



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION



EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK
EUROSYSTEM

Statistical Office of the European Communities

Directorate General Statistics

**Service Level Agreement (SLA) on Data Exchanges between
the Directorate General Statistics of the European Central Bank (DG Statistics) and
the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat)**

**Annex 2 to the “Memorandum of Understanding on economic and financial statistics”
between Eurostat and DG Statistics**

February 2008

1. This Service Level Agreement (SLA) describes the respective responsibilities, modalities and means for data exchanges between the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) and the Directorate General Statistics of the European Central Bank (DG Statistics). This document is subordinated to the “Memorandum of Understanding on economic and financial statistics” (MoU) between Eurostat and DG Statistics, signed on 10 March 2003.
2. Regarding balance of payments and international investment position statistics, a separate document on the share of responsibilities, including practical aspects for data exchange, is available and already forms part of the Memorandum of Understanding (Annex 1).
3. Data transmission to DG Statistics follows the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice and in particular Eurostat’s impartiality policy. All data transmitted to the ECB are previously disseminated by Member States or Eurostat. Exceptions to this rule are in line with Eurostat’s impartiality protocol:
 - Pre-release access to euro area aggregates compiled by Eurostat is given to the ECB for information in order to undertake its tasks under the Treaty. In the list of the statistics covered by the SLA they are marked with (1). Those data will be delivered to the ECB, using the standard electronic transmission means and according to the deadlines outlined in Eurostat’s impartiality protocol, not later than 3 hours prior to their publication.
 - Pre-release access is given to the ECB (DG Statistics) for quality assurance, for joint production of statistics (shared responsibility) or for joint publications. In the list of the statistics covered by the SLA they are marked with (2).
4. Data transmissions from DG Statistics to Eurostat follow the principles as set out in the Public Commitment with respect to the ESCB’s statistical function.
5. Both institutions shall respect the flagging system of data transmitted to each other (e.g. data flagged as non-publishable by Eurostat and/or the ECB may only be used for internal purposes). In case data are flagged as publishable and are further disseminated, each organisation should explicitly acknowledge the source. Confidential statistical information can only be exchanged in line with Community law.
6. Each organisation will provide the other one with statistics for the euro area and, if available, for the EU, EU Member States and Acceding/Candidate Countries (as well as other countries such as notably the US and Japan), in accordance with the details and conditions specified below.

7. Both parties ensure that the exchanged data are checked for correctness and plausibility before they are transmitted. In particular, this concerns the aggregated data for the euro area. On request, both the sender and the recipient will inform one another about the data quality checks that have been carried out and their results. If mistakes are discovered by the sender of the data before or after data have been sent, the recipient of the data will be informed immediately. If mistakes are discovered by the recipient of the data, the sender will be informed immediately. The sender of the data will then take action in order to identify the reason of the mistake, to correct it and to inform the recipient of the data accordingly.
8. The recipient of the data will be informed about major revisions of data, which have been implemented or are expected. On request, the sender will seek to provide additional information on the reasons for the revisions and, if known to the sender, their expected magnitude.
9. The list of data that are exchanged is included as Appendix 1 to this SLA and may be updated at least once a year. e.g. reaction to additional needs specified by Commission users (based on regular consultation). Any changes of this list of statistics shall be jointly agreed by Eurostat and DG Statistics.
10. Data exchange shall be electronic, stable, timely, secure and monitored. The technical details in place at the time of the writing of this document are described in Appendix 2 of this document.



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Appendix 1 - List of data to be transmitted by Eurostat to DG-S and by DG-S to Eurostat

1. Eurostat data to be transmitted¹ to DG Statistics

(1) Pre release access of Euro area data for information

(2) Pre release access for quality assurance, joint production or joint publication

- HICP (1)
 - EU, euro area, EEA aggregates in various compositions
 - EU country data; additional countries where available
 - Complete COICOP/HICP breakdown
 - Special aggregates
 - Monthly indices
 - Monthly annual and 12-months moving averages rates of change
 - Country and items weights
 - Annual average indices
 - Annual average rates of change
- National Accounts (quarterly and annual main aggregates) (1)
 - EU and euro area aggregates in various compositions
 - EU country data; additional countries where available
 - Euro or national currency denominated series
 - Current, chain linked and previous year prices data
 - Levels series
 - Annual and quarterly series
 - Unadjusted, seasonally and/or working day adjusted series
 - *Main breakdowns*
 - GDP and expenditure components
 - Value added by economic activities
 - Compensation by economics activities and other income side variables
 - Employment and hours worked
- National Accounts: additional annual aggregates
 - EU, euro area, EEA aggregates in various compositions
 - EU country data; additional countries where available
 - Data by industry, on consumption and fixed assets
- Short-term business statistics (1)
 - All short-term economic indicators as covered by the STS regulation
 - EU and euro area aggregates in various compositions
 - EU country data; additional countries where available
 - Breakdowns according to NACE Sections, Sub-sections, Divisions and Classes; MIG special aggregates;
 - Domestic, export, totals; euro area/non-euro area; EU/non-EU;
 - Monthly and/or quarterly indices (or other representation)
 - Unadjusted, working-day adjusted; seasonally/working day adjusted series
 - *Main STS variables*
 - Producer, export and import prices in industry
 - Construction price statistics
 - Production in industry and construction

¹ Data are transmitted either daily or several times per day.

