

The EFTA/EU Statistical Co-operation outside and within the EEA Framework

- Legal Basis, Practical
Experiences and Guidelines



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Preface

The purpose of this handbook is to collect and make available information on the EEA co-operation within the field of statistics as well as other EU-EFTA statistical co-operation. It is intended mainly for persons in the EFTA countries working on projects delivering data to Eurostat and/or participating in Eurostat meetings.

It is based on a previous handbook written in Norwegian (Statistisk sentralbyrås håndbøker nr. 47) published in 1994. This version is written in English for use also for other partners within the EFTA.

The EEA co-operation in the field of statistics is developing continuously, and information on for instance legal acts will soon become outdated. However, it is also possible to consult the EFTA homepage (www.efta.int) to get updated information. This handbook is up to date by August 2001.

Drafts of this handbook have been commented on by members of the international contact groups within Statistics Norway as well as by members of the EFTA Management Group in the field of statistics, and by the EFTA Secretariat.

The work on the handbook has been co-ordinated by Mr. Jan Byfuglien, who also has drawn on his past experience as EFTA Statistical Adviser.

Statistics Norway
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1. Introduction and background

The purpose of the statistical co-operation within the framework of the European Economic Area (EEA) is to develop an integrated European Statistical System (ESS) which can give coherent descriptions of all fields of co-operation covered by the EEA Treaty. This statistical system should also be able to describe the effects of this European integration process on different economical, social and environmental aspects.

It was already decided in 1989 to include statistical co-operation as part of the so-called “Oslo-Brussels process”, which was leading up to the EEA Agreement. As a result of this preparatory work, the Office of the Statistical Adviser in Luxembourg (OSA) was created in 1991 as a liaison office between the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) and the statistical authorities of the EFTA States.

The main legal bases for co-operation in the field of statistics under the EEA Agreement - including the Office of the Statistical Adviser - are Article 76 and Protocol 30 of the EEA Agreement. The areas of co-operation are specified more in detail in the Annex to Protocol 30. Annex XXI to the EEA Agreement contains common rules on statistics that are to be followed by all the EEA Contracting Parties.

The statistical co-operation has been evolving over the years, partly influenced by changes in the framework. One important effect was the departure of Austria, Finland and Sweden from EFTA already in 1995, which changed the balance of the co-operation and brought important changes in the EFTA Secretariat’s staff and in the number EFTA experts working in Eurostat. In the period after 1995 it has therefore been an increased challenge to keep the Eurostat staff aware about the continued existence of the statistical co-operation as a part of the EEA Agreement.

In general, however, one should observe that there has been, and still is, a relatively high level of co-operation in the field of statistics, expressed through intensive meeting activity, through expert participation and through joint projects. It has also become increasingly apparent that statistics truly are a horizontal activity with close links to other areas of EEA co-operation such as education, social protection, health, tourism, transport and environment.

The organisational framework of the co-operation is in general also operating very well. The Office of the EFTA Statistical Adviser is working in close connection with Eurostat: Minor problems which may arise due to the non-respect of agreed meeting procedures or the lack of follow-up of statistics from EEA/EFTA States are often solved in a non-bureaucratic way.

2. The European Statistical System (ESS)

Since the early days of the European Community it was realised that decisions on and planning and implementation of Community policies must be based on reliable and comparable statistics. So the European Statistical

System (ESS) was built up gradually with the objective of providing comparable statistics at EU level.

The ESS comprises Eurostat and the statistical offices, ministries, agencies and central banks that collect official statistics in EU Member States as well as the EEA/EFTA States. Member States collect data and compile statistics for national and EU purposes. The ESS functions as a network in which Eurostat's role is to lead the way in the harmonisation of statistics in close co-operation with the national statistical authorities. ESS work concentrates mainly on EU policy areas - but, with the extension of EU policies, harmonisation has been extended to nearly all statistical fields. The ESS also co-ordinates its work with international organisations such as OECD, the UN, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

2.1. The legal basis for the European Statistical System

In 1997 three major acts were adopted giving Community statistics a solid legal basis for the first time.

- Treaty of Amsterdam
- Statistical Law
- Commission Decision on Community Statistical Authority

These Acts ensure a durable basis for new statistical challenges to come with European integration. And they safeguard the autonomy of Eurostat, enshrining at a constitutional level the principles of impartiality, scientific independence and statistical confidentiality that are foundation of statistics in a democratic society. They emphasise the separation between policy and administration on one hand and Community statistics on the other. Finally, they highlight reliability, objectivity, cost-effectiveness and subsidiarity, which strengthen the partnership between Eurostat and the statistical authorities of Member States.

Treaty of Amsterdam

In June 1997 Article 285 was inserted in the Amsterdam Treaty, providing Community statistics with a constitutional basis for the first time.

1. *... the Council, ... shall adopt measures for the production of statistics where necessary for the performance of the activities of the Community.*
2. *The production of Community Statistics shall conform to impartiality, reliability, objectivity, scientific independence, cost-effectiveness and statistical confidentiality; it shall not entail excessive burdens on economic operators.*

Article 285 was a key step for EU statistics. More and more statistics have to be collected at Community level because of the development of the Union and it is no longer possible to ensure the availability of EU statistics on the basis of agreements alone.

Statistical Law

The Council of the European Union adopted what is known as the *Statistical Law* in February 1997. This Regulation defines the division of responsibility between national and Community statistical authorities. It also defines the basic conditions, procedures and general provisions governing official statistics at EU level. This Regulation (322/97 of 17 February 1997) is included in Annex XXI of the EEA Agreement and thus a foundation for the whole EEA statistical co-operation.

Firstly, this Act specifies the development and implementation of a Community statistical programme. Moreover, the Statistical Law specifies the basic principles ensuring high quality and professional standards, which are:

- impartiality
- reliability
- relevance
- cost-effectiveness
- statistical confidentiality
- transparency

One important part of the Statistical Law defines what should be meant by confidential data and how such data should be handled. It is important to note that this Act redefines confidential data as defined in the Council Regulation (Euratom, EEC) No 1588/90 on the transmission of confidential data.

Eurostat

A Commission Decision later in 1997 clarified the role of the Community Statistical Authority - Eurostat - defined in the Council Regulation. Secondly, it reaffirmed the need for those involved in Community statistics to follow fundamental principles in ensuring that statistics are scientifically independent, transparent, impartial, reliable, pertinent and cost-effective.

2.2. Tools for co-operation and co-ordination within the ESS

The European Statistical System is developed by discussions and consultations in a high number of committees, working groups and task forces having some 150 meetings per year (see also point 4.4 on different types of groups and EFTA participation).

The main co-ordinating body is the Statistical Programme Committee, but two other general committees also support ESS: CMFB and CEIES.

SPC

At the heart of the ESS is the **Statistical Programme Committee (SPC)**, which is chaired by Eurostat and brings together the heads of Member States' (also EEA/EFTA) national statistical offices. SPC discusses the most important joint actions and programmes to be carried out to meet EU information requirements. It agrees a five-year programme, which is implemented by the national authorities and monitored by Eurostat.

SPC co-ordinates the following activities:

- development of common classifications, methodology and definitions for application in Member States

- implementation of common statistical surveys based on harmonised methods, *and*
- collection, analysis and dissemination of statistical data for the EU, including comparisons between countries and regions.

The SPC is supported by a "**Partnership Group**" assisting the preparation of the SPC agenda by for instance identifying strategic issues, and a "Network Group" assisting in collecting and disseminating information and views linked to the SPC meetings.

CMFB

The Committee on **M**onetary, **F**inancial and **B**alance of Payments Statistics (CMFB) is the main mechanism for co-operation between Eurostat, the European Central Bank, Member States central banks, the national statistical institutes and DG II (Economic and financial affairs) of the European Commission. CMFB assists and gives the Commission advice on monetary, financial and balance of payments statistics. It mainly deals with the definitions of concepts, follow-up and evaluation of statistical instruments necessary for the EMU. One example of CMFB's work is the advice it gives on the definition and calculation of government deficit and debt. The Committee was established by Council Decision of 25 February 1991 (91/115/EEC).

CEIES

CEIES (Comité consultatif Européen de l'Information statistique dans les domaines **É**conomique et **S**ocial) is an advisory committee. Its main task is to act as a link to the users and producers of statistics and to comment on the development of the statistical programme seen in relation to user requirements and costs and burden on respondents. It was established by Council Decision of 25 February 1991 (91/116/EEC). The committee consists of two appointed representatives "of the economic, social and scientific world" from each Member State (including the EEA/EFTA States) as well as the Director Generals of the NSIs and representatives of the Commission. There is a plenary meeting once a year, but the main work of CEIES is carried out by subcommittees. In the 1999 plenary meetings three subcommittees and one study group were established:

- Subcommittee on Social Statistics
- Subcommittee on Economic and Monetary Statistics
- Subcommittee on Innovation in provision, production and dissemination of statistics
- Study Group HICP

3. The legal basis for the EEA co-operation in statistics

3.1. General

The EEA statistical co-operation should be seen in relation to the overall objective of the EEA Agreement which is:

"to promote a continuous and balanced strengthening of trade and economic relations between the Contracting Parties with equal conditions of competition, and the respect of the same rules, with a view to creating a homogeneous European Economic Area" (Article 1 of the EEA treaty).

It is further in Article 1 mentioned that the association in order to reach the mentioned objectives shall entail:

- the free movement of goods
- the free movement of persons
- the free movement of services
- the free movement of capital
- the setting up of a system ensuring that competition is not distorted and that the rules thereon are equally respected; as well as
- closer co-operation in other fields, such as research and development, the environment, education and social policy.

The contracting parties are now the 15 EU Member States and three of the EFTA states; Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

Article 76 of the EEA Agreement

Article 76 gives the basis for the Statistical co-operation, and is rather far-reaching as it mentions information covering “all relevant economic, social and environmental aspect of the EEA”. There is also a common undertaking to achieve this goal via harmonised methods, definitions and classifications. Article 76 reads:

1. *The Contracting Parties shall ensure the production and dissemination of coherent and comparable statistical information for describing and monitoring all relevant economic, social and environmental aspects of the EEA.*
2. To this end the Contracting Parties shall develop and use harmonised methods, definitions and classifications as common programmes and procedures organising statistical work at appropriate administrative levels and duly observing the need for statistical confidentiality.
3. Annex XXI contains specific provisions on statistics.
4. Protocol 30 contains specific provisions on the organisation of co-operation in the field of statistics.

3.2. EEA relevant legal texts (Annex XXI)

Legal texts adopted by the European Union within the field of statistics which also are made part of the EEA Agreement by EEA Joint Committee Decision (see also point 3.8) are included in Annex XXI. This annex will also note any EEA-specific amendments and adaptations. A version including decisions by the EEA Joint Committee update by 1 August 2001 attached at Annex 2.

When the EEA Agreement entered into force, 26 main acts were part of Annex XXI of the EEA Agreement. Annex XXI was extended by the inclusion of 8 additional acts in an update in 1994. A new update took place in 1996, whereby 7 new legal acts were incorporated into Annex XXI.

Since then, the EEA Joint Committee has adopted several further decisions incorporating new EC acts on statistics into the EEA Agreement. The legal acts cover different fields such as business, transport, external trade, national accounts, agriculture, fishery, energy as well as demographic and social statistics.

3.3. Implementation of the EEA statistical programme

In addition to the legal acts, which specify the obligations to deliver statistics in specific fields, there is an EEA Statistical Programme which defines the EEA relevance of the Eurostat planning modules. These modalities have so far been set out in an Appendix to Protocol 30, but in the revised Protocol 30 (Annex 1) this Appendix has been replaced by an annual update of the EEA Statistical Programme (See Annex 3). In this programme each module of the Eurostat annual programme is noted as being EEA non-relevant (O) or having High (H) or Low (L) priority in relation to the EEA co-operation. As a rule, data delivery and meeting participation from the EFTA side is expected within all modules having high priority for EEA/EFTA participation.

One issue is whether a subject is considered as *EEA relevant* or not. In the new Protocol 30 it is stated that “All main fields and statistical themes of the Community Statistical Programme for the period from 1998 to 2002 are seen as relevant for the general EEA Co-operation and the EFTA States may participate in meetings and concrete actions within these themes.”

It is estimated that around 75 per cent of the Eurostat work programme is EEA relevant. The areas of low priority for the EEA co-operation are for instance some parts of agricultural and regional statistics where the EU requires more detailed information than what is seen necessary for the EEA co-operation.

3.4. The legal framework for meeting participation (COMITOLOGY)

The general basis for the involvement of the EEA/EFTA States in meetings and in the preparation and implementation of legislation preparation and implementation are Articles 76 (see chapter 3.1 above) as well as Articles 99 and 100 of the EEA Agreement (see attached at Annex 4).

