

AD 84/26

LIMITE

CONF-ME 35

ACCESSION DOCUMENT

Subject: EUROPEAN UNION COMMON POSITION
- Chapter 18: Statistics

EUROPEAN UNION COMMON POSITION

Negotiating chapter 18: Statistics

This position of the European Union is based on its general position for the Accession Conference with Montenegro (AD 23/12 CONF-ME 2) and is subject to the negotiating principles endorsed therein, in particular:

- any view expressed by either party on a chapter of the negotiations will in no way prejudice the position which may be taken on other chapters;
- agreements - even partial agreements - reached during the course of the negotiations on chapters to be examined successively may not be considered as final until an overall agreement has been established;
- the requirements set out in points 24, 28, 41 and 44 of the Negotiating Framework.

The EU encourages Montenegro to continue the process of alignment with the EU *acquis* and its effective implementation and enforcement, and in general to develop, already before accession, policies and instruments as close as possible to those of the EU.

The EU notes that Montenegro, in its negotiating position AD 14/14 CONF-ME 9-and addendum AD 58/26 CONF-ME 22 accepts the *acquis* under chapter 18 as in force on 17 July 2026, and that Montenegro declares that it will be ready to implement it by the date of its accession to the EU, except for the areas for which it requested transitional measures and permanent derogations.

As an overall response to Montenegro's requests for transitional periods, the EU recalls its general negotiating position that transitional measures are limited in time and scope and accompanied by a plan with clearly defined stages for the application of the *acquis*. They must not involve amendments to the rules or policies of the EU, disrupt their proper functioning, or lead to a significant distortion of competition.

The EU notes that given the specific historical and institutional context, Montenegro requested **permanent derogations** for certain statistical areas for which data are required in accordance with the Data Transmission Programme or sectoral regulations for the period prior to the restoration of independence (21 May 2006). The EU acknowledges that it is materially impossible for Montenegro to provide such data and therefore considers Montenegro's request for permanent derogation acceptable.

Statistical infrastructure

The EU notes that Montenegro's statistical infrastructure is in line with the formal requirements of the *acquis*. The statistical office of Montenegro (MONSTAT) is the main producer and disseminator of the statistical data as well as the overall co-ordinator of the official statistics system of Montenegro. The EU notes that the coordination role of MONSTAT has been strengthened over the recent years. Other producers of official statistics are the Central Bank of Montenegro and the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation, the Pension and Disability Insurance Fund of Montenegro and the Institute for Public Health.

The EU takes note that the framework for statistics is set by the Law on Official Statistics and Official Statistics System of Montenegro. Amendments to the statistical law brought about alignment with the EU *acquis* for enhanced access to administrative data sources and to ensure a high level of confidentiality and data protection and assigned clear responsibilities for producing government finance statistics (GFS) and excessive deficit procedure statistics (EDP).

The EU notes that the programme of official statistics 2024-2028, the Strategy for the development of official statistics 2024-2028, annual statistical plans and several rulebooks on statistical data collection complete the regulatory framework. Moreover, the EU takes note that memoranda of understanding stipulating working arrangements within the statistical system, are in place.

The EU notes that the **administrative capacity** of Montenegro has been enhanced to ensure the timely adoption of the relevant *acquis* and urges Montenegro to continue strengthening the resources of the Statistical Office of Montenegro.

The EU stresses the importance for Montenegro to implement the recommendations of the 2026 peer review assessing the compliance of the National Statistical System of Montenegro with the statistical principles of the European statistics Code of Practice mentioned in EU regulation 223/2009. The implementation of the recommendations will be monitored by the Commission.

Classification and registers

Regarding **classifications and registers** the EU notes the high degree of alignment.

Economic statistics

As regards **macroeconomic statistics**, the EU notes the substantially improved compliance with Regulation (EU) No 549/2013 (ESA 2010) and its transmission programme covering key national account indicators. The benchmark revision in national accounts finalised in September 2025, incorporating also several methodological changes, represents a further significant step towards aligning Montenegro's national accounts with the EU standards.

Regarding **gross national income** (GNI) statistics for own resources, the EU notes that Montenegro provided to the Commission (Eurostat) the updated GNI inventory allowing an assessment of its structure, completeness and internal consistency. The EU takes note of the substantial progress made and urges Montenegro to continue the process of alignment with the *acquis*.

