

The European System of national and regional Accounts, COM(2010)774

Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European system of national and regional accounts in the European Union (Text with EEA relevance)		
Procedure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Legal Basis: Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union Article 338</i> ▪ <i>The ordinary legislative procedure</i> 	
Stages in the procedure	Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Commission adoption: 20.12.2010
	Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Proposal Received: 20.12.2010 ▪ Council Working Party Meetings: 05.04.2011, 12.05.2011, 31.05.2011, 22.06.2011, 12.07.2011, 20.09.2011, 11.10.2011, 03.11.2011, 23.11.2011, 15.12.2011, 17.01.2012, 02.02.2012, 14.03.2012, 29.03.2012 19.04.2012, 30.05.2012, 20.06.2012. ▪ COREPER 16.05.2012, 20.06.2012 ▪ Council of the EU: (to be announced)
	European Parliament	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Proposal Received: 20.12.2010 ▪ Committee responsible: Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Rapporteur: Sharon Bowles (ALDE) – Draft Report: 23.11.2011 PE473.886 ▪ Vote in ECON committee: 21.03.2012 ▪ EP plenary: 25.10.2012 ▪ Trilogue: 16.05.2012, 29.05.2012 (technical), 01.06.2012, 19.06.2012 (technical), 21.06.2012 – next trilogue to be announced.
	ECB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ECB opinion: 19.05.2011

Summary:

The aim of this proposal is to revise ESA 95 in order to bring national accounts in the European Union in line with the new economic environment, advances in methodological research and to meet the needs of users. The revised ESA will allow for the production of the high-quality national accounts data required to support the implementation of major EU policies.

The dossier was on the agenda of the Council Working Party on Statistics four times during the Hungarian Presidency and six times during the Polish Presidency. The issue is continued by the Danish Presidency. The draft proposal has been discussed according to the following roadmap:

- legal text,
- data transmission programme (Annex B),
- methodology (Annex A).

The two preceding Presidencies managed to finalize the discussion and gain the Member States' acceptance to all chapters of Annex A, Methodology. Moreover, the scope of all tables of Annex B of ESA Transmission Programme was debated and for the most part agreed. ECB comments have been discussed and reflected in both annexes when supported by a majority of Member States.

During the Polish Presidency, a joint Polish and Danish hearing concerning the legal text of the draft proposal was launched. Delegations were invited to express their opinions by 21 December 2011. Comments obtained in the hearing were circulated to all delegations.

The first meeting under the Danish Presidency on 17 January 2012 was entirely devoted to discussion of the ESA 2010 Regulation. The first part of the meeting dealt with the discussion of two remaining issues from Annex B: exceptions for 'smaller countries' and discussion of deadlines. The question on smaller countries was settled, while the question on deadlines still needed to be clarified. During the second part of the meeting the reading of the legal text was started.

During the second meeting under the Danish Presidency on 2 February 2012, the first reading of the articles and recitals was finalized. Against this background, the Presidency drafted a document summarizing the items that the Council Working Party agreed upon and furthermore, put forward draft proposals for the major part of the unsettled issues.

The aim of the third meeting under the Danish Presidency on 14 March 2012 was to conclude on the remaining issues of the recitals and the articles, and on the issue of deadlines. An agreement was achieved on most of the issues regarding the recitals and articles as well as an agreement on deadlines. The main outstanding issue was the wording of the text that concerns Commission's delegated powers.

Annex B of the ESA 2010 Regulation was the main subject of the discussion during the fourth meeting under the Danish Presidency on 29 March. With the exception of Table 29, a general agreement was reached on all outstanding issues in the annex.

Three Member States, have, however, taken a reservation on Table 29. The Presidency asked the three Member States for comments on possible solutions to the reservations and on a possible way forward.

During the fifth meeting in the Council Working Group on Statistics, the Danish Presidency succeeded in closing the discussion on the ESA 2010 proposal. Among other issues, the Presidency presented a compromise solution to the important issue of delegated acts, which was accepted by the Member States.

The Commission, however, took a scrutiny reserve in order to allow for a consultation of the Commission's Legal Service. The Member States also discussed the amendment proposals launched by the ECON Committee. Prior to the trilogue meeting the Presidency forwarded the proposal to the COREPER in order to get a firm mandate for the negotiations with the European Parliament.

At the COREPER discussion on 16 May the Presidency got a mandate for further negotiations with the European Parliament. Against that background the Presidency conducted the first trilogue meeting with the European Parliament on 16 May 2012. During this meeting and the second trilogue meeting held on 1 June, an agreement was reached on most of the amendment proposals by the European Parliament and the Council. In connection to those meetings, the Presidency has also conducted two technical trilogues with the European Parliament in order to settle issues related to the annexes.

With the intention of closing the remaining items, the Presidency drafted a new compromise proposal, especially as regards the inclusion of a new Article 12.a (Government liabilities, government guarantees and implicit pension obligations) and obligations as regards table 29. This proposal was presented to the COREPER on 20 June with the aim of getting a new mandate for further negotiations. The COREPER, however, did not grant a mandate for the outstanding issues. Accordingly, during the third trilogue meeting on 21 June, the Presidency and the European Parliament were not in a position to come to an agreement. However, all remaining issues, except the contentious Article 12.a and demands in relation to table 29 were closed. The European Parliament requested a future trilogue meeting on the outstanding issues to be conducted at higher political level.