c

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

(c) delegated acts are adopted **at least 15** months before the **end** of the reference period of the data except for the topics of "Innovation" and "ICT usage and e-commerce" for which the delegated acts shall be adopted at least **six and twelve** months respectively before the **end** of the reference period of the data.

##### *Amendment*

(c) delegated acts are adopted **no later than six** months before the **beginning** of the reference period of the data except for the topics of "Innovation" and "ICT usage and e-commerce" for which the delegated acts shall be adopted at least **three** months respectively before the **beginning** of the reference period of the data.

Or. en

## Amendment 10

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 7 – paragraph 2

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

2. When exercising the powers referred to in paragraph 1 with regard to the simplifications, the Commission shall take into account the size and importance of the business economies, in accordance with the principle of proportionality, in order to alleviate the burden on enterprises. In addition, the Commission shall ensure that the input needed for compiling the accounting frameworks of national and

##### *Amendment*

2. When exercising the powers referred to in paragraph 1 with regard to the simplifications, the Commission shall take into account the size and importance of the business economies, in accordance with the principle of proportionality, in order to alleviate the burden on enterprises. In addition, the Commission shall ensure that the input needed for compiling the accounting frameworks of national and

regional accounts according to Regulation (EC) No 549/2013 and of balance of payments statistics according to Regulation (EC) No 184/2005 is maintained.

Implementing acts, except for those that regulate the first implementation of this Regulation, shall be adopted at least **15** months before the *end* of the reference period of the data for the topics listed in Annex I. For the topics "Innovation" and "ICT usage and e-commerce" the implementing acts shall be adopted at least **six and twelve** months *respectively* before the *end* of the reference period of the data.

regional accounts according to Regulation (EC) No 549/2013 and of balance of payments statistics according to Regulation (EC) No 184/2005 is maintained.

Implementing acts, except for those that regulate the first implementation of this Regulation, shall be adopted at least **six** months before the *beginning* of the reference period of the data for the topics listed in Annex I. For the topics "Innovation" and "ICT usage and e-commerce" the implementing acts shall be adopted at least **three** months before the *beginning* of the reference period of the data.

Or. en

## Amendment 11

### Proposal for a regulation Article 7 – paragraph 3

*Text proposed by the Commission*

3. The implementing acts referred to in paragraph 1 shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 22(2).

*Amendment*

3. The implementing acts referred to in paragraph 1 shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 22(2). ***While preparing such implementing acts potential extra costs and administrative burdens on Member States or on the respondent shall be taken into account.***

Or. en

## Amendment 12

### Proposal for a regulation Article 8 – paragraph 4 – subparagraph 2

*Text proposed by the Commission*

National statistical business registers shall be the authoritative source for national

*Amendment*

National statistical business registers shall be the authoritative source for national

register populations. The EuroGroups Register shall be the authoritative source for the European Statistical System register population for business statistics requiring the coordination of cross-border information.

*statistical* register populations. The EuroGroups Register shall be the authoritative source for the European Statistical System *of* register population for business statistics requiring the coordination of cross-border information.

Or. en

### Amendment 13

#### Proposal for a regulation Article 9 – paragraph 2

*Text proposed by the Commission*

2. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 21 to amend the register detailed topics included in Annex III to relevant technical and economic developments and new user needs.

*Amendment*

2. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 21 to amend the register detailed topics included in Annex III to relevant technical and economic developments and new user needs ***and to add the descriptive details for each of the register detailed topics.***

Or. en

### Amendment 14

#### Proposal for a regulation Article 9 – paragraph 4

*Text proposed by the Commission*

***4. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt implementing acts in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 22(2) for the purpose of further specifying the descriptive details for each of the register detailed topics.***

*Amendment*

***deleted***

Or. en

## Amendment 15

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 10 – paragraph 2 – point c

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(c) In order to ensure efficiency and high quality in the production of the EuroGroups Register, exclusively for statistical purposes, the Commission (Eurostat), shall transmit to the staff contributing to the production of the EuroGroups Register in the national statistical authorities, data on all multinational enterprise groups recorded in the EuroGroups Register, including the units belonging to those groups.

*Amendment*

(c) In order to ensure efficiency and high quality in the production of the EuroGroups Register, exclusively for statistical purposes, the Commission (Eurostat), shall transmit to the staff contributing to the production of the EuroGroups Register in the national statistical authorities, data on all multinational enterprise groups recorded in the EuroGroups Register, including the units belonging to those groups ***when at least one legal unit of the group is located in the territory of that Member State.***

Or. en

## Amendment 16

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 10 – paragraph 3 – point b

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(b) In order to ensure efficiency and high quality in the production of the EuroGroups Register, the Commission (Eurostat), shall transmit to the national statistical authorities of each Member State, data on legal units, in accordance with Article 9(4), exclusively for the purpose of identification of legal units in the Union.