- New orders in industry and construction
 - Turnover in industry, retail trade and services
 - Employment, gross wages and salaries, hours worked
 - Building permits
- Unemployment (by age and gender) (1)
 - EU and euro area aggregates in various compositions;
 - EU country data; additional countries where available
 - Seasonally adjusted and non-adjusted data
 - Annual, quarterly and monthly frequency
 - Level and rate series
 - Breakdowns by age and gender
- Labour Cost Index Statistics (1)
 - EU and euro area aggregates in various compositions
 - EU country data; additional countries where available
 - Seasonally, working day adjusted and non-adjusted data
 - Quarterly frequency
 - Chain-linked indices
 - Breakdowns by NACE sections and aggregates, and for
 - wages and salaries
 - costs other than wages and salaries
 - total labour costs
 - total labour costs excluding bonuses
- Job Vacancy Statistics
 - EU and euro area aggregates
 - EU country data; additional countries where available
 - Non-seasonally adjusted data
 - Quarterly frequency
 - Level, rate and occupied jobs series
 - Breakdowns by NACE and by size classes
- Labour Force Survey
 - EU country data; additional countries where available
 - Non-seasonally adjusted data
 - Quarterly frequency
 - Level series
 - Labour force, population and employment data by age, gender, economic activity and educational attainment
- EU Structural indicators
 - EU and euro area aggregates
 - EU country data; additional countries
 - Annual data
- External trade statistics
 - The prime-up external trade data (i.e. data shown in Eurostat's press release) are reported to DG Statistics as soon as the PR is officially released. External trade data are reported in a GESMES format at the time of the PR following a list of agreed series of indicators.
- Quarterly balance of payments (b.o.p.) and annual foreign direct investment (FDI) (2)

- Quarterly b.o.p. (including the breakdown by main types of services) and annual FDI (stocks, flows and income) for individual euro area countries are reported to DG Statistics in a GESMES format 2 weeks after the transmission deadline for consistency checking. A reply is then due by DG Statistics to Eurostat within 3 working days for quarterly b.o.p and within 10 working days for annual FDI
- Government Finance Statistics
 - Quarterly non-financial data for the government sector (STPFS) - GESMES/TS (2)
 - Quarterly government debt – Excel
 - COFOG data (new recent transmission which is not yet fully in place)
 - Annual financial accounts for the government sector (2)
- Euro Area Accounts, national and euro area data (2):
 - Quarterly Sector Accounts – Excel
 - Annual Sector Accounts - mix of GESMES/TS and Excel
 - Annual Financial Accounts - GESMES/TS

2. DG Statistics data to be transmitted to Eurostat

- Euro Area Accounts

Quarterly financial accounts euro area (MUFA)

- Euro area aggregates

- Government Finance Statistics

- Annual government finance statistics
- Euro area and EU aggregates and country data

- MFI balance sheet items statistics:

All MFI balance sheet statistics data as covered by the Regulation ECB/2001/13 (as amended)

- Euro area aggregates
- All EU country data and additional countries, if available and explicitly accepted for dissemination by Member States
- Country data, not only for outstanding amounts but also the growth rates, if available and explicitly accepted for dissemination by Member States
- Quarterly data at a quarterly frequency and monthly data at a monthly frequency

- Bank lending survey

- Euro area aggregate (as currently published by the ECB)
- At quarterly frequency

- MFI interest rate statistics – pursuant to Regulation ECB/2001/18 (as amended) and as disseminated to the ESCB

All MFI interest rate data as covered by the Regulation ECB/2001/18 (as amended)

- Euro area aggregate, at a monthly frequency

Published/publishable national MFI interest rate statistics

- Euro area country data (if explicitly accepted for dissemination by Member States)
- At monthly frequency

Data underlying the Lisbon indicator on banking integration²

- Available EU country data (non-harmonised)

• Investment Funds statistics – as disseminated to the ESCB

- All IF assets and liabilities data as covered by the Regulation ECB/2007/8 (once available)
- Euro area aggregate
- EU country data and additional countries, if available and explicitly accepted for dissemination by Member States
- At quarterly and monthly frequency

• Securities issues statistics

- Debt securities: euro area aggregate securities issues statistics and national contributions denominated in euro
- Quoted shares: euro area aggregate securities issues statistics and national contributions
- At monthly frequency

• Long-term interest rates for convergence assessment

- EU country data; at business, monthly and annual frequency
- Euro area and EU aggregates at monthly and annual frequency

• Financial Markets Statistics and related indicators

Financial integration data

- Indicators of financial integration– as disseminated to the ESCB
- Frequency of data dependent on the indicators, which are updated semi-annually

Core financial markets statistics and indicators – as disseminated to the ESCB if not subject to licensing restrictions

- Key ECB interest rates and selected money market rates, stock market indices
- At monthly frequency

• Yield curve data

- Euro area government bond yield curves, especially spot rate, instantaneous forward and par yield curves (parameters and yields) as disseminated to the ESCB;
- Daily frequency

• Exchange rates and related statistics

² This data are sent on diskette, not via GESMES.