The EU notes that annual and quarterly main aggregates as well as annual sector accounts data were transmitted to the Commission (Eurostat), in line with the requirements of the first closing benchmark.

The EU notes that in the area of **national accounts**, Montenegro requested transitional periods regarding the obligation laid down in Article 3(1) and Annex B of Regulation (EU) No 549/2013, as amended by Regulation (EU) 2023/734, for the transmission of the following datasets:

- Table 20: Fixed assets by economic activity and by asset (stocks) – annual (covering from 2006 onwards), for which a transitional period is requested until 31 December 2028;
- Table 26: Balance sheets for non-financial assets – annual (covering from 2006 onwards), for which a transitional period is requested until 31 December 2028;
- Table 29: Accrued-to-date pension entitlements in social insurance – three-yearly (covering from 2015 onwards), for which a transitional period is requested until 31 December 2030;
- Table 801: Non-financial accounts by sector – quarterly, non-adjusted (covering from 2006 onwards), for preparation and transmission of quarterly sector account data for the institutional sectors S.1, S.13 and S.2, for which a transitional period is requested until 31 December 2028;
- Table 801 SA: Non-financial accounts by sector – quarterly, seasonally and calendar adjusted data (from 2006 onwards), for preparation and transmission of quarterly sector accounts, seasonally and calendar adjusted data for the institutional sectors S.1, S.13 and S.2, for which a transitional period is requested until 31 December 2028.

The EU considers the requested transitional periods acceptable.

The EU notes the significant progress achieved regarding **GFS** and **EDP** statistics. However further noteworthy improvements in the quality and coverage are required. The EU urges Montenegro to further complete the production of GFS and EDP statistics, transmit remaining data and metadata and further improve the quality of the data transmitted. The EU notes that, in line with closing benchmark 2, Montenegro adopted a roadmap on 9 July 2026 outlining the timing of producing and transmitting the remaining tables of the ESA Transmission Programme and other relevant data and addressing pending methodological issues. The EU urges Montenegro to deliver what is expected according to this roadmap.

The EU furthermore notes Montenegro's request for a transitional period in the area of **government finance statistics and excessive deficit procedure statistics** with regard to the obligation laid down in Article 3(1) and Annex B of Regulation (EU) No 549/2013, as amended by Regulation (EU) 2023/734, until 31 December 2028, for the transmission of the following dataset:

- Table 28A: General government gross debt (Maastricht debt) structure – annual (from 2024 onwards)

The EU considers the requested transitional period acceptable.

To meet all requirements of the ESA 2010 Regulation, the EU urges Montenegro to further complete the production of annual and quarterly national accounts data and transmit the remaining annual and quarterly main aggregates and non-financial sector accounts data, annual financial accounts and supply, use and input output tables, as well as the required metadata in line with the agreed planning in the above-mentioned roadmap.

With regard to **short-term and structural business statistics**, including business demography, the EU invites Montenegro to complete alignment. The EU takes note of the substantial alignment with regards to PRODCOM.

The EU notes Montenegro's request in the area of **structural business statistics** (SBS) for a transitional period with regards to the obligations laid down in Article 7(1) of Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 and Annex I, Part B of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1197, until 31 December 2030, for the preparation and transmission of

- Table 10. Country-level business statistics on activities of enterprises
- Table 11. Country-level business statistics on activities of enterprises broken down by size classes or broken down by legal form
- Table 21. Country-level business statistics on purchases by enterprises
- Table 22. Country-level business statistics on changes in stock of enterprises
- Table 23. Country-level business statistics on product and residence of client breakdown of net turnover of enterprises
- Table 24. Country-level business statistics on broad activity regroupings breakdown of net turnover of enterprises
- Table 25. Country-level business statistics on type of turnover breakdown of enterprises
- Table 27. Country-level business statistics on investments in tangible non-current assets by enterprises
- Table 28. Country-level business statistics on investment in intangible non-current assets
- Table 29. Regional business statistics on local units

The requested transitional period is necessary due to the significant methodological, organisational and IT developments required to establish the production processes necessary for the compilation and transmission of this data. The EU considers the requested transitional period acceptable.

The EU invites Montenegro to produce statistics for the **remunerations** of EU- officials.

