

DELIBERATION NO 324 OF THE CONSELHO SUPERIOR DE ESTATÍSTICA (STATISTICAL COUNCIL)

ON THE WORK PROGRAM OF THE STATISTICAL COUNCIL FOR 2007

Whereas the Work Program of the *Conselho Superior de Estatística* (Statistical Council) (hereinafter referred to as the Council) for 2007 was prepared taking into account the proposals and recommendations laid down in the State of the Art Report of the *Sistema Estatístico Nacional* (National Statistical System) for 1999-2001, approved in July 2002, in the *Linhas Gerais da Actividade Estatística Nacional 2003/2007 e respectivas prioridades* (General Guidelines of National Statistical Activity 2003-2007 and relevant priorities) and other deliberations, resolutions and recommendations of the Council;

Pursuant to Article 2 (3) and Article 8 (4) of its Rules of Procedure, the Council, at its plenary session of 15 December 2006, decided to approve the Work Program of the Council for 2007.

The Council also decides that:

- a) It should be a priority to monitor the recasting process of the legal system governing the National Statistical System, which was started in 2006 with a proposal submitted by the Council to the Government, and is expected to be concluded in early 2007; after this recast, the Council shall examine the principles in force in the field of the delegation of powers and of the recast of the regulations governing statistical confidentiality;
- b) The active participation of the Council in monitoring the “General Guidelines of National Statistical Activity for 2003-2007”, and approving the “General Guidelines of National Statistical Activity and relevant priorities for the 2008-2012 period” should be highly relevant for the National Statistical System;
- c) The actions developed with a view to an improved functioning of the National Statistical System and to full compliance with international patterns within the scope of statistical quality, essential for the reputation of Portuguese statistics, should be continued and strengthened through support to the initiatives already implemented or under preparation in the following fields:
 - Use of administrative data for statistical purposes, with special focus on the creation in 2007 of the new system “*Informação Empresarial Simplificada*” (Simplified Business Information), which will

permit statistical production-related costs to be cut and the efficiency and swiftness of data collection to be raised, which simultaneously represents a significant reduction in the reporting burden and associated costs on enterprises;

- Implementation of the new methodology to monitor the Work Program of Statistics Portugal and of other entities intervening in national statistical production;
 - Creation of a "Single Statistical Units File" to be used within the scope of the National Statistical System;
 - Update of nomenclatures and concepts underlying national statistical activity which are essential for understanding the statistics released, with focus on the conclusion of ongoing works in terms of the "Methodological Document";
 - Pursuit and development of new initiatives in the field of statistical quality, namely through recourse to statistical audit solutions;
 - Definition of a dissemination policy of the National Statistical System;
 - Implementation in Portugal of the Code of Practice for European Statistics in each and every entity of the National Statistical System.
- d) The monitoring by the Council of the preparatory works for two large statistical operations of Statistics Portugal should be highly relevant:
- The 15th Population Census and the 5th Housing Census (2011 Censuses)
 - The 2009 General Agricultural Census.

Lisbon, 15 December 2006

The Vice-Chairperson of the Statistical Council, *Alda de Caetano Carvalho*

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