


Procedure file

Basic information		
CNS - Consultation procedure Regulation	1995/0076(CNS)	Procedure completed
Structural business statistics		
Amended by 1997/0232(CNS)		
Amended by 2001/0023(COD)		
Repealed by 2006/0020(COD)		
Subject		
3.45.20 Business statistics		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy		
	Former committee responsible		
	ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy		31/05/1995
	Former committee for opinion	ELDR KESTELIJN-SIERENS Marie-Paule (Mimi)	
	BUDG Budgets		
Council of the European Union	RELA External Economic Relations		23/05/1995
		ELDR PORTO Manuel	
	JURI Legal Affairs, Citizens' Rights		22/11/1995
		ELDR PELTTARI Seppo Viljo	
	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
Fisheries	1983	20/12/1996	

Key events			
31/03/1995	Legislative proposal published	COM(1995)0099	Summary
25/01/1996	Vote in committee		Summary
25/01/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A4-0038/1996	
16/02/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
12/03/1996	Debate in Parliament		
14/03/1996	Decision by Parliament	T4-0123/1996	Summary
02/08/1996	Amended legislative proposal for reconsultation published	09512/1996	
04/10/1996	Formal reconsultation of Parliament		
20/11/1996	Vote in committee		

13/12/1996	Decision by Parliament	T4-0693/1996	Summary
20/12/1996	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
20/12/1996	End of procedure in Parliament		
17/01/1997	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1995/0076(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
	Amended by 1997/0232(CNS) Amended by 2001/0023(COD) Repealed by 2006/0020(COD)
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 52-p1; EC before Amsterdam E 213
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ECON/4/07620; ECON/4/08287

Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal		COM(1995)0099 OJ C 146 13.06.1995, p. 0007	31/03/1995	EC	Summary
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report		CES0594/1995 OJ C 236 11.09.1995, p. 0061	31/05/1995	ESC	Summary
Committee draft report		PE214.570	12/10/1995	EP	
Committee opinion	RELA	PE212.996/DEF	20/10/1995	EP	
Committee opinion	BUDG	PE214.061/DEF	16/01/1996	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A4-0038/1996 OJ C 078 18.03.1996, p. 0003	25/01/1996	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T4-0123/1996 OJ C 096 01.04.1996, p. 0222-0236	14/03/1996	EP	Summary
Amended legislative proposal for reconsultation		09512/1996	02/08/1996	CSL	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE214.570/AM	28/10/1996	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament after reconsultation		T4-0693/1996 OJ C 020 20.01.1997, p. 0365-0371	13/12/1996	EP	Summary
Implementing legislative act		32003R1667 OJ L 244 29.09.2003, p. 0001-0031	01/09/2003	EU	
Implementing legislative act		32003R1668 OJ L 244 29.09.2003, p. 0032-0056	01/09/2003	EU	
Implementing legislative act		32003R1669	01/09/2003	EU	

		OJ L 244 29.09.2003, p. 0057-0073			
Implementing legislative act		32003R1670 OJ L 244 29.09.2003, p. 0074-0111	01/09/2003	EU	
Follow-up document		COM(2004)0249	13/04/2004	EC	Summary
Follow-up document		COM(2007)0494	04/09/2007	EC	Summary
Follow-up document		COM(2011)0242	04/05/2011	EC	Summary

Additional information

European Commission

[EUR-Lex](#)

Final act

[Regulation 1997/58](#)
[OJ L 014 17.01.1997, p. 0001](#) Summary

Structural business statistics

The general objective of the proposed regulation was to call on Member States to provide Eurostat with comparable statistical data relating to the structure, activity, competitiveness and performance of European businesses, in order to meet the needs which the Commission, the Member States, the business community and other users have for statistical information. The proposal lays down the norms, standards and definitions necessary for producing comparable statistics within the European Union, without detailing the actual collection methods to be used. Each Member State would be able to carry out the data collection exercises in the manner most appropriate to its own situation, for example to take account of national requirements for the presentation of company accounts. ?

Structural business statistics

The ESC approved the draft Regulation and hoped sincerely that the module dealing with financial services would be proposed as quickly as possible. In addition, further data was required for the statistics presented in the module on the distributive trade. Finally, the ESC considered that the European Parliament's suggestion that Eurostat become an autonomous body could make a positive contribution to better clarification of the roles of both Eurostat and the European Commission.

