Appendix 2

Organisation of EU Cooperation

SPC

The Statistical Programme Committee (SPC) was appointed in 1989 and consists of the Directors General for the national statistical institutions and is presided by Eurostat's Director General. The SPC advises on the planning of the 5-year work programme, the annual work programme and statistical legislation. The committee also functions as an implementation committee in accordance with current comitology procedures. The Directors General for the statistical institutions in the European Economic Area participate in the meetings without a vote.

Eurostat Working Groups, etc. The preparation of new statistical legislation under the auspices of Eurostat is done by working groups, in which all member states are represented. From time to time work is carried out in task forces, where selected member states are represented. Before a proposal for new statistical legislation is put before the Council and European Parliament, a draft is presented to the SPC for comments.

Council Working Groups and the European Parliament When the Council and European Parliament have received the final proposal for legislation from the Commission, it is discussed in a Council working group. Member states participate and are normally represented by the statistical institutions. Simultaneously a parallel reading is carried out in the European Parliament.

The execution of new European statistics occurs once it is decided by the Council and European Parliament in the form of specific legislation, or by agreements between the national authorities and the EU authorities.

The Implementation Committees

The Commission is often authorised to determine detailed rules and carry out small adjustments to the legislation on condition that this is accepted by a specified implementation committee.

Statistics Denmark is represented by the National Statistician in the SPC which, with reference to certain legislation acts as an implementation committee. In addition, Statistics Denmark is represented in seven other committees (1) Standing Committee for Agriculture Statistics, (2) Customs Code Committee, Tariff and Statistical Nomenclatures, (3) The Committee on Statistical Confidentiality, (4) The GNP Committee (5) The Committee on the Statistics of the Trading of Goods between Member States (Intrastat), (6) The Committee on External Trade Statistics with Third Countries and (7) The Health Monitoring Committee.

CEIES

In 1991 the Council decided to establish a European advisory committee for statistical information in the economic and social spheres (CEIES). The committee consists of representatives from the Commission, in practice Eurostat, the Directors General from the national statistical institutions and users of statistics.

CMFB

In 1991 the Council also decided to establish a committee for monetary, financial and balance of payments statistics in order to establish a close working relationship in this field with a view to implementing the economic and monetary union. The committee consists of representatives from the Commission and from the most important institutions working with monetary, financial and balance of payments statistics in the member states. In practice this tends to be the national statistical authorities and central banks.