

DELIBERATION NO 2 OF THE STANDING SECTION OF ECONOMIC STATISTICS

WORKING GROUPS IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMIC STATISTICS

Whereas the changes and adjustments introduced in the operating structure of the *Conselho Superior de Estatística* (Statistical Council) (hereinafter referred to as the Council) as a consequence of Deliberation No 2|2008, approved in September 2008, with the purpose of “(...) *conferring greater efficiency, functionality and dynamics to its activities (...)*”

Whereas pursuant to paragraph 3 of the said Deliberation, Working Groups operating on that date would continue to function on a transitional basis until the Section issued its opinion on the model to be adopted by Working Groups in the field of economic statistics.

Whereas the Council has decided that, within the scope of a reflection on Working Groups, all those existing should be terminated and new Groups created. This shall be conducted in compliance with a model promoting, through the setting of delimited timelines, an efficient functioning of precise mandates integrating proposals for solutions to overcome limitations or blockages in Portuguese statistics.

Whereas the “Action Plan for the Organisation and Functioning of the Standing Section of Economic Statistics” – Deliberation No 1 of the Standing Section of Economic Statistics (*Secção Permanente de Estatísticas Económicas* in Portuguese) of 25 June 2009 lays down in its main lines of action the need to “*monitor the production of official statistics, particularly by assessing their adequacy to user needs*”.

Whereas the reflection started in April 2009 on this matter within the scope of the Standing Section of Economic Statistics, which, *inter alia*, decided on the need to ensure that the submitting entities and the members render Working Groups more dynamic, and the final submission of proposals, which includes five new Working Groups in the following statistical areas: macroeconomic; agriculture; trade and services; enterprises and establishments; and globalisation.

Whereas the relevance of creating the proposed Working Groups and developing the said areas, while taking into account in particular the need to define priorities in the context of the Business Plan of the Council, the importance of pro-active participation by the submitting entity and the commitment by all entities represented in Working Groups.

Whereas the fact that there is one Working Group for the Creation of a Single File for the National Statistical System, within the scope of the *Secção Permanente de Coordenação Estatística* (Standing Section of Statistical Coordination), which partly meets the statistical needs emerging from one of the proposals submitted.

Whereas, finally, the importance of there being innovative projects underlying the creation of some Working Groups.

The Standing Section of Economic Statistics, at its meeting on 28 September 2010, within the scope of its powers, as laid down in Annex C of Deliberation No 2 | 2008 of the Council, **decided**:

1. **To terminate** the Working Groups operating in the field of economic statistics:

- (a) Working Group on Tourism Statistics;
- (b) Working Group on Trade and Services Statistics;
- (c) Working Group on Agriculture and Fishery Statistics;
- (d) Working Group on Transport Statistics;
- (e) Working Group on National and Regional Accounts;
- (f) Working Group on International Economic Relations Statistics;
- (g) Working Group on Monetary and Financial Statistics;
- (h) Working Group on Environment Statistics.

2. **To approve the immediate creation of the following Working Groups:**

- Working Group for the Development of Macroeconomic Statistics (annex A).
- Working Group on Agri-Environmental and Rural Development Indicators (annex B).
- Working Group on Trade and Services (annex C).

3. That in the field of statistics on enterprises and establishments, **the creation of a specific Group shall be resumed in the next meeting**, upon presentation of a specific mandate.

4. **To recommend to Statistics Portugal** that the activities of the Working Group for the Creation of a Single File for the National Statistical System start shortly and that in the next meeting it informs Section members on the functioning of the Group.

5. That **in 2011 a Workshop shall be held** at Council level on globalisation statistics.

The annexes to this Deliberation are an integral part thereof.

Lisbon, 25 October 2010

Chairman of the Section, João Ferreira do Amaral

The Executive Secretary of the Statistical Council, *Maria da Graça Fernandes Caeiro Bento*

Annex A | Working Group for the Development of Macroeconomic Statistics

I. REASONING

Considering that in key statistical areas to macroeconomic analysis, particularly national accounts, balance of payments and price indices (notably the consumer price index) there are methodological developments requiring technical debate, involving the main users and producers of statistics, with a view to helping statistical authorities choose the most suitable options and define positions in international fora where these issues are discussed.

Considering that implementation of new international manuals in the field of national accounts and balance of payments is forecast for 2014, it is deemed important that at Council level the technical analysis of new statistical concepts and requirements can be achieved.