Article 99 states inter alia that advice from EFTA experts shall be sought in the same way as experts from EC Member states when drawing up new EEA relevant legislation. It is further provided that copies of draft legislation shall be sent to the EFTA States when transmitted to Council and it is assumed that there is an open exchange of information in the process leading up to the Council decision.

Article 100 concerns the involvement of EFTA experts in the preparatory stage of implementing measures, where the EFTA experts should be referred to on the same basis as experts from EC Member states. The participation “on equal footing” is confirmed in the declaration linked to Article 100 (see Annex 4).

There is also a joint declaration on applicable procedures for committees, in which EFTA States fully participate (see Annex 4), where the only exception concerns the participation in voting, if any.

According to Protocol 30, the EEA/EFTA States shall now be able to fully participate in all meetings within the field of statistics in which they want

to participate, according to the priorities set as part of the annual programme.

3.5. Voting and expression of opinions

A separate issue is to what extent the EFTA side shall “*speak with one voice*”. This principle applies to the EEA Joint Committee (Article 93 para. 2 EEA) and the EEA Council (see the Agreed Minute ad Article 90) when taking decisions. It is thus appropriate that the EFTA side expresses a consolidated and common opinion on new EC legal texts both at joint working group/committee level and in the Statistical Programme Committee (SPC) (especially *when comitology matters¹ are discussed*). Individual EFTA States might nevertheless want to express their own substantial comments. And it should be noted that in many cases there is no formal voting (even if it may be called so) but mainly a collection of opinions from different member states. In such cases the EFTA states should be free to express their views (see also point 3.4).

3.6. Preparation of new legal texts

Following the legal framework the EEA/EFTA States should participate in drawing up new EEA relevant legislation. It is therefore important to clarify at an early stage of the process whether a specific part of the legislation is EEA relevant or not, *and EEA relevance should be noted in the text*. This clarification, although not formally binding, should be done in consultation with EFTA experts and with the support of the Office of the EFTA Statistical Adviser. The EEA/EFTA States should also aim at commenting on the proposed new legislation (EEA decision-shaping).

However, any specific mention of derogations, etc. concerning EFTA States should not be part of the main legal text, even if the views of the EFTA side could be registered in the Explanatory Memorandum. Any adaptations for the EFTA side will have to be formally handled in the EEA process, when the legal text has been adopted by the EU side (see point 3.8 below).

3.7. Comitology - implementation of legislation

The EEA/EFTA States shall participate, on equal footing with EC Member states, in the preparation of the implementation measures resulting in *Commission acts*. Full participation is therefore foreseen at the preparatory stage in Working Groups, in SPC preparatory meetings, etc. as well as in the Statistical Programme Committee itself when proposals are discussed. However, the EEA/EFTA States do not have the same status as EC Member states for “voting”. Any views from the EEA/EFTA States shall be collected when there is a written consultation as part of the preparatory phase, and the views may be noted in the explanatory notes, even if they are not included in the formal text.

EEA/EFTA States participate fully in SPC preparatory meetings based on the general framework of co-operation, as well as on the Rules of Proce-

¹ “Comitology matters” means implementing measures/decisions leading to Commission legal acts *based* on a specific Council legal act (see “Comitology for non-jurists” issued by Eurostat).

cedure of the SPC, Article 3, (see Annex 4) where the EEA/EFTA representation is specified. As no formal votes are supposed to be taken, views from the EEA/EFTA States are registered in the same way as those of the EC Member states.

3.8. Inclusion of legal texts into the EEA Agreement

It is important to note that any specific adaptations for the EFTA States are formally handled when legal texts have been adopted on the EC side. Such adaptations, which have to be negotiated between the Contracting Parties to the EEA Agreement, are part of the decision to be taken by the EEA Joint Committee. A legal EC text is not formally applicable for the EFTA side before a decision on the incorporation of this text into the EEA Agreement has been taken in the EEA Joint Committee. However, as statistical legislation in most cases is non-controversial, it is understood that the EEA/EFTA States will adapt to the adopted EC legislation independently of the formal procedure for inclusion in the EEA Agreement, which often takes a rather long time.

One issue, which recently has been raised, is how to handle Commission acts containing derogations for EU Member states. Under the EEA two-pillar system (see Article 4(d) of Protocol 1 to the EEA Agreement) such derogations are to be handled on the EFTA side in accordance with the procedures established among the EEA/EFTA States (see the Agreements establishing a Surveillance Authority and a Court of Justice and a Standing Committee). In practice, this means that the EFTA Surveillance Authority (ESA) appears to be the competent body to grant derogations to EFTA States. When fulfilling their respective tasks, ESA and the Commission are in close consultations (see Art. 109 para.2 EEA and Prot. 1 to the EEA Agreement Art. 4(d)).

3.9. Budgetary provisions

The EEA/EFTA States have to make a contribution to the statistical programme in line with the contribution to other programmes. The EEA/EFTA contribution to EU programmes is based on a ratio based on the gross national product of the EEA/EFTA compared to the total EU gross national product.

The financial contribution to the statistical programme consists of three parts, based on Protocol 30, point 5:

- A contribution to the operational budget for statistics (Budget line 5600). The modalities of this contribution is based on Article 82(1)a of the Agreement. However, it has been agreed that EFTA shall pay only 75 per cent of the “normal” 100 per cent level, based on the fact that there are statistical areas where the EEA co-operation is less intensive and demanding than the EU co-operation, for instance in the field of agriculture and regional statistics.
- A special contribution for storing and disseminating EFTA statistics as it was found most convenient to establish joint databases and dissemination procedures instead of a separate EFTA solution.

- At last, there is a contribution to overhead costs based on the normal modalities of the Agreement (Article 82(1) b EEA). These overhead costs shall cover for instance work place costs for national detached experts and auxiliaries (hired office staff).

As EFTA is contributing to the operational budget of Eurostat, it is also foreseen that the EEA/EFTA States should have the possibility to obtain contracts to perform development work and projects (see point 4.7 below).

3.10. The EEA decision and implementation process

The EEA decision-taking process is based on *joint structures established by the Contracting Parties*. These joint structures are paralleled by internal EFTA structures.

The following groups are of relevance for the EEA statistical co-operation:

INTERNAL EFTA	JOINT EU/EFTA
Standing Committee of the EFTA States	EEA Joint Committee
↑	
Sub-committee IV on Flanking and Horizontal Policies	Subcommittee IV. Joint meetings.
↑	
Working Group of EFTA Heads of National Statistical Institutes	Heads level. Joint meetings
↑	
Expert Group on the Management of EEA Statistical programme	Management level. Joint meetings
Mandate: Provide necessary expertise for the Working Group of Heads of National Statistical Institutes in carrying out those tasks according to Decision No 1/94 of Subcommittee IV that pertain to the implementation of the EEA Statistical Programme as defined in Protocol 30 of the EEA Agreement. Reports to Working Group of Heads of NSIs.	Linked to internal meetings in the Management group there is also usually a joint meeting with representatives for Eurostat to discuss issues related to budgets, projects, experts etc.
Expert group on legislation	Legislation group. Joint meetings
Mandate: Provide necessary expertise for the Working Group of Heads of National Statistical Institutes in carrying out those tasks according to Decision No 1/94 of Subcommittee IV that pertain to any forthcoming amendment of Annex XXI of the EEA Agreement. Reports to Working Group of Heads of NSIs.	In connection with meetings in the internal legislation group in order to prepare the inclusion of new legal acts in the EEA Treaty, there is a joint meeting with Eurostat in order to seek clarification on an issues linked to adaptations.

4. The practical organisation of the co-operation

4.1. The Office of the EFTA Statistical Adviser

The Office of the EFTA Statistical Adviser (EFTA OSA) was created in 1991 as a liaison office between Eurostat and the EFTA National Statistical Institutes. At that time, the main objective was to ensure that EFTA States would become an integral part of the evolving European Statistical System, and thus provide harmonised and comparable statistics supporting the general integration process.

Statistics soon became a clear and visible part of the process leading to the EEA Agreement. Consequently, one of the tasks of the EFTA OSA was to co-ordinate the inclusion of a substantial part of the statistical legislation into the EEA Agreement. 26 out of 90 legal acts in the field of community statistics in 1990 (directives, regulations decisions) were included in the EEA Agreement, followed by eight additional ones in a 1994 update. In this process, it was necessary to co-ordinate and negotiate adaptations and derogations regarding, for instance, definitions, coverage and starting date for the different subject areas. Implementing data transmission from the EFTA States to Eurostat databases and publications was also a top priority, resulting, for instance, in a joint EFTA/EU edition of the booklet “Facts through Figures” in 1992. The EFTA OSA further took part in the recruitment of EFTA national experts for work within Eurostat. In addition, the EFTA Secretariat started to support the Statistical Assistance Programme for the Baltic States.

The major tasks have been defined as follows:

- contribution to the development of the EEA Statistical Programme
- support of the production and dissemination of EEA Statistics (via Eurostat)
- contribution to the integration of statistical legislation into the EEA Agreement
- information about Eurostat meetings, and co-ordination of EFTA-participation
- recruitment of EFTA experts to Eurostat
- co-ordination of EFTA/Eurostat co-financed projects
- support of EFTA involvement in the statistical part of the PHARE Programme and the TES project.

The legal basis for the EEA co-operation in the field of statistics -including the Office of the Statistical Adviser) is Article 76 and the revised Protocol 30 of the EEA Agreement, as adopted by the EEA Joint Committee in October 2000 (Annex 1).

The EFTA OSA is supported by a Working Group of the Heads of the EFTA National Statistical Institutes. This working group has also established two expert groups, one in the field of legislation and the other for management. These groups also have joint meetings with Eurostat (see point 3.10 above.)

To find out more about EFTA and its Secretariat and get an overview of EFTA's activities, please see Internet site: www.efta.int. There is a speci-

fic section on statistics, showing some main figures, and indicating links to Eurostat and to the EFTA National Statistical Institutes.

4.2. Eurostat - The Statistical Office of the European Communities²

Eurostat tasks

Eurostat is one of the Directorates-General of the Commission of the European Communities, now with the abbreviation ESTAT.

Meeting the growing demand for statistical information from:

- the Commission and the other EU institutions,
- trade and industry,
- politicians,
- private and public institutions, universities,
- the news media,
- private individuals.

All these groups have a need for reliable and comparable statistical data, an essential part of which uniform are definitions.

It is Eurostat's job to provide these official statistics and to ensure a common statistical language within the EU.

Establishing an integrated European statistical system

The aim of Eurostat is to create common classifications, methods and organisational structures for compiling comparable statistics on the EU Member states.

Increasing co-operation between Eurostat and Member states will lead to constant improvement of the European statistical system (ESS).

The next great challenge is to include Central and European countries in this process.

Beyond Europe, Eurostat is playing a leading role in co-ordinating statistical systems with international organisations and the USA, Canada and Japan.

The Statistical Programme

Since 1974, Eurostat has been drawing up pluriannual Statistical Programmes in conjunction with the Commission's Directorates-General and the National Statistical Institutes of the Member states.

The 1993-1997 Programme

The 1993-1997 Programme involved the following elements:

- reinforcement of the statistical infrastructure in the single market and in relation to the Treaty on European Union;
- as a result of the single market, the application of new ways of measuring the trade in goods between the Member states (Intrastat);
- development of statistics, in particular economic indicators, following the move towards Economic and Monetary Union, and the monitoring of social and regional measures.

² The information on Eurostat is based on available sources, amongst others the WEB presentation of Eurostat, see: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat>

The 1998-2002 Programme

The 1998-2002 Programme follows the requirements of major Community policies and emphasis lies within the following areas:

- ***Economic and Monetary Union:*** Pursuing development and production of statistics required for monitoring monetary union and the Stability and Growth Pact.
- ***Competition, growth and employment and the Pact for Employment:*** Developing statistics on the labour market, industry, services, trans-European networks and living conditions.

EU enlargement

Eurostat will continue to collect harmonised data for negotiations with Candidate Countries and assist them in improving their statistical systems to meet Community requirements and integrating them into the European Statistical System.

Disseminating statistical results

Eurostat presents its statistical work to the public via electronic media or printed publications and offers a growing number of services. Communication with the news media in Europe and beyond is also an important and expanding activity.

International conferences organised or attended by Eurostat and regular working sessions will also continue to contribute to Eurostat's reputation in the statistical field.

Co-operation with non-EU countries

A further Eurostat task is co-operation with countries that need help, for example developing countries and those in Central and Eastern Europe.

The European Union is supporting and co-ordinating the implementation of a statistical system, particularly in the weaker countries.

