



# Procedure file

Basic information	
COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Regulation	2007/0032(COD) Procedure completed
Population and housing censuses	
Subject 4.10.12 Housing policy 4.10.14 Demography 8.60 European statistical legislation	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	<b>EMPL</b> Employment and Social Affairs		21/03/2007
		ALDE <a href="#">RAINYTÉ-BODARD</a> <a href="#">Ona</a>	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	<b>REGI</b> Regional Development		07/06/2007
		UEN <a href="#">ROSZKOWSKI Wojciech</a>	
	<b>ECON</b> Economic and Monetary Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	<a href="#">Agriculture and Fisheries</a>	<a href="#">2881</a>	23/06/2008
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	<a href="#">Eurostat</a>	ALMUNIA Joaquín	

Key events			
22/02/2007	Legislative proposal published	<a href="#">COM(2007)0069</a>	Summary
13/03/2007	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
21/11/2007	Vote in committee, 1st reading		Summary
26/11/2007	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	<a href="#">A6-0471/2007</a>	
10/12/2007	Debate in Parliament		
20/02/2008	Results of vote in Parliament		
20/02/2008	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	<a href="#">T6-0056/2008</a>	Summary
23/06/2008	Act adopted by Council after Parliament's 1st reading		
09/07/2008	Final act signed		
09/07/2008	End of procedure in Parliament		
	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2007/0032(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 285-p1
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	EMPL/6/46395

Documentation gateway					
Legislative proposal		<a href="#">COM(2007)0069</a>	23/02/2007	EC	Summary
Committee draft report		<a href="#">PE388.663</a>	02/07/2007	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		<a href="#">PE396.411</a>	16/10/2007	EP	
Committee opinion	REGI	<a href="#">PE394.006</a>	20/11/2007	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		<a href="#">A6-0471/2007</a>	26/11/2007	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		<a href="#">T6-0056/2008</a>	20/02/2008	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		<a href="#">SP(2008)1767</a>	31/03/2008	EC	
Draft final act		<a href="#">03612/2008/LEX</a>	09/07/2008	CSL	

Additional information	
National parliaments	<a href="#">IPEX</a>
European Commission	<a href="#">EUR-Lex</a>

Final act
<a href="#">Regulation 2008/763</a> <a href="#">OJ L 218 13.08.2008, p. 0014</a> Summary

## Population and housing censuses

**PURPOSE:** to establish common rules for the decennial provision of comprehensive data on the population and on housing.

**PROPOSED ACT:** Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council.

**BACKGROUND:** international, European and national institutions need to be in possession of sufficiently reliable information on the population and on housing in the European Union. The last Population and Housing Census in the European Union was conducted for the reporting year 2001. It was not based on any European legislation, but instead on a "Gentlemen's agreement". The wide variation in reference dates seriously reduced comparability. Furthermore, punctuality was not ensured. The last data were received in mid 2005, leading to a publication in September 2005, i.e. 44 months after the end of the reference year. The data initially provided were often incomplete, not fully validated or inconsistent. Numerous requests to recheck the data greatly delayed the production process. Given the important uses that are to be made of the census data, higher metadata and quality assurance standards are required.

**CONTENT:** the proposal clarifies the responsibilities and roles in the decennial provision of comprehensive data on the population and on housing, as well as common requirements concerning quality and transparency of results and methods. It leaves Member States free to produce the necessary data in the way they think is the best in their respective countries. This includes the choice of the source from which

Member States wish to derive the data. At the same time, the proposal guarantees the quality of the data, notably comparability at the European level. In essence, the approach is not input oriented, but output oriented.

This proposal sets the basis for the collection of high quality and comparable data on housing. The housing situation of the population has substantial implications:

- access to decent housing is a major concern of social policy. At the 2001 Laeken European Council, Member State Governments stressed the need to develop common indicators on social inclusion, explicitly referring to housing, as well as the need to reinforce the statistical machinery in that sense. However, there is still a lack of indicators on housing at a European as well as national level. The ministers responsible for housing from the Member States have repeatedly confirmed the need for comparable data on housing;
- buildings that house private households are important consumers of energy, water, and other supplies and services that have an environmental component;
- housing has important economic significance (offer and demand for housing, finance, construction, refurbishment).

## Population and housing censuses

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The Committee on Employment and Social Affairs adopted a report drafted by Ona JUKNEVIČIENĖ (ALDE, LT), and amended, in the first reading of co-decision, the Commission proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on population and housing censuses, and strengthened data protection measures on statistics.