Considering that this Working Group might continue to carry out several work activities previously developed in the Working Groups on National and Regional Accounts and on International Economic Relations Statistics, reaping the benefits from the experience and knowledge accumulated in those Groups, although at this new stage guiding its works towards the new overarching objective defined.

Considering the relevance of developing activities to identify new macroeconomic information requirements, particularly stemming from the Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi Commission.

II. MANDATE

(a) To monitor and issue an opinion on works to implement the new Manuals, in particular the new ESA and the 6th edition of the Balance of Payments Manual, with special emphasis on matters requiring greater clarification of methodologies and procedures to be implemented, such as:

- Redefinition of institutional sectors;
- Redefinition and expansion of the goods and capital formation concepts;
- Compilation of additional information on retirement pension costs;
- Extension of the directional principle to fellow enterprises.

(b) To monitor the adaptation of sources and methods used in the compilation of national accounts and the balance of payments;

(c) To monitor the start of data compilation;

(d) To monitor the main methodological developments in the field of macroeconomic statistics;

(e) To monitor the main methodological developments in the HICP;

(f) To develop activities to identify new macroeconomic information requirements, particularly stemming from the Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi Commission.

III. COMPOSITION AND FUNCTIONING

1. The Working Group shall be composed of representatives (one representative and one alternate) of the following entities:

- Statistics Portugal
 - Banco de Portugal
 - Regional Statistical Office of the Azores
 - Ministry of Finance and Public Administration
 - Office for Strategic Studies of the Ministry of Economy, Innovation and Development
 - Department of Forecasting, Planning and International Relations of the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning
 - Academic institutions (or persons of standing) with a potential interest in this area, by indication of independent representatives in the Council
2. To develop its activities and fulfil its mandate the Working Group shall establish with other Working Groups within the scope of the Statistical Council the liaisons and initiatives deemed necessary, promoted through the Secretariat of the Council.
 3. Representatives of entities forming the Working Group shall be appointed by a full member of the Council whenever the entity is represented, or by direct indication of each entity's responsible bodies, in the remaining cases.
 4. To analyse specific aspects of its mandate, the Working Group may also invite certain entities or experts on relevant issues, the formal invitation being issued by the Vice-Chairperson of the Statistical Council, upon a proposal of the respective Chairperson.
 5. Where warranted by the matters in question and in order to render works more operational, Sub-Groups may be formed, pursuant to the Rules of Procedure of the Statistical Council.

IV. WORK SCHEDULING AND PLANNING

At the second meeting of the Working Group an activity and work programme shall be approved, to be submitted for approval by the Standing Section of Economic Statistics through a written procedure.

The activity programme shall include a chronogram with the meetings, the issues to be discussed and the reporting to the Section, as well as the respective schedule.

Regardless of the programme to be presented, the Working Group shall submit, in March of year n , an Activity Report on year $n - 1$.

Annex B | Working Group on Agri-Environmental and Rural Development Indicators

I. REASONING

Taking into consideration:

- The need to conclude the development of agri-environmental indicators, an aspect of agricultural statistics for which a specific sub-group has been created within the scope of the previous Working Group.
- The various Community and international developments, notably at Eurostat level, in agri-environmental indicators to assess integration of environmental concerns in the Community agricultural policy.
- That, in parallel, there are other initiatives under way in this field, in particular at OECD and European Commission level, as well as at national level, for monitoring the environmental performance of the sector and rural development policies.
- That the development of these indicators is at different stages, and the indicators cover a wide range of areas and technical skills, therefore requiring involvement and joint work by a number of entities.

II. MANDATE

- (a) To monitor and analyse at national, Community and OECD level the development of agri-environmental and rural development indicators;
- (b) To harmonise indicators used by the different entities on rural development and the environmental performance of the sector;
- (c) To analyse methodologies within the scope of indicators, in particular those relating to the use of pesticides and soil and water indicators;
- (d) To analyse the regionalisation methodology of nutrient balances.