Structural business statistics

The MRC adopted the report by Mrs Marie-Paule KESTELIJN-SIERENS (ELDR, B) on the proposal for a regulation on structural business statistics. The main amendments include: - the need for the technique of sampling to be used, whenever practicable, for firms below a certain size threshold. The aim here is to prevent the pointless harassment of SMEs by the authorities - the need for the results of surveys to be produced and disseminated as quickly as possible. ?

Structural business statistics

In adopting the report by Mrs MARIE-PAULE KESTELIJN-SIERENS (ELDR) on the proposal for a regulation on structural business statistics, the European Parliament made a series of amendments aimed at ensuring a better balance between the need for fast and reliable statistics and the interests of the data suppliers. An initial series of amendments aims at ensuring that the technique of sampling is used, whenever practicable, for firms below a certain size threshold. A second series of amendments seeks to address the problem of the considerable costs of collecting data and compiling statistics. Finally, the EP takes the view that the results of statistical surveys should be produced and disseminated as quickly as possible.?

Structural business statistics

The European Parliament approved the proposal for a regulation on structural business statistics.

Structural business statistics

OBJECTIVE: To provide a common framework for the collection, transmission, development and assessment of comparable statistical data relating to the structure, activity, competitiveness and performance of the European business Community. **COMMUNITY MEASURE:** Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 58/97 concerning structural business statistics. **SUBSTANCE:** The Regulation lays down the norms, standards and definitions necessary for producing comparable statistics within the European Union, without detailing the actual collection methods to be used. Each Member State may conduct the data collection exercises in the manner most appropriate to its own situation, for example to take account of national requirements for the presentation of company accounts. Statistics are compiled in the following domains: - the structure of the activities, and their evolution; - the factors of production used; - the regional, national, Community and international development of businesses and markets; - business conduct; - the SMUs; - the specific elements for the study of particular regroupings of activities. **DATE OF ENTRY INTO FORCE:** 6 February 1997.?

Structural business statistics

This report covers the implementation of Council Regulation 58/97/EC, Euratom ("the SBS Regulation"). It seeks to provide information about the manner and the extent to which each of the Member States have implemented the SBS Regulation as well as to report on the actions undertaken by the Commission to work towards producing comparable European structural business statistics. The Commission analysis is based on the state of play end 2002. The effectiveness of the SBS is based on a set number of targets relating, inter alia, to data availability, coverage and freshness of data. The provisions of the Regulation are analysed as follows: - Regulatory evolutions: Since the Regulation was first adopted two amendments have taken place and one adaptation process was implemented using the Comitology procedure. As a result of these changes the following new elements were introduced. First a fifth annex concerning a framework for structural business statistics for life and non-life insurance activities was inserted, with a starting reference period of 1996. Secondly, less useful parts of the statistical requirements were reduced thus leaving greater room in the future for new investigations or developments of the SBS Regulation. Thirdly, two new annexes concerning credit institutions and pension funds, and two variables relating to expenditure on environmental protection, were added. - Data availability: The Commission reports a dramatic improvement in the volume of data availability. On average, the availability ratio for sixteen countries and for the main series has increased from 54% to 82%. - Confidentiality: Whilst confidentiality remains a concern there have, nevertheless, been some improvements in this field. Firstly, national confidentiality rules have become more and more harmonised. Secondly, IT investments in tools for automatic treatment of confidentiality have been made with the co-operation of National Statistical Institutes. - Timeliness: Based on the data received, the average delay after the deadline, fell from more than 5 months for reference year 1996 to 1.5 months for reference year 2000. - Evaluation of quality: In the 1999 Member State reports, information for each of the points was provided except in a few cases concerning the item "non-response" - Assessment of burden: Progress remains slow on the assessment of response burden as very few Member States regularly collect such information. - Users' needs and SBS developments: Users' needs for structural business statistics have continued to grow and diversify. An analysis of progress in the new Member States is annexed to the Report. To conclude, since the adoption of the Regulation, most Member States and Norway have made great strides in the making of high quality data available to users of the European SBS data. Those who have not achieved all of the implementation measures have, nevertheless, continued their efforts in 1999 and 2000. Ireland needs to make some improvements, particularly as far as the thresholds which need to be removed in industry and construction are concerned. Similarly, the poor availability of Greek data is the largest single problem in the implementation of the Regulation. In response to its analysis the Commission proposes a number of actions and recommendations. They are: - A Eurostat report system that will be regularly updated to show progress on implementation. - On going Commission/Member State contact through the National Statistical Offices to encourage a full implementation of the SBS Regulation. - The development of a quality programme in which quality will be measured and quality problems will be addressed. - Continuing efforts by Eurostat to make data available more rapidly as well as the improvement of data treatment procedures. - The launching of a second round of consultation on the possibility of adapting parts of the SBS Regulation that were not considered in the first round of adaptations completed in September 2002.?