The EU takes note of Montenegro's full compliance in the provision of detailed **international trade in goods statistics** and of statistics on trade by invoicing currency as well as of **international trade in services statistics** for which Montenegro is largely aligned with the EU *acquis*. The EU welcomes the progress made on statistics on trade by enterprise characteristics, but gaps remain and the EU invites Montenegro to complete these statistics and to further improve the quality of the data. In the area of services trade by enterprise characteristics (STEC) and services trade by modes of supply (MoS), the EU invites Montenegro to produce these statistics. The EU takes note that Montenegro will establish the system for the compilation of intra-EU trade in goods statistics, as well as for the ITGS exchanges of micro-data with other Member States, in particular on intra-EU exports of goods, by the time of accession.

Regarding **foreign affiliate statistics (FATS)**, Montenegro is expected to provide to the Commission (Eurostat) inward FATS data broken down by activity code of the statistical classification of economic activities in the EU (NACE) and start producing outward FATS data. Montenegro is also expected to provide Global Value Chains statistics. Regarding **foreign direct investment (FDI)**, the EU takes note of the reported progress and invites Montenegro to produce FDI statistics by activity breakdown.

With regard to **price statistics**, the EU notes that Montenegro fulfils the mandatory data transmission requirements of the EU *acquis* for the harmonised index of consumer prices. The EU takes note that house price index and the owner-occupied house price index will be provided from the date of accession. As regards purchasing power parities, Montenegro supplies most of the basic information required by the EU *acquis*. Data for hospital services prices remain to be produced.

The EU notes Montenegro's request for a *permanent derogation* for the transmission of the following elements of data requirements concerning **service producer price indices** laid down in Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 on European business statistics and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1197 for the reference period 2010–2017. The EU takes note of the information provided by Montenegro, in particular the fact that due to the passage of time, objective limitations in the availability of original documentation and methodological discontinuities, full reconstruction of the data for the period concerned is not feasible without risks to the quality and reliability of the statistics. The EU considers the requested permanent derogation acceptable.

The EU welcomes Montenegro's full compliance of the **information and communications technology (ICT) statistics**. On **innovation statistics**, the EU invites Montenegro to continue working to achieve full alignment by accession. With regard to **research and development (R&D) statistics**, the EU takes note of the substantial alignment.

Sector statistics

With regard to **agriculture, forestry and fishery statistics**, the EU takes note of the current alignment on integrated farm statistics, on statistics on agricultural inputs and outputs, and on economic accounts for agriculture and encourages Montenegro to progress to the full alignment with the *acquis*. The EU invites Montenegro to align the fisheries and aquaculture statistics with the EU *acquis*.

The EU takes note of Montenegro's request for a transitional period with regard to the obligations laid down in Article 5(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU) 2022/2379 for the preparation and transmission of statistics related to the input and output of agricultural activities covering the domain of statistics on nutrients and the detailed topic of the use of plant protection products in agriculture within the domain of statistics on plant protection products as set out in points (d) and (e) of its Annex and for the obligations stemming from any implementing acts adopted pursuant to it laying down rules for the application of this regulation as regards this domain and this detailed topic, until 31 December 2030. The EU considers the requested transitional period acceptable.

With regard to **energy statistics**, the EU welcomes full alignment with the *acquis*.

As regards **transport statistics**, the EU takes note of the alignment for road transport, rail transport, maritime transport and air transport. The quality of air transport statistics needs further improvements. As Montenegro has no significant commercial traffic on inland waterways, these statistics are irrelevant.

With regard to **tourism statistics**, the EU takes note of the current alignment and expects Montenegro to continue working towards full alignment with the EU *acquis* by the date of accession.

As regards **environment statistics**, the EU takes note of the high degree of alignment on waste statistics and invites Montenegro to continue further improvements to produce fully aligned environmental accounts. The EU invites Montenegro to produce the European environmental accounts as provided for in Annexes I to VIII to Regulation (EU) 691/2011. On the plastics own resource, Montenegro prepared a plan to be able to obtain more robust data by the date of accession. The EU calls upon Montenegro to complete the waste composition study before date of accession and within agreed timeline between Commission and Montenegro.

Social statistics

With regard to **population statistics**, the EU takes note that the population and housing census was conducted in 2023 in conformity with the *acquis*. The EU notes partial alignment of demographic and migration statistics and invites Montenegro to continue to improve the level of compliance in terms of concepts and definition and data availability. Montenegro regularly provides statistics and related metadata on asylum and on enforcement of immigration legislation. The EU invites Montenegro to produce statistics on residence permits.

Concerning the **labour force survey (LFS)**, the EU takes note of the significant progress of Montenegro in producing the data and related quality reports. Montenegro is expected to improve the timeliness of the data.