III. COMPOSITION AND FUNCTIONING

1. The Working Group shall be composed of representatives (one representative and one alternate) of the following **permanent** entities:
 - Statistics Portugal
 - Planning and Agro-Food Policies Office / Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries
 - Financing Institute for Agriculture and Fisheries / Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries

- Water Institute / Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning
- Directorate-General of Energy and Geology / Ministry of Economy, Innovation and Development
- Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development / Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries
- Portuguese Environment Agency / Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning

For the analysis of specific matters, of the following **non-permanent entities**:

- Institute for the Conservation of Nature and Biodiversity / Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning
 - Council of Portuguese University Rectors
 - Producers' associations
 - Directorate General for Spatial Planning and Urban Development / Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning
2. To develop its activities and fulfil its mandate the Working Group shall establish with other Working Groups within the scope of the Statistical Council the liaisons and initiatives deemed necessary, promoted through the Council Secretariat.
 3. Representatives of entities forming the Working Group shall be appointed by a full member of the Council whenever the entity is represented, or by direct indication of each entity's responsible bodies, in the remaining cases.
 4. To analyse specific aspects of its mandate, the Working Group may also invite certain entities or experts on relevant issues, the formal invitation being issued by the Vice-Chairperson of the Statistical Council, upon a proposal of the respective Chairperson.
 5. Where warranted by the matters in question and in order to render works more operational, Sub-Groups may be formed, pursuant to the Rules of Procedure of the Statistical Council.

IV. WORK SCHEDULING AND PLANNING

At the second meeting of the Working Group an activity and work programme shall be approved, to be submitted for approval by the Standing Section of Economic Statistics through a written procedure.

The activity programme shall include a chronogram with the meetings, the issues to be discussed and the reporting to the Section, as well as the respective schedule.

Regardless of the programme to be presented, the Working Group shall submit, in March of year n, an Activity Report on year n – 1.

Annex C | Working Group on Trade and Services

I. REASONING

Considering that the “monitoring” role of statistical production in the activities or sectors covered by the terminated Working Group is excluded, the Group’s renewal is warranted, given the commitments it has assumed in the Report on the sector, with scheduled proposals, which has been approved by the Section – Recommendation No 2.

II. MANDATE

- (a) To prepare a Report identifying the different possible scenarios for defining a methodology to codify the statistical unit “establishment, by analysing in particular the potential for using data on establishments of the SCI, as well as the possibility and pertinence of proposing – to the SCI coordinating team – the integration of the variable “sales area for establishments”.
- (b) To identify potential administrative procedures of local governments relating to commercial establishments, that may be inputs for the update of a future integrated file on establishments. The intention is to promote the construction of updated and updatable files on establishments, from which it is possible to create the reference unit of commercial establishments for new statistical operations, in particular “pilot surveys” to “street-level establishments” located in “city centres”, identified as high priority by users. This work involves contacting various local governments, from which to decide on the feasibility of ensuring regular flows of relevant data from those governments to Statistics Portugal. Hence, a recommendation may possibly materialise, in order to extend the process to all local governments in the country. This would consolidate procedures enabling a continued updating of the commercial file on establishments;
- (c) To analyse the current production of statistics by Statistics Portugal on “business services” and assess whether some recommendation is warranted aiming at extending these services to other activities providing business services.

III. COMPOSITION AND FUNCTIONING

1. The Working Group shall be composed of representatives (one representative and one alternate) of the following entities:

Permanent representation:

- Statistics Portugal
- Banco de Portugal
- Office for Strategic Studies of the Ministry of Economy, Innovation and Development

- Directorate General for Economic Activities (Ministry of Economy, Innovation and Development)
- Confederation of Trade and Services

Non-permanent representation:

- Entities whose involvement in this Working Group is considered to be pertinent
2. To develop its activities and fulfil its mandate the Working Group shall establish with other Working Groups within the scope of the Statistical Council the liaisons and initiatives deemed necessary, promoted through the Council Secretariat.
 3. Representatives of entities forming the Working Group shall be appointed by a full member of the Council whenever the entity is represented, or by direct indication of each entity's responsible bodies, in the remaining cases.
 4. To analyse specific aspects of its mandate, the Working Group may also invite certain entities or experts on relevant issues, the formal invitation being issued by the Vice-Chairperson of the Statistical Council, upon a proposal of the respective Chairperson.
 5. Where warranted by the matters in question and in order to render works more operational, Sub-Groups may be formed, pursuant to the Rules of Procedure of the Statistical Council.

IV. WORK SCHEDULING AND PLANNING

- (a) Report to be submitted, following liaison with the Working Group for the Creation of a Single File for the National Statistical System, by the end of 2011;
- (b) (...) *To identify potential administrative procedures of local governments relating to commercial establishments, that may be inputs for the update of a future integrated file on establishment (...) – Proposal to be submitted by October 2011;*
(...) To contact various local governments, from which to decide on the feasibility of ensuring regular flows of data from those governments to Statistics Portugal. Hence, a recommendation may possibly materialise (...) – to be submitted by October 2011.
- (c) To be concluded by July 2011.