Significant dates in the history of EUROSTAT

1953	The Statistics Division for the Coal and Steel Community established.
1958	The European Community founded and the forerunner of Eurostat established.
1959	The present name of Eurostat as the Statistical Office of the European Communities adopted. First publication issued - on agricultural statistics.
1960	First Community Labour Force Survey.
1970	The European System of Integrated Economic Accounts (ESA) published and the general industrial classification of economic activities (NACE) established.
1974	First domain in the Cronos databank installed.
1988	European Commission adopts a document defining the first policy for statistical information.
1989	The Statistical Programme Committee established and the first programme (1989-1992) adopted by the Council as an instrument for implementing statistical information policy.
1990	The Council adopts a directive on transmission of confidential data to Eurostat, previously an obstacle to Community statistical work.
1991	Eurostat's role extended as a result of the agreement on establishment of the European Economic Area and adoption of the Maastricht Treaty.

1992	Statistical Programme 1993-1997 adopted.
1993	The single market extends Eurostat's activities eg Intrastat established for statistics on intra-EU trade. Eurostat starts issuing regular news releases.
1994	First European household panel held, analysing income, employment, poverty, social exclusion, households, health etc.
1997	Statistics added for the first time to the Treaty of Amsterdam and the Statistical Law approved by the Council. Harmonised Indices of Consumer Prices published for the first time - designed for EMU convergence criteria The 11 countries in at the start of EMU (EUR-11) announced and Eurostat issues the first indicators specific to the EMU area. Statistical programme 1998-2002 adopted.
1999	Start of EMU, 1 st January

How Eurostat works

As with any service provider, Eurostat's prime aim is to answer requests for specific statistical information. As it is the Statistical Office of the European Communities, these requests most frequently come from the European Commission. They are followed by 3 essential steps.

Validation of the statistical research itself

Together with the appropriate Directorates-General plus experts' reports and the recommendations of international organisations (UN, OECD...), Eurostat prepares a statistical programme which is submitted to the European Commission's "Statistical Programme Committee ". Eurostat then works with the different committees, expert groups and working groups concerned to achieve a broad consensus on the proposed new statistics.

Data collection

Eurostat collects its data from the National Statistical Institutes of the countries concerned. All data are checked by Eurostat, compiled in the required form and, where applicable, harmonised with European Statistical System standards.

Legal base

When new statistics are adopted in the European Union, or when there is a need to harmonise statistics from Member states, the decision is taken by a Council legal act which may take one of the following 3 forms:

- regulation
- directive
- decision

Statistical data collected, harmonised and referenced by Eurostat are disseminated as electronic products and computerised media, printed publications or databases. They are regularly updated and are divided into 9 major statistical themes:

Dissemination of statistical information

Eurostat databases

Currently, Eurostat offers a thematic selection of databases that are constantly added to, updated and harmonised. They include:

New Cronos	More than 160 million items of data in this macroeconomic and social database on Member states of the European Union, and, in many cases, on their main non-European economic partners.
Comext, "external trade database"	For data on imports and exports by EU countries in both value and volume terms. 11 000 products by year are covered with all partner countries (more or less 250).
REGIO	Containing all Member states' socio-economic data, with regional breakdown
Eurofarm	Statistical data based on the Union surveys on the structure of agricultural holdings.
GISCO	Database that combines statistical information and geo-referenced data, allowing each item of data to be related to its environment.

In line with its mission as a provider of statistical information, Eurostat offers users a Data Shop service. The Eurostat Data Shops network is open to the public for any information on Eurostat databases, their respective data or access possibilities, as well as any specific statistical search.

Eurostat printed publications

Eurostat disseminates its statistics in two forms :

- statistical documents
- publications

The former are directed mainly at the specialist. Usually they deal with a limited topic by way of tables and a brief commentary. In many cases, the information in the document is released in advance to the international media through press releases.

Publications provide a more general public with well-presented data accompanied by commentary.

Each year, Eurostat has more than 100 different publications appearing. Depending on subject and importance, they are translated into between three and nine, and soon into eleven European Community languages.

All publications are listed under one of the 9 statistical themes covered by Eurostat. The most significant ones are presented on-line (products presented on-line). Some can even be accessed immediately, either free of charge or by subscription (publications available on-line).

For a full overview of Eurostat products and services, this site offers you the option of downloading the available Eurostat catalogues.

Eurostat electronic products

Some statistical data from the Eurostat databases are published in CD-Rom format, such as:

- The Comext CD-Rom : 10,000 product headings, the detailed "geomenclature" of 200 countries, all the previous year's data broken down by month, quarter, year... the main statistics on the external trade of EU member countries and their major partners.

- The Eurostat yearbook '95 CD-Rom : from 1983 to 1993, the main socio-economic statistics of each EU Member State and a comparison with their economic partners.
- Panorama of European Union Industry CD-Rom: more than 15,000 chronological series, from 1982 to 1992, profile of Europe's 500 largest private companies, all the significant trends of the 25 major industrial sectors in Europe... A model of completeness!
- Eurofarm CD-Rom : a specialist database on agricultural, wine-growing and fruit-growing holdings, Eurofarm contains the results of surveys conducted in 1975, 1979/80, 1983, 1985 and 1987 by each of the 15 member countries of the European Union. From household incomes to prices and other production figures.

The European network

Eurostat's network for distributing statistical information follows the same principle as the harmonisation of the data itself: to offer everyone access to statistical data of guaranteed reliability that can be compared between countries. This information and distribution network is based around 7 main structures for all users:

- The Eurostat Data Shops network. Aimed at the broader public, the Eurostat Data Shop network answers any specific request for information, publication or statistical search.
- Private hosts: They disseminate either entire Eurostat databases or part of them.
- The National Statistical Institutes. Provide references for national publications and main Eurostat data.
- Sales offices. Some 45 sales offices stock all EU publications, including those of Eurostat.
- Offices and delegations. These are the Commission's official information centres. They provide the public with statistical information on current EU developments.

Organisation and budgetary resources

In 1999 around 730 people worked in Eurostat. Of these, 560 were officials, 70 were experts sent from Member States and another 100 had other types of contracts. Eurostat had a total budget of around 154 million Euro in 1998.

As one of the Directorates-General of the European Commission, Eurostat is headed by a Director General. Under him are six Directors and a Chief Adviser responsible for different sectors of Eurostat activities:

- Statistical information systems, research and data analysis, co-operation with Phare and Tacis.
- Economic statistics and economic and monetary convergence.
- Information and dissemination, transport, co-operation with non-EU countries, trade statistics.
- Business statistics.
- Social and regional statistics and geographical information systems.
- Agricultural, environmental and energy statistics.

4.3. EFTA procedures for data collection and dissemination

According to the Agreement on Statistical Co-operation, Eurostat has the responsibility to disseminate statistics on the whole of the EEA, based on a contribution from the EFTA side.

In order to assess the content of statistics covering the EFTA States several reviews have been made of Eurostat publications and databases. A gradual improvement has been noted, and is now considered to be on a rather satisfactory level. However, there is still room for improvements, both in the timeliness of data transmission to Eurostat and the coverage of EFTA data in some publications. It is also important to make use of available and standardised tools for efficient data transmission, such as GESMES.

The following procedures should normally be followed for the collection and transmission of statistical data:

- EFTA OSA shall forward requests for new ad-hoc or regular statistics to the EFTA NSIs
- The EFTA NSI may send statistics according to these requests directly to the Eurostat responsible unit, but with information to EFTA OSA.
- Requests for regular and routine collection of statistics are sent directly from the responsible Eurostat unit to the EFTA NSIs.
- EFTA OSA will contribute to the follow up the collection of the statistics from the EFTA States, when needed.
- Eurostat has the responsibility to include EFTA statistics into databases and publications when it has been transmitted in proper form from the NSIs.
- EFTA OSA makes regular evaluations and follow-up of the inclusion of EFTA statistics in databases/publications.
- While EFTA statistics is supported as part of the normal Eurostat dissemination network, EFTA OSA may follow up special dissemination of EFTA statistics.

4.4. Eurostat meetings and EFTA participation

To ensure the flow of information and co-ordination of EFTA participation in meetings a procedure has been developed involving the Office of the EFTA Statistical Adviser (EFTA OSA):

- EFTA OSA produces monthly meeting lists on the basis of information from Eurostat, and distributes these lists to EFTA NSIs and other interested persons/institutions
- The responsible Eurostat Unit/Directorate sends invitations to EFTA OSA
- EFTA OSA transmits invitations to EFTA Member states
- EFTA NSIs announce participation to EFTA OSA
- EFTA OSA informs security and relevant Eurostat unit

- Meeting documents, reports etc. are transmitted to EFTA OSA and to the meeting participants directly. However, it should be noted that documents more and more are distributed in electronic form using the CIRCA site or directly by E-mail.

Participation in EEA committees and working groups

The EEA/EFTA States participate fully in Eurostat's formal committees on EEA-relevant matters, as well as in various working groups and task forces.

In this context it is important to note the differences between different meetings:

Formal committees

These are Committees established based on a specific Decision and include:

- Statistical Programme Committee (SPC) (Council Decision 89/382/EEC)
- Committee on the Harmonisation and Compilation of GNP at market prices (Council Directive 89/130/EEC)
- Committee on monetary, financial and balance of payments statistics (CMFB) (Council Decision 91/115/EEC)
- European Advisory Committee on statistical information in the economic and social spheres (CEIES) (Council Decision 91/116)
- Committee on Statistical confidentiality (Council Regulation No 1588/90)

The participation of the EFTA States was secured by mentioning these committees in Agreed minutes to Protocol 30.

Sectoral Committees

Further there are sectoral committees of the Statistical Programme Committee:

- NACE/CPA Committee (Council Regulation (EEC) No 3037/90 and Council Regulation (EEC) No 3696/93)
- PRODCOM Committee (Council Regulation (EEC) No 3294/91)
- Committee on statistical units (Council Regulation (EEC) No 696/93)
- Committee on business registers (Council Regulation (EEC) No 2186/93)

SPC preparatory Committees

There is also a possibility for the SPC to decide on setting up SPC preparatory Committees linked to specific legal acts. For the moment there are two such committees established:

- SPC Preparatory Committee on industrial structural statistics (Council Regulation No 58/97)
- SPC Preparatory Committee on short term indicators (Council Regulation No 1165/98)

Full participation of EEA/EFTA representatives in SPC sectoral Committees and SPC preparatory committees should be fully guaranteed based on the general EEA framework (see point 3.4) as well as the provisions of Protocol 30.

Other Committees

There are some Committees based on legal acts neither being SPC sectoral committees nor mentioned in Agreed Minutes. These committees include:

- Nomenclature Committee (Council Regulation No 2658/87)
- Committee on Statistics relating to the trading of goods between Member states (Council Regulation (EC) No 1172/95)
- Committee on External Trade Statistics with 3rd countries (often joint meetings with the previous one) (Council Regulation (EC) No 1172/95)
- Standing Committee for Agricultural Statistics (Council Decision No 72/279/EEC)

As the committees in practise also act as informal working groups discussing items of high priority in the EEA programme, full EFTA participation should be expected. Thus it is now the understanding that EFTA should have full participation in these committees, possibly with one exception: Nomenclature Committee. This committee is a somewhat special case as it is based on a legal act not included in the EEA Agreement and the work is mainly followed by the Customs authorities.

In the case of the joint external trade committee full EFTA participation is ensured through a formulation in the "Rules of procedures":

"Representatives from EEA/EFTA States can participate fully in EEA-relevant matters, except for voting. In EU-relevant matters, however, they have the status as observers".

The Standing Committee for Agricultural Statistics

is based on a legal act not included in Annex XXI. The problem has also been that items in the field of agricultural statistics have only been partially included as EEA-relevant. EFTA States have thus been considered to have observer status. However, the committee has a mixed role as it overlaps with the informal functions as a working group. Based on the revised Protocol 30 defining the EEA programme in a somewhat broader sense and also including more parts of the field of agricultural statistics, there should be full participation also in this committee.

Participation in working groups/committees outside the EEA

There are some working groups/committees handling areas outside the EEA co-operation where the status of the EFTA side (including Switzerland) might have been considered somewhat unclear:

- Steering Committee on "Statistical co-operation with countries of Central and Eastern Europe), now: Policy group PHARE and Management group PHARE.
- Steering Committee on "Statistical co-operation with New Independent States and Mongolia" (partly joint with the previous one)
- Directors Committee/Management Committee MEDSTAT

The basis for participation in these "committees" or "groups" has been ensured through a Memorandum of Understanding for the PHARE and the MEDSTAT programmes respectively.

4.5. Legal texts and involvement in the process

There are different types of legal texts:

Regulations	Normally more or less immediate entry into force after adoption by the EU Council/EP or The Commission. They are binding and directly applicable in the Member states. Can specify objectives and means.
Directives	Oblige the Member states to transpose common EC rules into national law within a certain timeframe; but national authorities have the choice of forms and methods of transposition.
Decisions	Normally more or less immediate entry into force after adoption. Directly binding upon the Member states which are the addressees of the decision. Often restricted to a specific topic or programme.