Concerning **education and training statistics**, the EU notes that Montenegro is partially compliant in education statistics. The EU expects Montenegro to produce the remaining financial tables, information on languages studied, credit mobile students and metadata by the date of accession.

With regard to **health statistics**, the EU notes the current level of compliance of healthcare non-expenditure statistics and healthcare expenditure statistics and acknowledges the current compliance with regard to the submission of the mandatory items requested under the joint health accounts questionnaire (JHAQ) to the Commission (Eurostat). The EU encourages Montenegro to further improve data coverage.

The EU notes Montenegro's request for a transitional period for full compliance and data transmission on causes of death in accordance with the Commission Regulation (EU) 328/2011 and accidents at work in accordance with the Commission Regulation (EU) 349/2011, until 31 December 2030. The EU considers the requested transitional period acceptable.

The EU notes that the **household budget survey** is conducted regularly as a five-yearly survey, with data transmitted to the Commission (Eurostat) since 2010. The EU also takes note that the survey is currently being implemented for the 2026 reference year and invites Montenegro to transmit microdata and national quality report in line with *acquis* deadlines.

As concerns the **income and living conditions statistics**, the EU notes that Montenegro is partially complying with the EU *acquis* and expects Montenegro to improve timeliness and quality reporting.

As regards **justice and crime statistics**, Montenegro is expected to improve completeness and quality of the data.

* * *

In view of the above considerations, the EU notes that, at this stage, this chapter does not require further negotiations.

Monitoring of progress in the alignment with and implementation of the EU *acquis* will continue throughout the negotiations. The EU underlines that it will devote particular attention to monitoring all specific issues mentioned above with a view to ensuring Montenegro's administrative capacity, its ability to implement and enforce the EU *acquis* in this chapter and the completion of the legislative alignment. Specific consideration needs to be given to the links between the present chapter and other negotiation chapters. A final assessment of the conformity of Montenegro's legislation with the EU *acquis* and of its implementation capacity can only be made at a later stage of the negotiations. In addition to all the information the EU may require for the negotiations in this chapter and which is to be provided to the Conference, the EU invites Montenegro to regularly provide detailed written information to the Stabilisation and Association Council on progress in the implementation of the EU *acquis* and in the strengthening of its administrative capacity.

In view of all the above considerations, the EU will, if necessary, return to this chapter at an appropriate moment.

The EU notes that Montenegro, in its updated Negotiating Position [AD 58/26 CONF-ME 22] accepts the *acquis* under Chapter 18 as in force on 17 July 2026. Furthermore, the EU notes that Montenegro declares that it will continue the alignment process with the *acquis* and that it will be ready to implement it by the date of its accession to the European Union, except for the areas where it requested transitional periods and permanent derogations.

Furthermore, the EU recalls that there may be new *acquis* between 17 July 2026 and the conclusion of the negotiations.

DRAFT LEGAL ANNEX

ANNEX [XX]

List referred to in Article [XX] of the Act of Accession: transitional measures

[X]. STATISTICS

National accounts

Government finance statistics and excessive deficit procedure statistics

1. 32013R0549: Regulation (EU) No 549/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 May 2013 on the European system of national and regional accounts in the European Union (OJ L 174, 26.6.2013, p. 1).

By way of derogation from the transmission requirements laid down in Article 3(1) of Regulation (EU) No 549/2013, Montenegro shall transmit to the Commission (Eurostat) the following defined accounts in the data tables in Annex B in accordance with the reference periods and deadlines for transmission specified below:

- Table 20: Fixed assets by economic activity and by asset (stocks) — annual, covering from 2006 onwards, shall be transmitted no later than 31 December 2028
- Table 26: Balance sheets for non-financial assets — annual, covering from 2006 onwards, shall be transmitted no later than 31 December 2028
- Table 28A: General government gross debt (Maastricht debt) structure — annual, covering from 2024 onwards, shall be transmitted no later than 31 December 2028
- Table 29: Accrued to date pension entitlements in social insurance — three-yearly, covering from 2015 onwards, shall be transmitted no later than 31 December 2030

- The quarterly sector account data for the institutional sectors S.1 (total economy), S.13 (general government) and S.2 (rest of the world), as defined in Chapter 2, of Table 801: Non-financial accounts by sector — quarterly, non-adjusted, covering from 2006 onwards, shall be transmitted no later than 31 December 2028

– The quarterly sector accounts, seasonally and calendar adjusted data for the institutional sectors S.1 (total economy), S.13 (general government) and S.2 (rest of the world), as defined in Chapter 2, of Table 801SA: Non-financial accounts by sector — quarterly, seasonally and calendar adjusted data, covering from 2006 onwards, shall be transmitted no later than 31 December 2028.