Structural business statistics

This report covers the implementation of Council Regulation No 58/97 (the SBS Regulation) as amended by Council Regulation No 410/1998 and Regulation 2056/2002. The report aims to provide information on the actions undertaken by the Commission to ensure that high quality European structural business statistics are made available to users, and also on the manner and extent to which each of the Member States has implemented the SBS Regulation. It provides information on the burden on business and actions taken to reduce that burden.

Availability of SBS to users: in very broad terms, the Commission concludes that data sets delivered to Eurostat are reasonably complete from most Member States. There are gaps for some countries, however, which affect the availability of data to users. The Commission also states that the availability of data to users is considerably reduced by the existence of confidential data. Many data are confidential, especially in the smaller countries. The confidentiality rules at national level are not yet fully harmonised. In all countries, data relating to one or a small number of enterprises are protected. Rules for determining the EU aggregates that need to be suppressed have been laid down in a Confidentiality Charter agreed with the Member States. Of all EU aggregates for which data were available for the reference year 2004 in the annual enterprise statistics, 32% could not be published for reasons of confidentiality. The Commission is currently investigating ways of making more EU aggregates available in order to satisfy the users' need for information. Ways of calculating estimates for the confidential EU aggregates that afford sufficient protection to the data of individual respondents, while at the same time guaranteeing a certain level of accuracy of the aggregates, will be explored. The recast of the SBS Regulation contains a possibility for Member States to flag data as "contribution to European totals only", which is also expected to increase the number of available European aggregates.

With regard to accuracy, the aggregate EU coefficients of variation for most NACE groups are below 1.5 %. In general, coefficients of variation are lower for the NACE groups in industry. For construction, trade and especially services, coefficients of variation are higher. This means that in general the data presented for the industrial activities are more precise. The non-response rates vary between Member States; in a few cases they are above 20 percent.

The coherence between structural business statistics and short-term statistics reveals certain differences in methodology. Further investigation is therefore needed. A similar comparison has been made between SBS data on employment and other sources of labour data. Again, differences in methodology and also in definitions were observed. Further harmonisation work needs to be undertaken.

Compliance with the SBS Regulation is evaluated on the basis of the timeliness of transmission of the data by the Member States, as well as

of the completeness of the datasets sent. Overall, the compliance level has risen when compared to the evaluation made for the previous report. Other compliance issues, such as the quality of the data transmitted, cannot yet be fully evaluated. The timeliness of the data transmission has generally improved over the years. However, some countries still send the data with significant delays, which influences the timely dissemination of EU aggregates. National action plans have been drafted by the Member States concerned in order to ensure that the Regulation deadlines are respected in future. As far as the completeness of the datasets transmitted by the countries is concerned, when all datasets for the definitive series of Annexes 1 to 4 provided by the EU27 countries and Norway are taken together, this represents 85% of the required data overall. This is a marked improvement on the situation described in the previous report to the European Parliament and the Council, but it is still insufficient. Several countries are taking action to improve data availability.

The burden on business: the report describes the SBS recast (COM(2006)0066) which aims to keep the burden on enterprises as light as possible, by taking away a number of mandatory variables, moving other variables from annual to multi-annual collection, and deleting the optional variables. It describes burden measurement, and states that from the number of hours spent on SBS, it is possible to make a very rough estimate of the cost to enterprises: if this average time spent is applied across the EU as a whole, the burden on the economy due to SBS Annexes I ? IV would add up to about ?75 million for the whole Community. On average, enterprises with less than 50 employees account for 70% of the time spent by all enterprises. Although large enterprises are normally included in the surveys, small enterprises contribute quite considerably.

Lastly, the report describes actions taken by Member States to reduce burden. In many Member States there is a growing preference for using administrative data instead of surveys. However, there are obstacles to the increased use of administrative data, which normally differ from statistical data in terms of formats, codes, transmission protocols, etc., so making these data usable for statistics requires investment. Political support is needed in order for agreements to be reached between the NSIs and the relevant governmental organisations. Changing the use of administrative data also requires additional internal resources, as NSIs have to adjust their internal workings to make good use of this investment.