More recently, there has been an increasing tendency to adopt rather broad and general Regulations (Directives are not used often any more in the field of statistics). Such regulations often require further implementing commission acts following the comitology procedure by involving the SPC and possibly SPC preparatory meetings. These acts will take the form of Commission Decisions or Regulations specifying more in detail definitions, transmission formats, derogations during transitional periods etc.

This development means that there is a need for active involvement in the process leading up to implementing measures. There is also a need to speed up the process of transposing Commission Decisions and Regulations into Annex XXI of the EEA Agreement, as some of these legal acts may have a short lifespan (see also the annex 5).

The legislation process

The following is a detailed description of the different steps to consider in order to ensure an efficient handling of new legal texts when adopted by the EU side (see also Annex 5):

1. EFTA OSA informs the EFTA NSIs, which are the '*experts*' as referred to in the general EFTA procedural guidelines (Annex 5), about adopted legislation in the field of statistics as soon as it is passed. Acts should be identified and distributed together with the standard sheet *within a week from their publication*. This will require a continuous follow up of Official Journal, or regular information from legal unit within Eurostat. When the act is sent for comment EFTA OSA should transmit any available information of importance for judging the possible EEA relevance.
2. The deadline for responding should in the 'normal' case be five to eight weeks and in 'urgent' cases be two to four weeks. For implementing acts with a short lifetime (Commission regulations) *short response time should be the normal*. It is important that both the EFTA Secretariat and the EFTA States keep official track of this process (post journal) and that any delay is followed up by the Secretariat.

3. It is important that the EFTA NSIs note any requests for “technical adaptations”, meaning minor technical problems linked to for instance a particular definition, or “substantial adaptations”, meaning problems to comply with a major part of the legal act. Such requests should be followed by necessary documentation. Furthermore, any constitutional requirements (need for a parliamentary process) should be indicated. This process will only be necessary when a legal act will require adaptations in existing national legislation or a specific budgetary decision on Parliament level (Article 103 of the EEA Agreement).
4. The issue of *EEA relevance* of an act is normally decided on the basis of the response on the form, and a possible exchange of views/discussion between the EFTA NSIs. In this process the Legislation group should play an active role, supported by EFTA OSA. It should be noted that the issue of EEA relevance and any adaptations already should have been addressed in the preparatory stage of the act (cp. point 4.4 on meeting participation). When necessary, the issue of EEA relevance will have to be brought up to the Heads of NSIs working group for discussion.
5. On the basis of the comments, the EFTA Secretariat (legal officer serving the Persons & Programmes Unit in Brussels) drafts a decision, and the NSI's are given *a short time (seven days) to respond on the drafts.*
6. When there are problems to finalise a draft, due to lack of response or difficulties in reaching agreement on adaptations/derogations the following actions should be taken, as based on the procedural guidelines (Annex 5) point 4:

The EFTA Secretariat (EFTA OSA) drafts a note describing the issues and a proposed timetable for completing of the process. This is circulated to the legislation group for decision and action. When necessary, the issue is put on the agenda of the Heads of NSIs working group. In specific cases with major problems and long delays, the issue should also be brought to the attention of Subcommittee IV.
7. The Heads of the NSIs WG has delegated some its tasks to a 'Legislation group' with the mandate to provide assistance in the updating of Annex XXI of the EEA Agreement (see point 3.10 of the Handbook). To facilitate the process the Legislation group can have joint meetings with Eurostat in order to clarify and reach agreement on specific issues. Joint meetings between the EFTA Heads WG and Eurostat also on legislation issues can also be necessary to reach agreement. This is in line with the point 5 of the procedural guidelines.

The final draft is forwarded to the EFTA legal officer in Brussels for final technical scrutiny before being put into the pipeline for Subcommittee IV and the EEA Joint Committee. There has been a practise to “bundle” several legal acts in the field of statistics in one decision to avoid frequent updates. However, experience shows that it is important to prepare a separate decision for each legal act where problems in the clearance process are foreseen.

8. The EFTA Secretariat will circulate any revised versions to the EFTA NSIs for verification, within a fixed time limit (normally 7 days).
9. When adopted by the EEA Joint Committee the legal act will be formally binding for the EEA/EFTA States, including any derogations and/or adaptations.

Handling of derogations

The following points should be considered when handling legal acts granting derogations to EU Member States:

1. When a provision in an act in the statistical field, which is incorporated in Annex XXI of the EEA Agreement, provides for the possibility that the European Commission may grant EU Member States formal derogation from provisions of the act in question, an individual EFTA State may apply to the EFTA Surveillance Authority for a corresponding derogation.
2. If the Office of the Statistical Adviser becomes aware that the Commission has granted EU Member States such derogations, it shall inform the experts of the EFTA States.
3. An application by an EFTA State for derogation should be addressed to the EFTA Surveillance Authority, Directorate for the Free Movement of Persons, Services and Capital. It should contain a reference to the initial EU act on which the derogation is based, number, title, adoption date article and paragraph, as well as the same elements of the act granting the derogation. If the initial act so requires, reasoning behind the request for derogation should be given.

4.6. EFTA experts at Eurostat

Even before the EEA Agreement came into force the EFTA States were invited to send detached experts to work with Eurostat. This co-operation was based on a Memorandum of Understanding where the objective was to give EFTA experts the same conditions and opportunities as the EU member states experts.

The conditions for detached experts in the field of statistics have in general followed the rules as applied to detached experts from EU Member states, and are at present the following:

- A detached expert is working for Eurostat, on leave from his/her home job.
- Normally he/she gets normal wage at home,
 - + daily allowance (for the moment 104.3 Euro per day)
 - + a possible flat rate allowance (CHF 100-2000)
 - + home leave each month or removal

The maximum period of stay of detached experts is 3 years, which also should be considered to be the normal period.

The benefits from having a high level expert participation are obvious. It is an important way of exchanging competence and ensuring a more harmonised development of the European Statistical System. Furthermore, it

provides an important source of practical and statistical competence for Eurostat, and it supplies international experience to the staff working in national statistics.

Expert Recruitment

The procedure for the recruitment of experts is normally as follows:

- List of vacancies provided regularly by Eurostat Unit R-1 to the EFTA Statistical Adviser (OSA)
- OSA distributes vacancy lists to EFTA NSIs
- OSA collects CVs from interested candidates from EFTA NSIs and sends them to Eurostat (R-1) for circulation to relevant units
- Interested units contacts OSA for further discussion of the possible expert detachment
- When agreed, unit R-1 starts the formal procedure with exchange of letters, and the EFTA Secretariat/OSA starts preparing the necessary contracts

Since the start of the statistical co-operation the EFTA Secretariat has had an administrative role in handling the contracts both with expert and the home institution as well as the budgets for the detached experts in this field. This arrangement has proved flexible and contributed to maintaining a relatively high level of experts in the field of statistics.

Expert contribution

Experts from EFTA States have over the years contributed in the following areas:

- (a) legal matters;
- (b) national accounts;
- (c) forestry statistics;
- (d) household panels/income distribution;
- (e) balance of payments;
- (f) informatics;
- (g) databases;
- (h) geographic information systems;
- (i) statistics on migration;
- (j) fishery statistics;
- (k) retail trade;
- (l) innovation;
- (m) employment statistics

4.7. Participation by EEA/EFTA States in projects supported by EU grants

Since the start of the EEA Agreement the EEA/EFTA States have been active in proposing projects to be co-financed by the Commission in order to develop the joint statistical system.

The main objective of projects thus co-financed is to contribute to the development of the European Statistical System by improving the collection and harmonisation of joint data for the European Economic Area. Projects should also stimulate the co-operation between different National Statistical Institutes and between National Institutes and Eurostat.

Projects worked on since 1994 include:

- Waste classifications
- Environmental indicators
- Administrative registers
- Business register
- Restructuring the register of enterprises
- Inventory of the procedures and basic statistics used to calculate GNP.
- Longitudinal non response in panel surveys
- Source nomenclature for emissions
- Use of neural networks when producing statistics from administrative registers
- Commodity flows, input-output tables and quarterly national accounts
- Identification and NACE-linkage of waste management facilities
- Integrated emission statistics (EPIS)
- Satellite accounts of environment protection expenditure and supply of goods and services
- Comparison of income data from different sources (NOREEA)
- Price project for capital goods
- Land use statistics
- Implementation of ISCED97
- Quality of income data
- Quality in manufacturing statistics
- Harmonisation of core variables

Even if the funds available for co-financing projects at present are rather moderate, they have proven to stimulate some useful projects, and not the least, to encourage the co-operation between EFTA National Statistical Institutes, Eurostat and partly other EU National Statistical Institutes.

Over the years the routines for applying for and handling co-financed contracts have changed, mainly due to changing Commission rules and regulations.

The present common understanding is that EEA/EFTA should follow the same procedures as EU Member States. This means that EEA/EFTA States will have to formulate project proposals in response to Eurostat' grants programme, to be published twice a year.

This programme consists of two parts; one part open for competition and one restricted to the European Statistical System. EEA/EFTA States will have full access to the first part and will also have access to those projects in the second part that have been judged as being EEA eligible. Before publishing projects in the second category it is foreseen that it should be verified and noted whether specific projects are EEA eligible or not.

Project proposals from EEA/EFTA States will have to follow the normal timetable and format as other project proposals, and will be evaluated on the basis of the same criteria (see also *The Vademecum on Grant Management*, prepared the European Commission).

As before, close contact with Eurostat and with possible partners is important in a project preparatory stage in order to develop relevant and well formulated proposals.

There might be a possibility in 2001/2002 also for the EEA/EFTA States to conclude framework agreements, which should simplify some of the bureaucratic procedures for handling projects supported by Commission grants

5. The EEA statistical co-operation in relation to other areas of EEA co-operation

The EEA Agreement gives the basis for EFTA participation in several EU programmes (Protocol 31 of the EEA Agreement). Several of these programmes have a link to statistical activities. The following programmes can be mentioned:

- Research programmes (4th Framework and 5th Framework programme. As part of these programmes a specific programme for statistics have been defined (DOSIS/DOSES and presently EPROS/SINE/STAKA).
- IDA (Interchange of Data between Administrations). Under this programme there has been specific action to improve the transmission and dissemination of statistics (DSIS).
- SOCRATES (Co-operation in education from school to university level). This programme requires statistics, and has funded special meetings and data collection/dissemination.
- LEONARDO (Supports improvement of vocational training). This programme also requires development of statistics.
- Health programmes. As part of the health programme there is a specific programme on Health Monitoring, which is closely linked to the development of statistics in this field.

6. Other EU/EFTA statistical co-operation

The areas outside the EEA statistical co-operation where there are separate agreements between EU and the EFTA partners are training of European statisticians (TES) and co-operation with and technical support to countries in Eastern and Central Europe (PHARE) and the Mediterranean area (MEDSTAT). This co-operation includes all four EFTA member states, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

6.1. Co-operation in the TES (Training of European Statisticians) programme

Eurostat in co-operation with EU NSIs initiated around 1990 a joint training programme for European Statisticians. The purpose of this programmes was to facilitate co-operation, harmonisation, exchange of experiences and dissemination of best practices within the European Statistical System.

The EFTA States also at an early stage became actively involved in this training programme, based on a contribution by EFTA to the specific training budget. One reason is that it is especially important for relatively small countries to be able to get specialised training in a broader, international context.

The importance attached to the TES programme from the EFTA States is also documented by a relatively high participation rate: around 40 participants per year out of 500 for all EEA countries.

The modalities for implementing the programme has been changing over the last years. The situation now is that the TES Institute has got a contract to continue the implementation of the programme for the period 2000-2005. The involvement in the programme will also continue based on a Memorandum with the TES Institute. Thus statisticians in EFTA States will have full access to participate in courses, and EFTA NSIs and other national institutions can also be involved in preparing courses.

6.2. Joint EC/EFTA statistical co-operation programme with the Central and Eastern European countries (PHARE)

The PHARE programme was set up by the European Union in 1989 to support the economic and political reforms within the Central and Eastern Europe Countries (CEEC) by providing financial and technical co-operation. As statistics are considered important in this transition and as a tool to monitor progress and support a democratic development, a separate PHARE statistical programme was developed. The statistical part of this programme, which started in 1991/1992, aims to modernise the statistical systems and harmonise statistical methods and standards with international norms.

The EFTA States started the involvement in the co-operation programme with Eastern Europe in 1992 by a direct contribution from EFTA, as well as by a staff to work on the management of the co-operation. The co-operation at an early stage was especially targeting the Baltic states with a special EFTA programme.

By the end of 1996 a new Memorandum of Understanding came into operation, giving a good basis for active involvement in the PHARE Programme in the field of statistics for all EFTA States, with a special focus on the Baltic and, to an increasing degree, the Balkan area.

A revised Memorandum of Understanding covered the period 1998 -2000. Under this co-operation the EFTA States have the possibility to take part in different actions of technical assistance to the CEECs. It further gave the basis for involvement in relevant working groups/steering committees as well as giving the possibility of locating an expert to the programme management.