*Amendment*

(b) In order to ensure efficiency and high quality in the production of the EuroGroups Register, the Commission (Eurostat), shall transmit to the national statistical authorities of each Member State, data on legal units, in accordance with Article 9(4), exclusively for the purpose of identification of legal units in the Union ***when at least one legal unit of the group is located in the territory of that Member State.***

Or. en

## Amendment 17

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 10 – paragraph 6 – subparagraph 2

*Text proposed by the Commission*

Transmission of confidential data between national statistical authorities and the Commission (Eurostat) shall take place to the extent that such transmission is necessary for the production of European statistics. Any further transmission must be explicitly authorised by the national authority that collected the data.

*Amendment*

Transmission of confidential data between national statistical authorities and the Commission (Eurostat) shall take place to the extent that such transmission is necessary ***exclusively for statistical purposes*** for the production of European statistics. Any further transmission must be explicitly authorised by the national authority that collected the data.

Or. en

## Amendment 18

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 13 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 3

*Text proposed by the Commission*

The Commission shall be empowered to adopt ***implementing*** acts in accordance with ***the examination procedure referred to in Article 22(2)*** for the purpose of ***specifying*** the statistical data elements referred to in points (a) to (i), and for ***specifying*** the list of statistical data elements applicable for the specific goods or movements and the data compiled by using the particulars of customs declarations referred to in points (b) and (c) of Article 12(1).

*Amendment*

The Commission shall be empowered to adopt ***delegated*** acts in accordance with Article ***21*** for the purpose of ***supplementing*** the statistical data elements referred to in points (a) to (i), and for ***supplementing*** the list of statistical data elements applicable for the specific goods or movements and the data compiled by using the particulars of customs declarations referred to in points (b) and (c) of Article 12(1).

Or. en

## Amendment 19

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 16 – paragraph 6

*Text proposed by the Commission*

6. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt implementing acts specifying the modalities, content and deadlines for the transmission of the metadata and quality reports. These implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 22(2).

*Amendment*

6. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt implementing acts specifying the modalities, content and deadlines for the transmission of the metadata and quality reports. These implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 22(2) ***and shall not impose significant additional burden or cost on the Member States or on the respondent.***

Or. en

**Amendment 20**

**Proposal for a regulation  
Article 16 – paragraph 8**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

8. At the request of the Commission (Eurostat), Member States shall provide the additional information necessary to evaluate the quality of the statistical information.

*Amendment*

8. At the request of the Commission (Eurostat), Member States shall provide the additional information necessary to evaluate the quality of the statistical information. ***Such Commission requests shall not impose a significant additional burden or significant additional costs on the Member States.***

Or. en

**Amendment 21**

**Proposal for a regulation  
Article 17 – paragraph 3**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

3. Member States shall transmit to the Commission (Eurostat), at its request, any relevant information with regard to the

*Amendment*

3. Member States shall transmit to the Commission (Eurostat), at its request, any relevant information with regard to the



implementation of this Regulation in the Member States.

implementation of this Regulation in the Member States. ***Such Commission requests shall not impose a significant additional burden or significant additional costs on the Member States.***

Or. en

## Amendment 22

### Proposal for a regulation Article 19 – paragraph 3

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

3. *The first pilot studies to be launched shall cover the modes of supply of international trade in services and the international trade in services by enterprise characteristics.*

***deleted***

Or. en

## Amendment 23

### Proposal for a regulation Article 20 – paragraph 1 – point b a (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***(b a) developing methodologies aiming at lower costs and administrative burden of delivering required information by reporting units, in particular SMEs.***

Or. en

## Amendment 24

### Proposal for a regulation Article 21 – paragraph 2

*Text proposed by the Commission*

2. The power to adopt delegated acts referred to in Articles 5, 6, 9 **and** 12 shall be conferred on the Commission for **an indeterminate** period of **time**.

*Amendment*

2. The power to adopt delegated acts referred to in Articles 5, 6, 9, 12 **and 13** shall be conferred on the Commission for a period of **five years**. **The Commission shall draw up a report in respect of the delegation of power not later than nine months before the end of the five-year period. The delegation of power shall be tacitly extended for periods of an identical duration, unless the European Parliament or the Council opposes such extension not later than three months before the end of each period.**

Or. en

**Amendment 25**

**Proposal for a regulation  
Article 21 – paragraph 3**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

3. The delegation of power referred to in Articles 5, 6, 9 **and** 12 may be revoked at any time by the European Parliament or by the Council. A decision to revoke shall put an end to the delegation of the power specified in that decision. It shall take effect the day following the publication of the decision in the Official Journal of the European Union or at a later date specified therein. It shall not affect the validity of any delegated acts already in force.

