

**DELIBERATION NO 196 OF THE CONSELHO SUPERIOR DE ESTATÍSTICA (STATISTICAL COUNCIL)
ON THE APPRAISAL OF THE DRAFT CODE OF ETHICS FOR THE STAFF OF STATISTICS PORTUGAL**

Whereas Statistics Portugal, as the body of the National Statistical System entrusted with the production and dissemination of official statistical information of national and Community interest, it is only fair to consider it as a centre that streamlines the modernisation and development processes of the country, bearing the heavy burden to provide a high-quality public service to the whole national community;

Taking into consideration that Statistics Portugal, showing concern for the quality of the service it provides, already has a Quality Charter in force, which was approved by the Administration Board on 10 September 1996. Through this Charter, Statistics Portugal publicly assumes specific quality commitments that comprise, in addition to the quality of statistical production, that of its relationship with the users of the official statistical information produced and with the reporting statistical units;

Taking into consideration that the good practice of Statistics Portugal in the strict fulfilment of the commitments laid down in its Quality Charter was already publicly acknowledged, with Statistics Portugal having been distinguished as one of the winning institutions of the 1998 *Public Services Excellence Award*, coordinated by the Secretariat for Administrative Modernisation on the basis of the criteria established by the European Foundation for Quality Management;

Whereas the production and dissemination of official statistical information of national and Community interest on a scientific, objective, impartial and equal basis, accessible to all users, is instrumental for an enhanced cultural and national identity and for the formation of an objectively informed public opinion, while making a decisive contribution to the reinforcement of citizenship and of the democratic process, it is also incumbent on Statistics Portugal to implement an organisational/institutional culture that relies on values that must be safeguarded, in the field of deontology and professional ethics, enshrined in a *code of conduct*;

Whereas pursuant to Law No 6/89 of 15 April (*General Basic Law of the National Statistical System*) the production of official statistical information is incumbent on Statistics Portugal and on the public services to which it delegates official statistical tasks;



Whereas, finally, pursuant to Article 23 (1) (o) of Law No 67/98 of 26 October (*Personal Data Protection Law*), the Data Protection Authority, in particular, shall be responsible for «*Promoting and appraising codes of conduct*».

Following appraisal of the draft Code of Ethics submitted by Statistics Portugal, the plenary session of the Statistical Council meeting on 12 July 2000 decided:

1. To issue a general favourable opinion; it should be adapted to cover the suggestions made by the members of the Council, included in the minutes;
2. To empower the Secretary of the Statistical Council:
 - 2.1 To submit the project resulting from paragraph 1 for consultation by the members of the Statistical Council, through a written procedure, aimed at collecting contributions in their various fields of expertise;
 - 2.2 To inform the members of the Statistical Council of the version resulting from the consultation referred to in 2.1, considering it as approved (final) 5 days after it has been sent;
 - 2.3 To submit the project approved by the Council under the terms of 2.2 to an opinion of the *Comissão Nacional de Protecção de Dados* (CNPD – the Portuguese Data Protection Authority) and to make the Council aware of the result of the CNPD's appraisal.
3. To extend the implementation of the Code of Ethics to all official statistics producers.

Lisbon, 25 July 2000

The Chairperson of the Statistical Council, *Elisa Guimarães Ferreira*

The Secretary of the Statistical Council, *Pedro Jorge Nunes da Silva Dias*