The programme participation from EFTA has proven to provide a flexible and useful contribution to the EU PHARE programme, especially to function as a "bridge" between different contracts for the EU programme. This has meant that EFTA funds could be used to maintain activity, meeting participation etc. when there was lack of available EU funds.

With the changing profile of the co-operation programme from technical co-operation to pre-accession and accession to EU, there will also be necessary to adapt the priorities for the EFTA involvement in the programme.

From 2000 onwards the PHARE programme has split in one part focussing on enlargement and covering the 10 CEEC candidate countries: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia., and one part programme for non-candidate countries in the Balkan region. This last programme, called CARDS (Community Assistance to Reconstruction, Development and Stabilisation) covers the countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia, Croatia and the Republic of Yugoslavia.

The future support from EFTA will be given priority to the CARDS programme, and an EFTA detached expert will be linked to the implementation of this programme.

General information on the PHARE programme can be found on <http://europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/pas/phare/> and more specific information on the statistical co-operation programme on <http://forum.europa.eu.int/Public/irc/dsis/> or <http://europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/cooperation/>

6.3. Involvement in the MEDSTAT programme

The aim of the MEDSTAT programme, which is part of the general EU MEDA programme, is to help and consolidate the statistical information of the countries of the southern and eastern rim of the Mediterranean, so as to provide relevant, reliable and timely data.

Action areas

Priority action areas are:

- Comparability and harmonisation of statistics in the Euro-Mediterranean region;
- Statistical information necessary for the establishment of a Free Trade Area;
- Statistical information necessary for the support of Euro-Mediterranean regional policies and particularly in the area of environment and movement of population;
- Human resource development
- Strengthening of national statistical systems and their institutional framework;
- Exchange of information, use of new technologies.

The basis for the EFTA involvement in the MEDSTAT programme has been a Memorandum of Understanding between Eurostat and EFTA from December 1996 and running for the years 1998-2000. The aim of this Memorandum is to ensure the close co-operation between the EFTA Member States, the EU Member States and the Mediterranean States, including the EFTA Secretariat and Eurostat, in order to support the overall objectives of the MEDSTAT programme.

Based on the Memorandum representatives from EFTA may participate in the Directors Committee of the MEDSTAT programme. EFTA was also

able to provide an expert (within Eurostat) to support the planning and implementation of the programme.

EFTA has made a substantial contribution to the MEDSTAT programme by organising seminars on management issues for the top-level management of the NSIs of the Mediterranean countries. There has further been involvement from the EFTA side on training issues, on tourism and on national accounts.

Statistics for the EFTA States are now included in a regular Euro-Mediterranean Bulletin.

The co-operation is expected to continue for the period 2001-2003 based on a Memorandum of Understanding giving more or less the same framework as before.

Further information on the MEDSTAT programme can be found on:
<http://europa.eu.int/en/comm/dg1b/euro-med>.

Some abbreviations and head words

CEIES: European consultative committee in the fields of economic and social statistics (page 8)

CMFB: The Committee on Monetary, Financial and Balance of Payments Statistics (page 8)

EEA: European Economic Area consisting of 15 EU Member States and 3 of the EFTA States (page 8)

EEA/EFTA: 3 EFTA States: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, being part of the EEA

EFTA: European Free Trade Area (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland)

EFTA OSA: Office of the EFTA Statistical Adviser (page 14)

ESS: European Statistical System (page 5)

MEDSTAT: A programme to consolidate the statistical infrastructure and statistical information of the countries of the southern and eastern rim of the Mediterranean (page 30)

PHARE: Programme to support economic and political reform within the Central and Eastern Europe Countries (page 29)

SPC: Statistical Programme Committee (page 7)

TES: Training of European Statisticians (page 28)

Protocol 30

**DECISION OF THE EEA JOINT COMMITTEE
No 99/2000
of 27 October 2000**

amending Protocol 30 to the EEA Agreement,
on specific provisions on the organisation of co-operation in the field of statistics

THE EEA JOINT COMMITTEE,

Having regard to the Agreement on the European Economic Area, as adjusted by the Protocol Adjusting the Agreement on the European Economic Area, hereinafter referred to as the Agreement, and in particular Articles 98 thereof,

Whereas Protocol 30 to the Agreement was amended by Decision of the EEA Joint Committee No 4/94 of 8 February 1994³;

Whereas the EEA Statistical Programme is to be based on the Community statistical programme 1998 to 2002 (Council Decision No 1999/126/EC)⁴ and is to include those programme elements which are necessary for describing and monitoring all relevant economic, social and environmental aspects of the European Economic Area;

Whereas the EEA Statistical Programme is to take account of the provisions of Council Regulation (EC) No 322/97 on Community Statistics⁵;

Whereas Protocol 30 to the Agreement is therefore to be amended in order to allow for such extended co-operation to take place from 1 January 1998,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Protocol 30 to the Agreement shall be amended as set out in Articles 2 and 3 hereof.

³ OJ L 85, 30.3.1994, p. 66.

⁴ OJ L 42, 16.2.1999, p. 1.

⁵ OJ L 52, 22.2.1997, p. 1.

Article 2

Paragraphs 1 to 9 in Protocol 30 to the Agreement shall be replaced by the following:

1. A conference of representatives of national statistical organisations of the Contracting Parties, the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) and the Office of the Statistical Adviser of the EFTA States (OSA EFTA) shall guide statistical co-operation and develop programmes and procedures for statistical co-operation in close co-ordination with those of the Community and monitor their implementation. This conference and the Statistical Programme Committee shall organise their tasks for the purposes of this Protocol in combined meetings as SPC/EEA Conference pursuant to specific rules of procedure to be established by the SPC/EEA Conference.
2. The Community statistical programme 1998 to 2002 as established by the Council Decision to which reference is made in paragraph 7 shall constitute the framework for the EEA statistical actions to be carried out between 1 January 1998 and 31 December 2002. All main fields and statistical themes of the Community statistical programme 1998 to 2002 shall be considered to be relevant for the EEA statistical co-operation and shall be open for full participation by the EFTA States.

From 1 January 1998, a specific EEA Annual Statistical Programme shall be developed every year as a subset of, and in parallel with, the annual work programme elaborated by the Commission in accordance with the Council Decision referred to in paragraph 7. Each EEA Annual Statistical Programme shall be submitted for examination and approval to the SPC/EEA Conference. It shall indicate in particular the actions being EEA relevant and having priority for the EEA co-operation during the programme period, together with the implications regarding participation in meetings, legislation, data collection and dissemination and other relevant matters.

3. The EFTA States shall, as from the start of the co-operation in connection with the programmes and actions referred to in paragraph 2, participate fully in the EC committees and other bodies which assist the EC Commission in the management or development of these programmes and actions.
4. Statistical information from EFTA States shall be transmitted from the EFTA States to Eurostat for storage, processing and dissemination. To this end, OSA EFTA shall work in close co-operation with the EFTA States and Eurostat in order to ensure that data from the EFTA States is transmitted properly and disseminated to the various user groups through the normal dissemination channels as part of the EEA statistics.

The handling of statistics from the EFTA States shall be governed by the Council Regulation referred to in paragraph 7.

5. From 1 January 1998, the EFTA States shall contribute financially in accordance with Article 82(1)a of the Agreement and the Financial Regulations thereto to an amount representing 75 per cent of the amount shown in budget line B-5-6 0 0 "Policy on statistical information concerned with non-member countries" entered in the Community budget.

The EFTA States shall defray the additional costs incurred by Eurostat for storing, processing and disseminating data from their countries in accordance with the relevant Memorandum of Understanding between the EFTA Secretariat and Eurostat concerning the EFTA contribution related to this paragraph.

The EFTA States shall contribute financially to the Community's overhead costs other than those incurred for storing, disseminating or processing data in accordance with Article 82(1) b of the Agreement.

6. At the request of the EEA Joint Committee, and at all events in the year 2000 and in the year 2003, the SPC/EEA Conference to which reference is made in paragraph 1 shall examine the progress made in the framework for EEA statistical actions. It shall in particular assess whether the objectives, priorities and

actions planned during the period between 1 January 1998 and 31 December 2002 have been achieved and shall submit a report for the approval by the EEA Joint Committee.

7. The following Community acts are the object of this Protocol:

- **397 R 0322:** Council Regulation (EC) No 322/97 of 17 February 1997 on Community Statistics (OJ L 52, 22.2.1997, p.1);
- **399 D 0126:** Council Decision 1999/126/EC of 22 December 1998 on the Community statistical programme 1998 to 2002 (OJ L 42, 16.2.1999, p. 1)."

Article 3

The Appendix in Protocol 30 to the Agreement shall be deleted.

Article 4

The list of committees agreed upon by the Contracting Parties to the Agreement and contained in the Agreed Minute Ad Protocol 30 of the negotiations for an agreement between the European Economic Community, the European Coal and Steel Community and their Member States and the EFTA States on the European Economic Area shall be without prejudice to participation by the EFTA States in any other EC committee or body in accordance with paragraph 3 of Protocol 30 as amended by this Decision.

Article 5

The Decision shall enter into force on 28 October provided that all the notifications required under Article 103(1) of the Agreement have been made to the EEA Joint Committee. It shall apply from 1 January 1998.

Article 6

This Decision shall be published in the EEA Section of, and in the EEA Supplement to, the Official Journal of the European Communities.

Done at Brussels, 27 October 2000.

For the EEA Joint Committee
The President

.....
G.S Gunnarson

The Secretaries
to the EEA Joint Committee

.....
P. Mannes E. Gerner

Legal Acts in Annex XXI to the EEA Treaty by 1 August 2001

This overview *does not give all details* concerning adaptations and references to adjusting protocols or when decisions have been taken. For more details see updated legal texts on the EFTA Web site: *www.efta.int*.

BUSINESS STATISTICS

1. **397 R 0058:** Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 58/97 of 20 December 1996 concerning Structural Business Statistics (OJ L 14, 17.1.1997, p. 1), as amended by:
 - **398 R 0410:** Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 410/98 of 16 February 1998 (OJ L 52, 21.2.1998, p. 1).
- 1a. **398 R 2700:** Commission Regulation (EC) No 2700/98 of 17 December 1998 concerning the definitions of characteristics for structural business statistics (OJ L 344, 18.12.1998, p. 49).
- 1b. **398 R 2701:** Commission Regulation (EC) No 2701/98 of 17 December 1998 concerning the series of data to be produced for structural business statistics (OJ L 344, 18.12.1998, p. 81).
- 1c. **398 R 2702:** Commission Regulation (EC) No 2702/98 of 17 December 1998 concerning the technical format for the transmission of structural business statistics (OJ L 344, 18.12.1998, p. 102).
- 1d. **399 R 1618:** Commission Regulation (EC) 1618/1999 of 23 July 1999 concerning the criteria for the evaluation of quality of structural business statistics (OJ L 192, 24.7.1999, p. 11)
- 1e. **399 R 1225:** Commission Regulation (EC) 1225/1999 of 27 May 1999 concerning the definitions of characteristics for insurance services statistics (OJ L 154, 19.7.1999, p. 1)
- 1f. **399 R 1227:** Commission Regulation (EC) 1227/1999 of 28 May 1999 concerning the technical format for the transmission of insurance services statistics (OJ L 154, 19.6.1999, p. 75)
- 1g. **399 R 1228:** Commission Regulation (EC) 1228/1999 of 28 May 1999 concerning the series of data to be produced for insurance services statistics (OJ L 154, 19.6.1999, p. 91)
2. **398 R 1165:** Council Regulation (EC) No 1165/98 of 19 May 1998 concerning short-term statistics (OJ L 162, 5.6.1998, p.1).
- 4a. **391 R 3924:** Council Regulation (EEC) No 3924/91 of 19 December 1991 on the establishment of a Community survey on industrial production (OJ No L 374, 31.12.1991, p. 1).
- 4b. **393 R 2186:** Council Regulation (EEC) No 2186/93 of 22 July 1993 on Community co-ordination in drawing up business registers for statistical purposes (OJ No L 196, 5.8.1993, p.1).

TRANSPORT AND TOURISM STATISTICS

5. **378 L 0546:** Council Directive 78/546/EEC of 12 June 1978 on statistical returns in respect of carriage of goods by road, as part of regional statistics (OJ No L 168, 26.6.78, p. 29), as amended by:
 - **389 L 0462:** Council Directive 89/462/EEC of 18 July 1989 (OJ No L 226, 3.8.89, p. 8),
6. **380 L 1119:** Council Directive 80/1119/EEC of 17 November 1980 on statistical returns in respect of carriage of goods by inland waterways (OJ No L 339, 15.12.1980, p. 30).

7. **380 L 1177**: Council Directive 80/1177/EEC of 4 December 1980 on statistical returns in respect of carriage of goods by rail, as part of regional statistics (OJ No L 350, 23.12.1980, p. 23), as amended by:

7a. **393 D 0704**: Council Decision 93/704/EC of 30 November 1993 on the creation of a Community database on road accidents (OJ No L 329, 30.12.1993, p. 63).

