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At the end of the period covered by the programme the Commission, after consulting the Statistical Programme Committee, shall present an appropriate evaluation report on the implementation of the programme, taking into account the views of independent experts. That report is to be completed by the end of 2008 and subsequently submitted to the European Parliament and the Council.

#### Article 5

##### Entry into force

This Decision shall enter into force on the day following its publication in the Official Journal of the European Communities.

#### Article 6

##### Addressees

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at ..., on ...

For the European Parliament  
*The President*

For the Council  
*The President*

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### ANNEX 1

#### FIVE YEAR STATISTICAL PROGRAMME OF WORK: APPROACHES

##### INTRODUCTION

#### 1. The need for statistical information for EU Policy

EU Institutions and citizens need a factual means to assess the need for and progress of European policy initiatives. High quality statistical information is of primary importance in meeting this need. Eurostat (the Statistical Office of the European Communities) has as its main task the compilation and dissemination of relevant and timely information across a wide range of social, economic and environmental topics in support of existing and future policies of the EU. In an evolving *e*-Europe, statistical information has to be made available in a form and at a time when the user needs it. Thus during the period of this programme further efforts will need to be made to ensure that citizens have access to an increasing amount of basic information about economic, social and environmental developments in the EU. The ESS (European Statistical System) needs to further develop its structures and strategies to ensure that the system as a whole maintains and develops the necessary quality and effectiveness to meet all user needs.

##### *Structure of the annex*

This annex concentrates on the policy determinants of the programme of work and provides a summary of European statistical requirements viewed from the perspective of the policy needs of the European Union. These needs are classified by the Titles identified in the Treaty on European Union as agreed in Amsterdam.

For each of these policy Titles, this annex provides:

- the principal orientation of the statistical work to be carried out within this five year period for each policy area and the specific action plans envisaged, including any foreseeable legal acts,
- the areas of statistical work which support the policies of the Title according to the themes of statistical work as defined in the Activity-Based Management framework.

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## 2. Implementation Strategies

### (a) Objectives

The objectives laid down in the Eurostat Corporate Plan will underpin the execution of the work programme. These objectives are:

- Eurostat at the service of the Commission
- Eurostat at the service of other European Institutions and the wider user community
- Contributing to the maintenance and development of the European Statistical System
- Boosting staff motivation and satisfaction
- Improving the quality of its products and services
- Increasing internal productivity.

### (b) Statistical Production

In association with its partners in the ESS, Eurostat will put into place production processes that assure that European Statistics achieve the level of quality required for EU policy management purposes. Particular emphasis will be given to statistics for the Euro-zone requirements.

Eurostat and the ESS partners will undertake a permanent review of EU and National Statistical information to ensure that it meets the real requirements for both EU and National Policy purposes and that the two aspects are fully integrated

### (c) Efficiency of implementation

The Commission will continue to assess its ways of working to ensure that the most efficient use is made of resources. Certain tasks in the field of statistics may be identified as being appropriate for implementation and follow-up by an external agency. Establishment of such an executive agency would be preceded by a full analysis in conformity with Council and Commission provisions on such bodies. Partners in the ESS will be kept fully informed of this process.

### (d) Budgetary implementation of the programme

Budgetary resources made available for statistical information under this programme are subject to the annual budgetary procedure without prejudice to budgetary resources made available under other legal acts. The resources will be used:

- for the production of statistics as defined in Regulation (EC) No 322/97 on Community Statistics, including the development and maintenance of statistical information systems and associated necessary infrastructure;
- for grants made to partners in the ESS (Eurostat envisages concluding framework agreements with such partners);
- for technical and administrative assistance as well as other support measures.

## 3. Priorities

The priorities for statistical work are managed according to four different categories of activity.

### (a) Community Policy Requirements

The statistical implications of the major Community policy areas are those currently identified by the Commission and can be summarised as follows:-

- Economic and Monetary Union: all of the statistics required for Phase III EMU and the pact on stability and growth.
- EU enlargement: incorporating those areas of statistical indicators of primary importance for the accession negotiations and for the integration of Candidate Countries into the ESS.

