

DELIBERATION NO 293 OF THE CONSELHO SUPERIOR DE ESTATÍSTICA (STATISTICAL COUNCIL)

ON THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR EUROPEAN STATISTICS

The two latest assessment reports on national statistical activity produced and approved by the *Conselho Superior de Estatística* (Statistical Council) (hereinafter referred to as the Council) and other documents produced by the Council in the course of the past few years conclude that «the legislation governing the *Sistema Estatístico Nacional* (National Statistical System) requires urgent recasting», and some recommendations were issued to that effect.

Whereas in response to the conclusions of the ECOFIN Council of June 2004 and February 2005 the Commission adopted a Communication from the European Parliament and the Council on the independence, integrity and accountability of the national and Community statistical authorities, in which Member States are invited to acknowledge the importance of the Code of Practice for European Statistics, endorsed by the Statistical Programme Committee on 24 February 2005, and to take the measures required to ensure its correct implementation by the relevant authorities concerned.

Whereas the main purpose of this Code is to improve trust and confidence in the independence, integrity and accountability of the national and Community statistical authorities producing them.

Whereas, also, another purpose of the Code of Practice is to promote the application of best international statistical principles, methods and practices by all producers of European Statistics to enhance their quality.

Within the scope of the powers laid down in Law No 6/89 of 15 April, **the Council, at its plenary session of 6 July 2005, decides:**

- a) To acknowledge the high importance of the «Code of Practice for European Statistics».
- b) To consider that this document will bring to the fore the need for a recast of the legislation governing the National Statistical System, including its adjustment to the principles defined in the Code of Practice for European Statistics, and to recommend the Government priority in the recast of the legal framework of the National Statistical System.



c) To develop the necessary initiatives aimed at the implementation of the Code of Practice at the level of all National Statistical System structures, to be regularly monitored by the Council.

Lisbon, 6 July 2005

The Vice-Chairman, *José Jacinto de Aragão Mata*

The Executive Secretary of the Statistical Council, *Maria Margarida Lobo da Conceição Madaleno*