7b. **395 L 0064**: Council Directive 95/64/EC, Euratom of 8 December 1995 on statistical returns in respect of carriage of goods and passengers by sea (OJ L 320, 30.12.1995, p. 25), as amended by:

- **398 D 0385**: Commission Decision 98/385/EC of 13 May 1998 (OJ L 174, 18.6.1998, p. 1).

7c. **395 L 0057**: Council Directive 95/57/EC of 23 November 1995 on the collection of statistical information in the field of tourism (OJ L 291, 6.12.1995, p. 32).

FOREIGN TRADE STATISTICS

8. **395 R 1172**: Council Regulation (EC) No 1172/95 of 22 May 1995 on the statistics relating to the trading of goods by the Community and its Member States with non-member countries (OJ L 118, 25.5.1995, p. 10), as amended by:

- **397 R 0476**: Council Regulation (EC) No 476/97 of 13 March 1997 (OJ L 75, 15.3.1997, p. 1),

- **398 R 0374**: Council Regulation (EC) No 374/98 of 12 February 1998 (OJ L 48, 19.2.1998, p. 6).

9. **32000 R 2032**: Commission Regulation (EC) No 2032/2000 of 27 September 2000 on the nomenclature of countries and territories for the external trade statistics of the Community and statistics of trade between Member States (OJ L 243, 28.9.2000, p. 14).

10. **396 R 0840**: Commission Regulation (EC) No 840/96 of 7 May 1996 laying down certain provisions for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1172/95 as regards statistics on external trade (OJ L 114, 8.5.1996, p. 7).

STATISTICAL PRINCIPLES AND CONFIDENTIALITY

17. **390 R 1588**: Council Regulation (EEC) No 1588/90 of 11 June 1990 on the transmission of data subjects to statistical confidentiality to the Statistical Office of the European Communities (OJ No L 151, 15.6.1990, p. 1).

17a. **397 R 0322**: Council Regulation (EC) No 322/97 of 17 February 1997 on Community Statistics (OJ No L 52, 22.2.1997, p. 1).

DEMOGRAPHICAL AND SOCIAL STATISTICS

18. **376 R 0311**: Council Regulation (EEC) No 311/76 of 9 February 1976 on the compilation of statistics on foreign workers (OJ No L 39, 14.2.1976, p. 1).

18a. **398 R 0577**: Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98 of 9 March 1998 on the organisation of a labour force sample survey in the Community. (OJ No L 77, 14.03.1998, p.3).

18aa. **32000 R 1575**: Commission Regulation (EC) No 1575/2000 of 19 July 2000 implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98 on the organisation of a labour force sample survey in the Community concerning the codification to be used for data transmission from 2001 onwards (OJ L 181, 20.7.2000, p. 16)

18ab. **32000 R 1897**: Commission Regulation (EC) No 1897/2000 of 7 September 2000 implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98 on the organisation of a labour force sample survey in the Community concerning the operational definition of unemployment (OJ L 228, 8.9.2000, p. 18)

18b. **395 R 2744:** Council Regulation (EC) No 2744/95 of 27 November 1995 on statistics on the structure and distribution of earnings (OJ L 287, 30.11.1995, p. 3).

18c. **397 R 0023:** Council Regulation (EC) No 23/97 of 20 December 1996 on statistics on the level and structure of labour costs (OJ L 6, 10.1.1997, p. 1).

18d. **399 R 0530:** Council Regulation (EC) No 530/1999 of 9 March 1999 concerning structural statistics on earnings and labour costs (OJ L 63, 12.03.1999, p. 6).

18da. **32000 R 0452:** Commission Regulation (EC) No 452/2000 of 28 February 2000 implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 530/1999 concerning structural statistics on earnings and on labour costs as regards quality evaluation on labour costs statistics (OJ L 55, 29.2.2000, p. 53)

18db. **32000 R 1916:** Commission Regulation (EC) No 1916/2000 of 8 September 2000 on implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 530/1999 concerning structural statistics on earnings and on labour costs as regards the definition and transmission of information on structure of earnings (OJ L 229, 9.9.2000, p. 3)

18e. **399 R 1726:** Commission Regulation (EC) 1726/1999 of 27 July 1999 Implementing Council Regulation (EC) 530/1999 concerning structural statistics on earnings and on labour costs as regards the definition and transmission of information on labour costs (OJ L 203, 3.8.1999, p. 28)

ECONOMIC STATISTICS

19. **389 L 0130:** Council Directive 89/130/EEC, Euratom of 13 February 1989 on the harmonisation of gross national product at market prices (OJ No L 49, 21.2.1989, p. 26), as amended by:

- **393 D 0454:** Commission Decision 93/454/EEC, Euratom of 22 July 1993 (OJ No L 213, 24.8.1993, p. 18),
- **393 D 0475:** Commission Decision 93/475/EEC, Euratom of 22 July 1993 (OJ No L 224, 3.9.1993, p. 27),
- **393 D 0570:** Commission Decision 93/570/EEC, Euratom of 4 October 1993 (OJ No L 276, 8.11.1993, p. 13),
- **397 D 0157:** Commission Decision 97/157/EC, Euratom of 12 February 1997 (OJ L 60, 1.3.1997, p. 63).

19a. **395 R 2494:** Council Regulation (EC) No 2494/95 of 23 October 1995 concerning harmonised indices of consumer prices (OJ L 257, 27.10.1995, p. 1).

19b. **396 R 1749:** Commission Regulation (EC) No 1749/96 of 9 September 1996 on initial implementing measures for Council Regulation (EC) No 2494/95 concerning harmonised indices of consumer prices (OJ L 229, 10.9.1996, p. 3), as amended by:

- **398 R 1687:** Council Regulation (EC) No 1687/98 of 20 July 1998 (OJ L 214, 31.7.1998, p.12),
- **398 R 1688:** Council Regulation (EC) No 1688/98 of 20 July 1998 (OJ L 214, 31.7.1998, p.23).

19c. **396 R 2214:** Commission Regulation (EC) No 2214/96 of 20 November 1996 concerning harmonised indices of consumer prices: transmission and dissemination of sub-indices of the HICP (OJ L 296, 21.11.1996, p. 8), as amended by:

- **399 R 1749:** Commission Regulation (EC) No 1749/1999 of 23 July 1999 amending Regulation (EC) No 2214/96, concerning the sub-indices of the harmonised indices of consumer prices (OJ L 214, 13.8.1999, p. 1)
- **399 R 1617:** Commission Regulation (EC) No 1617/1999 of 23 July 1999 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 2494/95 - as regards minimum standards for the treatment of insurance in the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices and modifying Commission Regulation (EC) No 14/96 (OJ L 192, 24.7.1999, p. 9)

19d. **396 R 2223:** Council Regulation (EC) No 2223/96 of 25 June 1996 on the European system of national and regional accounts in the Community (OJ L 310, 30.11.1996, p. 1), as amended by:

- **398 R 0448:** Council Regulation (EC) No 448/98 of 16 February 1998 (OJ L 58, 27.2.1998, p. 1)
- **32000 R 1500:** Commission Regulation (EC) No 1500/2000 of 10 July 2000 implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 2223/96 with respect to general government expenditure and revenue (OJ L 172, 12.7.2000, p. 3)
- **32000 R 2516:** Regulation (EC) No 2516/2000 of the European parliament and of the Council of 7 November 2000 modifying the common principles of the European system of national and regional accounts in the Community (ESA 95) as concerns taxes and social contributions and amending Council Regulation (EC) No 2223/96 (OJ L 290, 17.11.2000, p. 1)

19da. **32000 R 0264:** Commission Regulation (EC) No 264/2000 of 3 February 2000 on the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 2223/96 with respect to short-term public finance statistics (OJ L 29, 4.2.2000, p. 4)

19e. **397 D 0178:** Commission Decision 97/178/EC, Euratom of 10 February 1997 on the definition of a methodology for the transition between the European System of National and Regional Accounts in the Community (ESA 95) and the European System of Integrated Economic Accounts (ESA second edition) (OJ L 75, 15.3.1997, p. 44).

19f. **397 R 2454:** Commission Regulation (EC) No 2454/97 of 10 December 1997 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 2494/95 as regards minimum standards for the quality of HICP weightings (OJ L 340, 11.12.1997, p. 24).

19g. **398 R 2646:** Commission Regulation (EC) No 2646/98 of 9 December 1998 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 2494/95 as regards minimum standards for the treatment of tariffs in the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (OJ L 335, 10.12.1998, p. 30).

19h. **399 R 1617:** Commission Regulation (EC) 1617/1999 of 23 July 1999 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) 2494/95 – as regards minimum standards for the treatment of insurance in the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices and modifying Commission Regulation (EC) 2214/96 (1).(OJ L 192, 24.7.1999, p. 9)

19i. **399 R 2166:** Council Regulation (EC) No 2166/1999 of 8 October 1999 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 2494/95 as regards minimum standards for the treatment of products in the health, education and social protection sectors in the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (OJ L 266, 14.10.1999, p. 1).

19j. **399 D 0622:** Commission Decision 1999/622/EC of 8 September 1999 on the treatment of repayments of VAT to non-taxable units for their exempt activities, for the purpose of implementing Council Directive 89/130/EEC, Euratom on the harmonisation of the compilation of gross national product at market prices (OJ L 245, 17.9.1999, p. 51).

19k. **32000 R 2601:** Commission Regulation (EC) No 2601/2000 of 17 November 2000 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 2494/95 as regards the timing of entering purchaser prices into the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (OJ L 300, 29.11.2000, p. 14)

19l. **32000 R 2602:** Commission Regulation (EC) No 2602/2000 of 17 November 2000 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 2494/95 as regards minimum standards for the treatment of price reductions in the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (OJ L 300, 29.11.2000, p. 16)

NOMENCLATURES

20. **390 R 3037**: Council Regulation (EEC) No 3037/90 of 9 October 1990 on the statistical classification of economic activities in the European Communities (OJ No L 293, 24.10.1990, p. 1), as amended by:

- **393 R 0761**: Commission Regulation (EEC) No 761/93 of 24 March 1993 (OJ No L 83, 3.4.1993, p. 1).

20a. **393 R 0696**: Council Regulation (EEC) No 696/93 of 15 March 1993 on the statistical units for the observation and analysis of the production system in the Community (OJ No L 76, 30.3.1993, p. 1).

20b. **393 R 3696**: Council Regulation (EEC) No 3696/93 of 29 October 1993 on the statistical classification of products by activity (CPA) in the European Economic Community (OJ No L 342, 31.12.1993, p. 1), as amended by:

- **398 R 1232**: Commission Regulation (EC) No 1232/98 of 17 June 1998 (OJ L 177, 22.6.1998, p.1).

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

21. **396 L 0016**: Council Directive 96/16/EC of 19 March 1996 on statistical Surveys of milk and milk products (OJ L 78, 28.3.1996, p. 27).

22. **397 D 0080**: Commission Decision 97/80/EC of 18 December 1996 laying down provisions for the implementation of Council Directive 96/16/EC on statistical surveys of milk and milk products (OJ L 24, 25.1.1997, p. 26), as amended by:

- **398 D 0582**: Council Decision 98/582/EC of 6 October 1998 (OJ L 281, 17.10.1998, p. 36).

23. **388 R 0571**: Council Regulation (EEC) No 571/88 of 29 February 1988 on the organisation of Community surveys on the structure of agricultural holdings between 1988 and 1997 (OJ No L 56, 2.3.1988, p. 1), as amended by:

- **389 R 0807**: Council Regulation (EEC) No 807/89 of 20 March 1989 (OJ No L 86, 31.3.1989, p. 1),

- **396 D 0014**: Commission Decision 96/14/EC of 19 December 1995 (OJ L 4, 6.1.1996, p. 14).

- **396 D 0170**: Commission Decision 96/170/EC of 15 February 1996 (OJ L 47, 24.2.1996, p. 23),

- **396 R 2467**: Council Regulation (EC) No 2467/96 of 17 December 1996 (OJ L 335, 24.12.1996, p. 3).

24. **390 R 0837**: Council Regulation (EEC) No 837/90 of 26 March 1990 concerning statistical information to be supplied by the Member States on cereals production (OJ No L 88, 3.4.1990, p. 1).

24a. **393 R 0959**: Council Regulation (EC) No 959/93 of 5 April 1993 concerning statistical information to be supplied by Member States on crop products other than cereals (OJ L 98, 24.4.1993, p.1).

FISHERY STATISTICS

25. **391 R 1382**: Council Regulation (EEC) No 1382/91 of 21 May 1991 on the submission of data on the landings of fishery products in Member States (OJ No L 1333, 28.5.1991, p.1), as amended by:

- **393 R 2104**: Council Regulation (EEC) No 2104/93 of 22 July 1993 (OJ No L 191, 31.7.1993, p.1).