- Euro reference (bilateral) exchange rates
- At annual, quarterly, monthly and daily frequency
- Effective exchange rates of the euro
- Effective exchange rates of currencies of non-euro area EU countries
- Harmonised competitiveness indicators (for euro area countries)
- External accounts, international investment position and international reserves
(vis-à-vis “third” countries and overall external balances, which include euro area and EU counterparts)
 - Monthly and quarterly balance of payments, capital account, financial account (and components), for the euro area aggregate and individual EU countries (vis-à-vis extra-euro area counterparts) one day before publication by DG Statistics
 - Quarterly and annual i.i.p. for the euro area aggregate
 - Monthly international reserves for the Eurosystem and individual Eurosystem central banks
 - Annual national i.i.p. (vis-à-vis “rest of the world”) for the individual EU (and acceding) countries
 - Monthly international reserves for the non-euro area EU (and acceding) countries
- House price statistics
 - Euro area aggregate currently published
 - Euro area country data and other EU country data when available
 - Annual and lowest frequency available
- Consumer price statistics
 - Euro area HICP administered prices and components (monthly).

Appendix 2: Technical modalities of the data exchange

Network hardware and software

- Data files are transferred using the Virtual Private Network (XTCOM) between the ECB and the Telecom Centre of the European Commission, using the eDAMIS/Statel software provided and supported by Eurostat. ECB is responsible for the provision and maintenance of the Network connectivity (line(s), equipment, etc.) and of its maintenance and support.
- Eurostat provides and supports an alternative transfer method based on the use of eDAMIS/Statel over a normal Internet connection or over TESTA, which is available for use by the ECB, subject to a decision by ECB to approve this method.
- For regular exchanges of data files, e-mail shall not be used.
- Eurostat and the ECB ensure a stable and efficient data transfer on the basis of hardware and software solutions which are regularly assessed in order to adapt the provided IT services to the essential business needs and deadlines.
- In case of non-availability of the VPN (or the Internet connection, if approved by ECB), Eurostat makes available an emergency data exchange space on a special CIRCA Interest Group, for which Eurostat acts as Interest Group Leader and ensures appropriate access control. In an emergency case, this procedure is operational within 2 hours after request.

Standard formats

- Standard format for bulk data exchange is GESMES/TS (or any other commonly supported SDMX data format standard). Common semantic standards for the GESMES/TS or other SDMX data exchanges, such as common approaches for defining statistical concepts and common data structure definitions (DSD) (formerly known as key families) are used³, with common code lists.
- Each DSD is designated as maintained either by Eurostat or by DG Statistics. The maintainer is responsible for consulting Member States and other interested parties during the development of DSDs. The draft and final DSDs are made available to users via the Structural Metadatabases (Eurostat and DG Statistics versions) which can be downloaded from the CIRCA Interest Group "EDI and Statistics", for which Eurostat acts as Interest Group Leader and will ensure appropriate access control. In the future, Eurostat and DG Statistics may offer other methods of access to DSDs, to be maintained by both Eurostat and DG Statistics.

- DG Statistics and Eurostat participate in the development of SDMX standards and content-oriented guidelines, and act as Sponsors of SDMX.
- The FAME database format is used in certain cases, in the understanding that it should be phased out when suitable and stable alternatives are in place.

Monitoring

- Transfers of data files between Eurostat and DG Statistics are normally monitored through eDAMIS and the traffic reports are available in the eDAMIS Management Information System (MIS). DG Statistics has access to the eDAMIS MIS. It is noted that some exchanges of FAME database files are performed using eDAMIS/Statel without being registered in the eDAMIS MIS.

Contact points

- For technical aspects of data exchange, Eurostat and DG Statistics will maintain contacts through the appropriate departments (Eurostat/B3, ECB/DG Statistics/SIS, ECB/DG-IS/OPS/ISOC/WAN). Coordination will be supported by regular contacts at an operational level as well as by participation in appropriate working groups and task forces (Eurostat: STNE, ITDG, SODI; ECB: WGSIM). With the aim to support the regular contact at an operational level and the quick resolution of data exchange incidents, a contact list (with contact details at the appropriate business and technical levels in the two institutions) shall be created, maintained and regularly distributed amongst the relevant stakeholders at Eurostat and the ECB.

³ As reflected in the Eurostat/DG Statistics document "Statistical data exchanges using GESMES/TS in the ESS and the ESCB: Code of Practice", that was endorsed by the CMFB in January 2003.