

**DECISION NO 13 OF THE STANDING SECTION OF PLANNING, COORDINATION AND DISSEMINATION  
ON THE PREPARATION OF AN ACTION PLAN  
AIMED AT COMPLYING WITH THE DEADLINES FOR THE AVAILABILITY OF PORTUGUESE STATISTICS**

Whereas in the *Linhas Gerais da Actividade Estatística Nacional 2008-2012* (General Guidelines of National Statistical Activity 2008-2012), approved by the *Conselho Superior de Estatística* (Statistical Council) (hereinafter referred to as the Council), the primary strategic objective sets forth the need to "Improve the quality of statistics produced within the scope of the National Statistical System, focusing in particular on compliance with the deadlines for data availability and accessibility".

Whereas compliance with deadlines for the availability of statistics corresponds to one of the criteria of quality and good practices in the field of statistics, translating into the group "timeliness and punctuality", as set forth by Eurostat, and that this criterion is explicitly mentioned in one of the 15 principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice: "European statistics must be disseminated in a timely and punctual manner".

Whereas the outcome of monitoring the execution of the Business Plan that the *Secção Permanente de Planeamento, Coordenação e Difusão* (Standing Section of Planning, Coordination and Dissemination) has been pursuing for the past few years in the light of the previously mentioned guidelines.

Whereas, finally, one of the objectives of the Council's Business Plan for 2008 is the definition of an Action Plan targeted at complying with the deadlines for the availability of Portuguese statistics.

**The Standing Section of Planning, Coordination and Dissemination decided**, at its meeting of 22 January 2008, within the scope of the powers laid down namely in Annex A, 2 (e) and (q) and 3 of Deliberation No 286 of the Council, and taking into account the preparation of the above-mentioned Action Plan:

1. To request Statistics Portugal and the other entities intervening in national statistical production:
  - a) to indicate the measures envisaged by each entity with a view to complying in 2008 with the deadlines for the availability of statistics under their responsibility;
  - b) to identify possible critical areas where compliance with the deadlines established in the planning for 2008 is considered to be unfeasible, indicating the motives behind this forecast and the type of solutions/measures that could tackle the current constraints, as well as the date as of which compliance with the said deadlines would be deemed feasible;
  - c) to submit proposals for the Council's intervention that may contribute to solve the problems identified in the foregoing sub-paragraph.

2. To request a response to these issues up to 30 April, with a view to preparing a draft Action Plan to be submitted in the next meeting of the Standing Section of Planning, Coordination and Dissemination, scheduled for 20 May 2008.

Lisbon, 22 January 2008

The Chairman of the Section, *João Cadete de Matos*

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