25a. **391 R 3880**: Council Regulation (EEC) No 3880/91 of 17 December 1991 on the submission of nominal catch statistics by Member States fishing in the north-east Atlantic (OJ No L 365, 31.12.1991, p. 1).

25b. **393 R 2018**: Council Regulation (EEC) No 2018/93 of 30 June 1993 on the submission of catch and activity statistics by Member States fishing in the Northwest Atlantic (OJ No L 186, 28.7.1993, p. 1).

25c. **395 R 2597:** Council Regulation (EC) No 2597/95 of 23 October 1995 on the submission of nominal catch statistics by Member States fishing in certain areas other than those of the North Atlantic (OJ L 270, 13.11.1995, p. 1).

25d. **396 R 0788:** Council Regulation (EC) No 788/96 of 22 April 1996 on the submission by Member States of statistics on aquaculture production (OJ L 108, 1.5.1996, p. 1).

ENERGY STATISTICS

26. **390 L 0377:** Council Directive 90/377/EEC of 29 June 1990 concerning a Community procedure to improve the transparency of gas and electricity prices charged to industrial end-users (OJ No L 185, 17.7.1990, p. 16).

Overview of the EEA Statistical Programme (2001)

EEA Priority	Module	Unit	Title
I Statistical Infrastructure			
<i>Classifications</i>			
H	11100	D-1	Classification of economic activities (NACE)
H	11200	D-1	Classification of products by activity (CPA)
H	11300	D-1	Miscellaneous classifications
H	11400	D-1	Classifications server
H	11500	E-2	Classifications for social statistics
L	11600	C-4	Classifications for trade in goods statistics
<i>Statistical Training</i>			
H	12100	A-5	Training of European Statisticians (TES)
<i>Electronic data processing</i>			
O	13100	A-1	EDP co-ordination and management
O	13200	A-1	Basic infrastructure
O	13300	A-1	Services linked to administrative applications
O	13400	A-1	Services linked to statistical applications
<i>Information technologies</i>			
O	14100	A-2	Technology of information systems
O	14200	A-2	Normalisation of information systems
H	14300	A-2	Telematic networks ESS
H	14400	A-2	Systems for data collection and transmission
<i>Reference databases</i>			
H	15100	A-3	Management of tools and services linked to the reference environment
H	15200	A-3	Harmonisation and management of data in the reference environment
H	15300	A-3	Harmonisation and management of meta-data and structure in the reference environment
<i>Information</i>			
H	16100	C-1	Communication/Press
H	16200	C-1	Compendiums
<i>Dissemination</i>			
H	17100	C-1	Publications programme
H	17200	C-1	Dissemination policy
H	17300	C-1	Dissemination networks
<i>Statistical Co-ordination</i>			
H	18101	D-1	Statistical co-ordination
<i>Technical assistance to countries in transition</i>			
H	19100	A-5	Co-operation with PHARE countries
O	19200	A-5	Co-operation with TACIS countries

		<i>Preparation of enlargement</i>	
O	20100	A-5	Co-ordination of the statistical activities in the enlargement process
O	20200	A-5	Statistical information system and analysis
		<i>Technical co-operation with third countries</i>	
H	21100	C-3	Co-operation with Mediterranean countries
L	21200	C-3	Co-operation with ACP countries
L	21300	C-3	Co-operation with Latin American countries
L	21400	C-3	Co-operation with Asian countries
		<i>Statistical research</i>	
H	22100	A-4	Methods and tools for data collection, processing and analysis of statistical data
H	22200	A-4	Data Analysis Centre, scientific relations and seminars
H	22300	A-4	Research in statistics
		<i>Restructuring plans</i>	
O	23100	E-4	Greek plan
O	23200	E-4	Portuguese plan
		<i>Registers</i>	
H	24100	A-4	Methods of statistical registers, studies and analyses
H	24200	D-1	Business registers
L	24300	D-1	Horizontal studies on the use of registers
H	24400	D-1	Statistics on globalisation
L	24500	D-1	Statistics on public enterprises
		<i>Data security and statistical confidentiality</i>	
H	25100	A-0	Data security and data protection
H	25200	A-4	Co-ordination of statistical confidentiality, Statistical confidentiality Committee
H	25300	R-4	Legal aspects of confidentiality
		II Demographic and social statistics	
		<i>Population</i>	
H	31100	E-4	Demographic statistics and projections
H	31200	E-4	Community census programme
H	31300	E-4	Migration statistics
		<i>Labour market</i>	
H	32100	E-1	Employment and unemployment
H	32200	E-1	Earnings and labour costs
		<i>Education</i>	
H	33100	E-3	Education statistics
H	33200	E-3	Vocational training statistics
		<i>Culture</i>	
H	34100	E-3	Culture statistics (LEG)
		<i>Health, safety and consumer protection</i>	
H	35100	E-3	Public health (LEG)
H	35200	E-3	Health and safety at work
H	35300	E-3	Consumer protection
		<i>Distribution of incomes and living conditions</i>	
H	36100	E-2	Household budget surveys

H	36200	E-2	Time use
H	36300	E-2	Income, poverty and social exclusion
H	36400	E-2	Community household panel
			<i>Social protection</i>
H	37100	E-2	Social protection statistics: central system
H	37200	E-2	Social protection statistics: modules
			<i>Other social statistics</i>
H	38100	E-3	Housing statistics
H	38200	E-3	Social indicators and other social domains
III Economic statistics			
IIIA Macro-economic statistics			
			<i>Annual economic accounts</i>
H	40100	B-1	European System of Accounts (ESA)
H	40200	B-2	National accounts: aggregates
H	40300	B-2	Accounts of general government
H	40400	B-2	Accounts of other institutional sectors
H	40500	B-2	Accounts by branch – Input-output tables
H	40600	B-2	Balance sheet accounts (including capital stocks)
H	40700	B-2	Statistical analyses
O	40800	B-2	Co-operation with candidate countries in national accounts
			<i>Quarterly and environment accounts</i>
H	41100	B-2	Quarterly national accounts
H	41200	B-1	Environment accounts
			<i>Financial accounts</i>
H	42100	B-4	Current financial accounts
H	42200	B-4	Financial balance sheets
			<i>Monitoring own resources</i>
H	43100	B-1	Monitoring own resources gross national product (GNP)
O	43200	B-1	Monitoring own resources value added tax (VAT)
			<i>Prices</i>
H	55100	B-3	Harmonized consumer price index
H	55200	B-3	Spatial price comparisons
O	55300	B-3	Remuneration of EC officials
			<i>Other economic statistics</i>
H	57400	A-6	Statistics for business cycles monitoring (Euro-SICS)
L	57500	A-6	Statistical indicators for Euro-zone business cycle analysis (Euro-Trend)
IIIB Business statistics			
			<i>Industry</i>
H	44101	D-2	Implementation of Structural Business Statistics Regulation
H	44201	D-2	Development of Structural Business Statistics
H	44301	D-2	Analysis of Structural Business Statistics
H	44401	D-3	Implementation of short-term statistics (STS) of enterprises
H	44402	D-3	Development of short-term statistics (STS) of enterprises
H	44501	D-3	Implementation of production statistics of enterprises (including Prodcom)
H	44502	D-3	Development of production statistics of enterprises (including Prodcom)

L	44601	D-1	Iron and steel statistics
			<i>Energy</i>
H	45100	F-4	Structural statistics of energy
H	45200	F-4	Short-term statistics of energy
H	45300	F-4	Renewable energy sources
H	45400	F-4	Energy prices
H	45500	F-4	Special actions to support the new Community energy policies
H	45600	F-4	Energy consumption and combined production of electricity and heat
L	45800	F-4	Energy information system
			<i>Distributive trades</i>
H	47100	D-2	Distributive trades statistics
			<i>Transport</i>
H	48100	C-2	Information system on transport economy
H	48200	C-2	Passenger transport
H	48300	C-2	Transport of goods by road
H	48400	C-2	Transport of goods by rail
H	48500	C-2	Sea and inland waterways transport
H	48600	C-2	Air transport
H	48700	C-2	Intermodal transport
H	48800	C-2	Statistics on road traffic accidents
			<i>Communication</i>
H	49101	D-1	Statistics on the information society
H	49201	D-1	Statistics on communications, postal and telecommunications services
H	49301	D-1	Statistics on audio-visual services
			<i>Tourism</i>
H	50101	D-1	Tourism statistics
			<i>Services</i>
L	void	(module content now covered under theme 44)	
IIIC Monetary, financial, trade and balance of payments statistics			
			<i>Money and finance</i>
L	52100	B-4	Euro and EMS statistics
L	52200	B-4	Structural monetary and financial indicators
L	52300	B-4	Short-term monetary and financial indicators
H	52400	B-4	Statistics on public deficit and debt
O	52500	B-4	Use of the Euro in national statistics (LEG)
			<i>Trade in goods</i>
O	53100	C-4	Trade in goods between Member States (incl. EDICOM)
H	53200	C-4	Trade in goods with third countries
H	53300	C-4	Sectoral analyses and studies of international trade
H	53400	C-4	COMEXT database
O	53500	C-4	Tariff statistics - Generalised preferences – Own resources
H	53600	C-4	Production of trade statistics
			<i>Trade in services and balance of payments</i>
H	54100	B-5	Balance of payments
O	54200	B-5	Balance of payments of the Community institutions
H	54300	B-5	Direct investment and Foreign Affiliates Trade Statistics
H	54400	B-5	International trade in services and geographical breakdown

IV Statistics on agriculture, forestry and fisheries			
			<i>Land use and landscape</i>
H	61100	F-2	Land use
H	61200	F-2	Remote sensing
			<i>Agricultural structures</i>
H	62101	F-1	Structure of agricultural holdings
H	62102	F-1	Typology of agricultural holdings
L	62200	F-1	EUROFARM database
O	62300	F-1	Statistics on viticulture
L	62400	F-1	Statistics on fruit growing
			<i>Agricultural incomes and prices</i>
L	63100	F-1	Economic accounts for agriculture (EAA)
L	63200	F-1	Income of the Agricultural Household Sector (IAHS)
L	63300	F-1	Agricultural price statistics (APS)
L	63400	F-1	Statistics on agricultural labour input
L	63500	F-1	Agricultural sector modelling (AgriS)
			<i>Crop production</i>
H	64100	F-2	Crop production statistics
L	64200	F-2	Crop production supply balance sheets
L	64300	F-2	Harvest forecasts (AGROMET)
			<i>Animal production</i>
L	65100	F-2	Livestock
H	65200	F-2	Animal production statistics
L	65300	F-2	Animal production supply balance sheets
L	65400	F-2	Feed balance sheets
			<i>Agro-industry statistics</i>
L	66100	F-1	Agro-industry statistics
			<i>Reforming agricultural statistics</i>
L	67100	F-0	Technical action plan for the improvement of agricultural statistics (TATAS)
L	67200	F-0	Committee on agricultural statistics
H	67300	F-0	Agroenvironmental statistics
H	67400	F-0	Agricultural statistics in the applicant countries
			<i>Forestry statistics</i>
H	68100	F-1	Forestry statistics
			<i>Fisheries statistics</i>
L	69100	F-2	Statistics on the fishing fleet
H	69200	F-2	Captures statistics
H	69300	F-2	Landings and supply balance sheets
H	69400	F-2	Aquaculture statistics
H	69500	F-2	Socio-economic data in the fishery sector
			V Multi-domain statistics
			<i>Environment statistics and indicators</i>
H	71100	F-3	Driving forces: sectoral statistics
H	71200	F-3	Waste and recycling statistics
H	71300	F-3	Statistics on scarce and hazardous materials
H	71400	F-3	Statistics on water use and discharges to water
H	71500	F-3	Integrated emission statistics
H	71600	F-3	Sustainability and pressure indicators