The main amendments made in committee were as follows:

Type of statistics: addition of 'environmental' variable: Members felt that, apart from periodic statistical data on the population and on the main family, social, economic and housing characteristics of individuals, there was a particular need to collect detailed information on housing in support of various Community activities such as the promotion of social inclusion and the monitoring of social cohesion at regional level, or the protection of the environment and the promotion of energy efficiency. The report stated that the place and the space available for each member of a household, and the quality of that space, are central to analysis of the quality of life that populations have. The extent to which environmental and energy standards match social requirements also serves to measure quality of life. It added 'environmental and energy classification' to the Annex, for information to be collected. Other amendments to the annex include 'job security (over a given period or otherwise)' and 'number of times that a person has changed jobs'. Housing topics includes size (category) and date of construction and of last structural maintenance work.

MEPs deleted from the Commission's proposal a range of topics for which data were to be collected. The list of non-derived topics has also been amended and is composed of: distance from the place of usual residence to green spaces and recreation grounds; distance travelled between the main health care establishment and the place of usual residence; availability of water and light; and telephone and standard and broadband Internet connection. The report stated that it was important to have information on these subjects because the access which populations have to given facilities and amenities is an important indicator of social progress in our societies. Same-sex and mixed-sex partnerships is on the list to be compiled regarding derived topics.

Data sources: this will include a combination of register-based census and sample survey and conventional census.

Data protection: Member States shall take all measures necessary to meet the requirements of data protection. The Member States' own data protection provisions shall not be affected by this Regulation. The Committee deleted Article 4(4) requiring Member States to report to the Commission (Eurostat) on the data sources used. It also deleted 'anonymised microdata'.

Reliability and comparability of data: in order to ensure the comparability of the data provided by the Member States and for reliable overviews to be drawn up at Community level, the data used should refer to the same reference year.

Data quality: a new Article 5(a) on quality assessment is inserted, and defines terms such as 'relevance', 'accuracy', 'timeliness', 'accessibility', 'comparability' and 'coherence'. Member States shall provide the Commission (Eurostat) with a report on the quality of the data transmitted. In this context, Member States shall report on the extent to which the chosen data sources and methodology meet the essential features of population and housing censuses as defined in the text.

Reference date: each Member State shall determine a date to which its data refer (a reference date). The reference date shall fall in a year specified on the basis of the Regulation (reference year). The first reference year shall be the year 2011. The Commission shall establish subsequent reference years in accordance with the regulatory procedure with scrutiny. The reference years shall fall during the beginning of every decade.

Housing: 'housing' is defined as living quarters and buildings as well as housing arrangements and the relationship between the population and living quarters at the national and regional levels at the reference date. The Committee defined 'buildings' as permanent buildings that contain living quarters designed for human habitation, or conventional dwellings that are reserved for seasonal or secondary use or that are vacant. It amended the definition of 'usual residence' and added that the following persons only should be considered as usual residents of the geographic area in question: those who have lived in their place of usual residence for a continuous period of at least twelve months before the reference date; and those who arrived in their place of usual residence during the twelve months before the reference date with the intention of staying there for at least one year.

Lastly, a new clause states that the Commission shall adopt the technical specifications of the topics as required by the Regulation as well as of their breakdowns, in accordance with the regulatory procedure.

## Population and housing censuses

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The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on the report drafted by Ona JUKNEVIČIENĖ (ALDE, LT), and amended, in the first reading of co-decision, the Commission proposal for a regulation on population and housing censuses, and strengthened data protection measures on statistics. The amendments were agreed with Council, and the resolution was adopted with 579 votes for, 41 against and 18

abstentions.

The main amendments were as follows:

Type of statistics: a new part recital states that there is a need to collect detailed information on housing in support of various Community activities, such as the promotion of social inclusion and the monitoring of social cohesion at regional level, or the protection of the environment and the promotion of energy efficiency. Nor did it make any amendments regarding same-sex and mixed-sex partnerships on the list to be compiled regarding derived topics.

Data sources: this will include a combination of register-based census and sample survey and conventional census.

Data protection: Member States shall take all measures necessary to meet the requirements of data protection. The Member States' own data protection provisions shall not be affected by this Regulation. Article 4(4) requires Member States to inform the Commission (Eurostat) of revisions and corrections to the statistics supplied under this regulation, as well as of any changes in the methods and data sources used, no later than one month before the release of the revised data. Member States must make continuous efforts to increase the extent to which the chosen data sources and methodology meet the essential features of population and housing censuses.