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- Competitiveness, sustainable development and the Social Agenda: in particular, statistics on the labour market, environment, services, living conditions, migration and e-Europe.
- Structural Indicators: further consolidation of work as requested by the Lisbon summit.

(b) *Major projects*

This covers primary areas of work necessary to assure the functioning of the system. These will be subject to a formal project management approach, as follows:

– Infrastructure work

Consolidate the functioning of the ESS in a deepened and enlarged Europe. Different instruments of co-operation between national statistical organisations and Eurostat will be put in place. These will be based mainly on the exchange of data between national statistical authorities, the specialisation of Member States in some specific domains and flexibility in the launching of statistical surveys to meet European and national needs.

Develop a system capable of reacting to developing policy needs and at the same time, promote dialogue between statisticians and policy makers to ensure flexibility of response and relevance of statistical products.

The development of the technological infrastructure at Commission and Member State level will aim to ensure greater productivity, reduction in response burdens and easier user access to statistical information.

Eurostat's involvement in the e-Commission and e-Europe initiatives, as well as ESS access to research and development programmes and the Interchange of Data between Administrations (IDA) programme will ensure co-operation and synergy between Community and national efforts.

Quality assurance and the scientific basis of Community statistics will be the result of close co-operation between official and academic statisticians.

– Specific projects

Statistics on the new economy, including domains such as the information society and innovation.

Statistics on research and development, including benchmarking of national RTD policies.

Short term statistics.

Indicators to support policies for sustainable development.

Social exclusion and poverty indicators.

(c) *Statistical support to on-going policies*

This covers the continuation of statistical activities, which support existing community policy areas such as Agriculture, Regional Policy, External Trade etc.

(d) *Other areas*

Other areas of statistical data collection not covered above which are nevertheless required for policy purposes.

For activities within this priority framework, the detailed range and extent of data collected has in general been developed by Eurostat with the Member States in the context of the SPC and CMFB. This follows the rules defined in the Council Regulation on Community Statistics and is in conformity with agreed principles for such decisions concerning work management.

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#### 4. **Subsidiarity**

The legislative context for this is:

- (1) Decision 89/382/EEC, Euratom setting up the SPC
- (2) Regulation (EC) No 322/97 on Community Statistics
- (3) *Commission Decision 97/281/EC of 21 April 1997 on the role of Eurostat as regards the production of community statistics* <sup>(1)</sup>.

Eurostat has responsibility to ensure the provision of Community statistics for EU policy purposes. Eurostat can only carry out this task in liaison with the statistical authorities in the Member States. Thus, activities are always based on a fundamental principle of subsidiarity. This involves a wide range of partner agencies but principally the National Statistical Institutes of the EU Member States.

#### 5. **The balance of needs and resources**

The ESS has to maintain a vigilant watch on the balance between the needs for information for Community policy purposes and the resources required at EU, national and regional levels to provide this information. The provision of adequate resources in the National context is of particular importance in pursuing the Statistical information requirements of EU policy decisions. It is also however important to maintain sufficient flexibility to allow the National Authorities to satisfy Community statistical information needs in the most cost-effective manner.

The annex identifies the set of statistical requirements necessary to support Community policies. In the context of overall resource management, the allocation of priorities across the various components of statistical work is defined according to the framework described above.

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<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 112, 29.4.1997, p. 56.

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## FIVE YEAR STATISTICAL PROGRAMME OF WORK 2003-2007: OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

### ENLARGEMENT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

#### **Statistical implications**

It is expected that accession negotiations will be completed with an accession treaty for a number of candidate countries during the validity of the 2003-2007 programme. For the follow-up and potential completion of these negotiations, the Commission must be able to draw on a complete set of reliable statistics, methodologically comparable with those of the European Union countries. The Union will then face two somewhat different challenges:

- To integrate the potential new members in all Community mechanisms, including e.g. own resources budgets and structural funds and all other issues and programs.
- to continue to prepare the remaining candidates and help them to reach full compliance with current Community legislation.

In both cases the high demands placed on the statistical production of the candidates, to be verified and communicated through Eurostat, should not be underestimated. Evidently, basic economic statistics are indispensable, including sectoral and regional distribution of GDP creation, population, and employment. Other key areas are those which measure the implementation of the single market, i.e. activities with a