H	71700	F-3	Environmental expenditure statistics
H	71800	F-3	Periodical integrated reporting
H	71900	F-3	ENVSTAT database
			<i>Regional and geographical information</i>
H	72100	E-4	Economic accounts at regional level
L	72200	E-4	Social statistics at regional level
L	72300	E-4	Agriculture and environment statistics at regional level
L	72400	E-4	Industry, services and R&D statistics at regional level
L	72500	E-4	Urban statistics
L	72600	E-4	REGIO database
L	72700	E-4	Infra-regional information system (SIRE)
L	72800	E-4	Geographical information system (GISCO)
			<i>Science and technology</i>
H	73100	A-4	R&D statistics
H	73200	A-4	Innovation statistics
			VI Resources and management
			<i>International relations</i>
O	91100	G-0	International relations
			<i>Planning and evaluation of work</i>
L	92100	R-2	Statistical programmes; planning
H	92200	R-2	Relations with the European Statistical System
H	92300	R-2	Cost/benefit analyses
O	92400	R-2	Corporate plan
L	92500	G-0	Evaluation of statistical programmes
			<i>Management of human resources</i>
O	93100	R-1	Personnel management
O	93200	R-1	Management of personnel training
			<i>Management of financial resources</i>
O	94100	R-3	Budget management
			<i>Management of legal bases</i>
O	95100	R-4	Management of legal bases
O	95200	R-4	Inter-institutional relations (legal aspects)
O	95300	G-0	Inter-institutional relations (Brussels liaison office)
			<i>Audit</i>
O	96100	G-0	Internal evaluation
			<i>General administration</i>
O	97100	R-1	Management of office space and furniture
O	97200	R-1	Administration of documents
			<i>Decentralised management</i>
O	99100	A-0	Management of Directorate A
O	99200	B-0	Management of Directorate B
O	99300	C-0	Management of Directorate C
O	99400	D-0	Management of Directorate D
O	99500	E-0	Management of Directorate E
O	99600	F-0	Management of Directorate F
O	99700	R-0	Management of resources
O	99800	G-0	Management of the Directorate General

Overview of some Legal Texts and Rules of Procedure of Relevance

Article 99 of the EEA Agreement

1. *As soon as new legislation is being drawn up by the EC Commission in a field which is governed by this Agreement, the EC Commission shall informally seek advice from experts of the EFTA States in the same way as it seeks advice from experts of the EC Member states for the elaboration of its proposals.*
2. *When transmitting its proposal to the Council of the European Communities, the EC Communities shall transmit copies thereof to the EFTA States.*
At the request of one of the Contracting Parties, a preliminary exchange of views takes place in the EEA Joint Committee.
3. *During the phase preceding the decision of the Council of the European Communities, in a continuous information and consultation process, the Contracting Parties consult each other again in the EEA Joint Committee at the significant moments at the request of one of them.*
4. *The Contracting Parties shall co-operate in good faith during the information and consultation phase with a view to facilitating at the end of the process, the decision taking in the EEA Joint Committee.*

Article 100 of the EEA Agreement

The EC Commission shall ensure experts from the EFTA States as wide a participation as possible according to the areas concerned in the preparatory stage of draft measures to be submitted subsequently to the committees which assist the EC Commission in the exercise of its executive powers. In this regard, when drawing up draft measures the EC Commission shall refer to experts of the EFTA States on the same basis as it refers to experts of the EC Member states.

In the cases where the Council of the European Communities is seized in accordance with the procedure applicable to the type of committee involved, the EC Commission shall transmit to the Council of the European Communities the views of the experts of the EFTA States

Declaration by the European Community on the participation of the EFTA States' experts in EEA relevant EC committees in application of Article 100 of the Agreement.

The Commission of the European Communities confirms that in application of the principles laid down in Article 100, it is understood that each EFTA State will designate its own experts. Those experts will be involved on an equal footing together with national experts from the EC Member states in the work preparatory to the convening of the EC committees relevant to the 'acquis' in question. The EC Commission will pursue consultations as long as deemed necessary, and the Commission submits its proposal at a formal meeting.

Joint declaration on applicable procedures in cases where, by virtue of Article 76 and part VI of the Agreement and corresponding protocols, EFTA States participate fully in EC committees. *The EFTA States shall have the same rights and obligations as the EC Member states within EC committees in which they participate fully, by virtue of Article 76 and Part VI of the Agreement and the corresponding Protocols, except in respect of voting procedures, if any. In reaching its decision, the EC Commission shall take due account of the views expressed by the EFTA States in the same manner as of the views expressed by the EC Member states before voting.*

In cases where the EC Member states have the possibility of appealing to the EC Council against the decision of the EC Commission, the EFTA States may raise the issue in the EEA Joint Committee in conformity with Article 5 of the Agreement.

Extract from “Rules of procedure of the Statistical Programme Committee of 6 June 1995.”

Article 3: EFTA-EEA Representation

The EFTA-EEA States are represented by the Heads of their National Statistical Institutes. With the exception of voting, they participate fully in the SPC on all EEA-relevant matters. For matters which are only EU-relevant, they have the status as observers.

Article 8: Definition of Comitology Matters

Comitology matters are all those submitted to the SPC pursuant to Article 4 of Council Decision 89/382 EEC/Euratom whenever it exercises such functions as are attributed to it by acts of the Council in the field of Statistics, in accordance with the procedures of an ‘Advisory’, ‘Management’ or ‘Regulatory Committee’ laid down by such provisions, in line with Article 2 of Council Decision 87/373/EEC.

Article 9: Preparatory Meetings

For the preparation of decisions of Comitology matters, Preparatory Meetings for specific domains may be organised if requested by the SPC.

Preparatory Meetings are chaired by the Director-General of Eurostat or in his absence by a replacement in accordance with Art. 4.

In a Preparatory Meeting, no votes are taken.

S/00/L/030
 1 Annex
 12 February 1997
 Brussels

Procedures for the Incorporation of EC Acts into the EEA Agreement

I. Introduction

The procedures described below were approved by the Standing Committee at its meeting of 21 November 1996 (as outlined in S/00/W/011). The aim is to establish agreed practice so that the efficiency can be maximised both for decision taking and consultation on EC legislation in preparation.

The effective application of the following procedures is the primary responsibility of Chairmen at all levels, with the assistance of the Secretariat.

II Procedures regarding relevant EC Legislation

1. The Secretariat informs experts of newly adopted EC legislation

With regard to newly adopted legislation, the Secretariat sends a standard sheet (attached at Annex) to experts containing the following information:

OJ reference (where available)
 title of act
 adoption date
 compliance date in the EU
 indication of declarations in the Council where these exist

The standard sheet requests the following information from experts:

relevant (yes/no)
 adaptations required if any
 assessment of time required for implementation in the EFTA State concerned following adoption of the EEA Joint Committee decision
 need for constitutional procedures as referred to in Article 103.

2. Experts return answers on the standard sheet to the Secretariat

Expert/Working Groups provide answers to the questions in the standard sheet within a maximum of 9 weeks of receipt of the standard sheet from the Secretariat (as experts will already have studied the legislation at pipeline stage, answers to these questions should normally be readily available).

NB: A much earlier deadline may be indicated, particularly where decisions are required quickly (e.g. in the area of competition, see 1/MP/W/001.R in which specific procedures regarding competition legislation are outlined).

3. The Subcommittee confirms relevance

Once experts have returned answers to the Secretariat, the EC act is placed on the agenda of the responsible Subcommittee for confirmation of relevance and with an indication of the following:

whether experts indicate substantive problems; whether there are significant declarations made in Council or to the Commission upon adoption of the act; whether there is a possibility that rules are of an administrative nature and thus might fall within the province of ESA or the Standing Committee (two-pillar decisions); if the 9 week period is exceeded.

(Points 4 and 5 is valid for acts which require adaptations or further discussions (for straightforward acts, procedures continue from 6 below)

4. The Working Group proposes a time schedule for the completion of procedures

Upon receiving confirmation that an act requires adaptations or raises difficulties for one or more EFTA States, the Secretariat forwards this information together with a brief description of the issues to all experts. The item is put on the agendas of the next meetings of the Working Group/Expert Group and Subcommittee.

The responsible Working Group proposes a schedule for the completion of procedures, bearing in mind the time required for implementation in the EFTA States and compliance date of the legislation for the EU Member states. The issue remains on the agenda of the Subcommittee in order for the Subcommittee to monitor progress and provide necessary guidance, until an EFTA position is reached on adaptations required or other requests to be made to the EU side.

NB: Where an act raises important or horizontal issues, either among the EFTA States or on the EU side, it is brought to the notice of the Standing Committee. **NB:** Where the schedule set by the Working Group is exceeded, the Chairman of the Subcommittee reports to the Standing Committee.

5. Agreement reached on outstanding issues with the EU side

Once agreement has been reached with the Commission on adaptations, either at Working Group or Subcommittee level, the draft decision is cleared by the Subcommittee under the procedures below.

(The following procedures is valid for Acts which require no adaptations or where adaptations have been agreed)

6. Drafting of the Joint Committee decision

Upon receiving confirmation that an act is relevant and requires no adaptations or that adaptations have been agreed, the Secretariat drafts a Joint Committee decision. Priority is given to the preparation of decisions according to the closeness of implementation of the legislation in the EU and the length of time required by EFTA States for implementation, unless other substantive priorities have been indicated by the Working Group or Subcommittee. Acts may be grouped in “package decisions” where appropriate and of practical benefit.

7. Approval of the draft Joint Committee decision by experts

The Secretariat forwards the draft Joint Committee decision to the Expert/Working Group for approval and (if not already done at an earlier stage) at the same time to the Secretariat legal group (see 8 below). Where necessary the draft may also be sent to the responsible Subcommittee for immediate approval. Experts confirm or withhold approval within 7 working days.

NB: Further substantive comments or requests for adaptations are not normally expected after this stage.

NB: Where approval is withheld, the item is placed on the agenda of the responsible Subcommittee.

8. Legal checking of the draft Joint Committee decision

The Secretariat legal officers, working as a group, review and make necessary technical changes to the draft decision. This is then considered to be the final draft. The draft decision is put on the agenda of the next Subcommittee meeting. Where necessary the draft decision can be approved by written procedure.

In cases where many or major technical or substantive changes are deemed necessary, the text is sent back to the Expert/Working Group for approval (within 7 working days).

9. Approval of the draft Joint Committee decision by the Subcommittee

The EFTA Subcommittee responsible normally approves a draft Joint Committee decision within 12 weeks of the Secretariat sending the standard sheet to experts. The draft Joint Committee Decision is then handed over to the Commission.

NB: Where the period of 12 weeks is exceeded the Subcommittee Chairman reports on the matter to the Standing Committee.

10. Adoption of a decision by the Joint Committee

Once a draft decision has been cleared by a Subcommittee, the Secretariat consults the Commission on the timing of its adoption in the Joint Committee. The timing of adoption may, where necessary, be addressed in the Joint Subcommittee. For decisions which the Commission can adopt without presenting to the Council (i.e. most decisions), priority is given according to the implementation date of the EU legislation and the time needed for implementation in EFTA States, unless substantive priorities are indicated by EFTA States in Subcommittees. The entry into force date on a decision takes these factors into account.

III. Procedures relating to Legislation in Preparation (Pipeline Acquis)

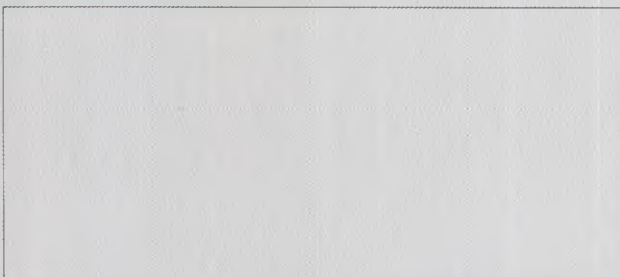
(Proposals for Council legislation)

A. The Secretariat updates experts on new proposals

The Secretariat distributes on a regular basis an updated list of proposals for new legislation. In addition copies of new proposals are provided by the Secretariat to experts and in some cases an analysis of the proposed legislation.

De sist utgitte publikasjonene i serien Statistisk sentralbyrås håndbøker

- 45 Håndbok i datasikkerhet og fysisk sikring. Revidert utgave, november 1998. 1998. 83s.
- 46 Telefonkatalog. 1998. 89s.
- 47 EØS-avtalen. Det statistiske samarbeid og konsekvenser for Statistisk sentralbyrås statistikkproduksjon. 1994. 55s.
- 48 Håndbok i tilsettingssaker. 1994. 32s.
- 49 Oppgaveplikt og tvangsmulkt. 1995. 55s.
- 50 Emneinndeling 1995. 1995. 43s.
- 51 Intervju: EDB-arbeidsbok. 1995.
- 52 Intervju: EDB-oppslagsbok. 1995.
- 53 Intervju: Opplæring og administrasjon. 1995.
- 54 Internkontroll: Revidert utgave 1997. 25s.
- 55 Nordisk statistikk på CD-ROM: Veiledning. 20s.
- 56 PC-Axis versjon 2.2: Brukerhåndbok. 69s.
- 57 Produktregister versjon 4.0: Brukerveiledning. 49s.
- 58 Håndbok i prosjektstyring. 20s.
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- 60 Produktnummerkatalog pr. 28.02.1996. 55s.
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- 70 Håndbok for KOSTRA-rapportering 2000. Oppslagshefte til hjelp ved filuttrekk for KOSTRA-rapportering. 74s.
- 71 Håndbok i SAS. Del 2: Oppslag. 243s.
- 72 Yrkeskatalog pr. november 2000. Korrigert utgave. 172s.
- 73 Håndbok i SAS. Del 1: Innføring. 65s.
- 74 Håndbok i datalagring på Unix i Statistisk sentralbyrå. 4. utgave. 73s.



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