*Amendment*

3. The delegation of power referred to in Articles 5, 6, 9, 12 **and 13** may be revoked at any time by the European Parliament or by the Council. A decision to revoke shall put an end to the delegation of the power specified in that decision. It shall take effect the day following the publication of the decision in the Official Journal of the European Union or at a later date specified therein. It shall not affect the validity of any delegated acts already in force.

Or. en

**Amendment 26**

**Proposal for a regulation  
Article 21 – paragraph 6**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

6. A delegated act adopted pursuant to Articles 5, 6, 9 **and** 12 shall enter into force only if no objection has been expressed either by the European Parliament or the Council within a period of two months of notification of that act to the European Parliament and the Council or if, before the expiry of that period, the European Parliament and the Council have both informed the Commission that they will not object. That period shall be extended by two months at the initiative of the European Parliament or the Council.

*Amendment*

6. A delegated act adopted pursuant to Articles 5, 6, 9, 12 **and 13** shall enter into force only if no objection has been expressed either by the European Parliament or the Council within a period of two months of notification of that act to the European Parliament and the Council or if, before the expiry of that period, the European Parliament and the Council have both informed the Commission that they will not object. That period shall be extended by two months at the initiative of the European Parliament or the Council.

Or. en

**Amendment 27**

**Proposal for a regulation  
Article 24 – paragraph 1**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

1. Where the application of this Regulation in a national statistical system of a Member State necessitates major adaptations, the Commission may grant, by means of implementing acts, derogations from its application for a maximum duration of three years, ***provided that these derogations do not hamper either the comparability of Member States' data or the calculation of the required timely and representative European aggregates.***

*Amendment*

1. Where the application of this Regulation in a national statistical system of a Member State necessitates major adaptations, the Commission may grant, by means of implementing acts, derogations from its application for a maximum duration of three years.

Or. en

**Amendment 28**

**Proposal for a regulation  
Annex II – Subject area 1 – table 1**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

Topics	Periodicity
Business population	Quarterly
Labour inputs	Quarterly
Prices	<i>monthly; quarterly for services producer price indices and producer price indices for new residential buildings</i>
Outputs and performance	<i>monthly; quarterly for small countries for NACE Section F</i>
Permits	Quarterly

*Amendment*

Topics	Periodicity
Business population	Quarterly
Labour inputs	Quarterly
Prices	<i>Quarterly</i>
Outputs and performance	<i>Quarterly</i>
Permits	Quarterly

Or. en

## EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

There is a growing demand for high quality statistics and data on business in the European Union. Data users, like private actors and policymakers, are making use of them to take evidence-based decisions, i.e. contribute to the strengthening of a single market based on knowledge and innovation.

European business statistics should be built upon a common and simple framework, with harmonized definitions that facilitate the understanding of the state of the EU's economy. Data should be gathered in a cost-effective manner and provided in a timely way, with comparability across Member States.

Statistics and data on Business Services remain, a challenge, in particular, because of their relative paucity. The fact that the nature of the European economy is changing, with a blurred boundary between manufacturing and services, makes the situation even more challenging.

On many occasions, the European Parliament has repeatedly stressed the need for more accurate and timely data and statistics at a Union level, both through resolutions and own initiative reports. The Commission has responded to these demands with proposal for a new framework Regulation (FRIBS), which aims to integrate statistical requirements and legal acts for business statistics by streamlining and simplifying them. By amending Regulation (EC) No 184/2005 and repealing 10 existing legal acts, the Commission uses the Regulatory Fitness and Performance (REFIT) programme to create a common legal framework for the production and compilation of European Statistical System (ESS) business statistics, while at the same time extending the system to include services that were previously not covered.

In general, your rapporteur agrees with the Commission's proposal. However, he seeks to improve the proposal by aligning it more with the purpose of REFIT: making it simpler, less costly and more predictable. While acknowledging the need to extend the coverage of the ESS to include certain services and the need for a flexible approach within the framework to allow adaptations to methodological developments and a timely response to the emerging needs of data-users, your rapporteur believes that it is further necessary to ensure that extra costs and administrative burdens on business, in particular SMEs, as well as Member States is limited to the minimum. Your rapporteur believes it is equally important, that the rules concerning the confidentiality of data be reinforced.