Data quality: a new Article 5(a) on quality assessment is inserted, and defines terms such as "relevance", "accuracy", "timeliness", "accessibility", "comparability" and "coherence". Member States shall provide the Commission (Eurostat) with a report on the quality of the data transmitted. In this context, Member States shall report on the extent to which the chosen data sources and methodology meet the essential features of population and housing censuses as defined in the text. In applying these quality dimensions to the data covered by the Regulation, the modalities and structure of the quality reports shall be defined in accordance with the regulatory procedure. The Commission (Eurostat) shall assess the quality of the data transmitted, and, in cooperation with the competent authorities of the Member States, shall provide methodological recommendations designed to ensure the quality of the data and metadata produced, acknowledging, in particular, the Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing.

Reference date: each Member State shall determine a date to which its data refer (a reference date). The reference date shall fall in a year specified on the basis of the Regulation (reference year). The first reference year shall be 2011. The Commission shall establish subsequent reference years in accordance with the regulatory procedure with scrutiny. Reference years shall fall during the beginning of every decade. Member States shall provide the Commission (Eurostat) with final, validated and aggregated data and metadata within 27 months of the end of the reference year.

Housing: "housing" is defined as living quarters and buildings as well as housing arrangements and the relationship between the population and living quarters at the national and regional levels at the reference date. Parliament defined "buildings" as permanent buildings that contain living quarters designed for human habitation, or conventional dwellings that are reserved for seasonal or secondary use or that are vacant. It added that the following persons only should be considered as usual residents of the geographic area in question: those who have lived in their place of usual residence for a continuous period of at least twelve months before the reference date; and those who arrived in their place of usual residence during the twelve months before the reference date with the intention of staying there for at least one year. The word "local" has been added to the definition of "population".

Lastly, a new clause states that the Commission shall adopt the technical specifications of the topics as required by the Regulation as well as of their breakdowns, in accordance with the regulatory procedure.

## Population and housing censuses

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**PURPOSE:** to establish common rules for the decennial provision of comprehensive data on population and on housing.

**LEGISLATIVE ACT:** Regulation (EC) No 763/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on population and housing censuses

**CONTENT:** this Regulation establishes common rules for the decennial provision of comprehensive data on population and housing. Periodic statistical data on the population and the main family, social, economic and housing characteristics of persons are necessary for the study and definition of regional, social and environmental EU policies. In particular, there is a need to collect detailed information on housing in support of various Community activities, such as the promotion of social inclusion and the monitoring of social cohesion at regional level, or the protection of the environment and the promotion of energy efficiency.

**Data submission:** Member States must submit to the Commission (Eurostat) data on the population covering determined demographic, social and economic characteristics of persons, families and households, as well as on housing at a national, regional and local level, as set out in the Annex.

**Data sources:** the Regulation sets out the data sources on which Member States must base their statistics. They include: conventional censuses; register-based censuses; a combination of conventional censuses and sample surveys; a combination of register-based censuses and sample surveys; a combination of register-based censuses and conventional censuses; a combination of register-based censuses, sample surveys and conventional censuses; and appropriate surveys with rotating samples (rolling censuses).

Member States shall take all measures necessary to meet the requirements of data protection. The Member States' own data protection provisions shall not be affected by this Regulation. They must inform the Commission (Eurostat) of any revision or correction of the statistics supplied under this Regulation, as well as of any changes in the chosen data sources and methodology, no later than one month before the release of the revised data. Member States will ensure that the data sources and the methodology used to satisfy the requirements of the Regulation meet, to the highest possible extent, the essential features of population and housing censuses, as defined in the text. They shall make continuous efforts to enhance compliance with those essential features.

**Data quality:** Member States must provide Eurostat with a report on the quality of the data transmitted. In this context, they will report on the extent to which the chosen data sources and methodology meet the essential features of population and housing censuses. In applying the quality assessment dimensions laid down in the text to the data covered by this Regulation, the modalities and structure of the quality reports will be defined in accordance with the regulatory procedure. The Commission will assess the quality of the data transmitted. In cooperation with the competent authorities of the Member States, the Commission will provide methodological recommendations designed to ensure the quality of the data and metadata produced, acknowledging, in particular, the Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing.

Reference date: each Member State shall determine a date to which its data refer (a reference date). The reference date shall fall in a year specified on the basis of the Regulation (reference year). The first reference year shall be 2011. The Commission shall establish subsequent reference years in accordance with the regulatory procedure with scrutiny. Reference years shall fall during the beginning of every decade. Member States shall provide the Commission (Eurostat) with final, validated and aggregated data and metadata within 27 months of the end of the reference year. The Commission will adopt a programme of the statistical data and of the metadata to be transmitted to fulfil the requirements of this Regulation, in accordance with the regulatory procedure with scrutiny.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 02/09/2008.