Agriculture statistics

2. 32022R2379: Regulation (EU) 2022/2379 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 November 2022 on statistics on agricultural input and output, amending Commission Regulation (EC) No 617/2008 and repealing Regulations (EC) No 1165/2008, (EC) No 543/2009 and (EC) No 1185/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Directive 96/16/EC (OJ L 315, 7.12.2022, p.1).

By way of derogation from Article 5(1) and (2), Montenegro shall transmit statistics related to the input and output of agricultural activities covering the domain of statistics on nutrients and the detailed topic of the use of plant protection products in agriculture within the domain of statistics on plant protection products as set out in points (d) and (e) of its Annex and in accordance with any implementing acts adopted pursuant to it, laying down rules for the application of Regulation (EU) 2022/2379 as regards that domain and that detailed topic, from 1 January 2031 onwards.

Health statistics

3. 32011R0328: Commission Regulation (EU) No 328/2011 of 5 April 2011 implementing Regulation (EC) No 1338/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community statistics on public health and health and safety at work, as regards statistics on causes of death (OJ L 90, 6.4.2011, p. 22)

This Regulation shall apply to and in Montenegro from 1 January 2031 onwards.

4. 32011R0349: Commission Regulation (EU) No 349/2011 of 11 April 2011 implementing Regulation (EC) No 1338/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community statistics on public health and health and safety at work, as regards statistics on accidents at work (OJ L 97, 12.4.2011, p. 3)

This Regulation shall apply to and in Montenegro from 1 January 2031 onwards.

Structural business statistics

5. 32019R2152: Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2019 on European business statistics, repealing 10 legal acts in the field of business statistics (OJ L 327, 17.12.2019, p. 1)

6. 32020R1197: Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1197 of 30 July 2020 laying down technical specifications and arrangements pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 of the European Parliament and of the Council on European business statistics repealing 10 legal acts in the field of business statistics (OJ L 271, 18.8.2020, p. 1)

By way of derogation of Article 7(1) of Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 and from the elements of data requirements for the detailed topics as set out in Annex I, Part B, of the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1197, Montenegro shall transmit to the Commission (Eurostat) the following tables from 1 January 2031 onwards:

- Table 10. Country-level business statistics on activities of enterprises
- Table 11. Country-level business statistics on activities of enterprises broken down by size classes or broken down by legal form
- Table 21. Country-level business statistics on purchases by enterprises
- Table 22. Country-level business statistics on changes in stock of enterprises
- Table 23. Country-level business statistics on product and residence of client breakdown of net turnover of enterprises
- Table 24. Country-level business statistics on broad activity regroupings breakdown of net turnover of enterprises
- Table 25. Country-level business statistics on type of turnover breakdown of enterprises
- Table 27. Country-level business statistics on investments in tangible non-current assets by enterprises
- Table 28. Country-level business statistics on investment in intangible non-current assets
- Table 29. Regional business statistics on local units

PART XX

PERMANENT PROVISIONS

Article XX

Since Montenegro was neither an independent State nor vested with full institutional, legal and statistical authority over all data collection and management systems until 21 May 2006, Montenegro shall not be required to transmit data under Regulation (EU) No 549/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹ or any other applicable regulations for the period preceding 21 May 2006, that is, for the period prior to the restoration of independence.

Article XX

Due to objective limitations in the availability of original documentation and methodological discontinuities ensuing from the passage of time, the full reconstruction of the data for the reference period 2010-2017 is not feasible without compromising the quality and reliability of the statistics. Montenegro shall, by way of derogation from Article 7(1) of Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 of the European Parliament and of the Council² and from the elements of data requirements for the detailed topics as set out in Annex I, Part B, of the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1197³, not transmit, for the reference period 2010-2017, the following elements of data requirements as set out in Annex I, Part B, Table 5. Short term business statistics on producer prices of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1197 as regards producer prices in services for NACE Sections H to M (excluding K, M701, M72 and M75) and N.

¹ OJ L 174, 26.6.2013, p. 1.
² OJ L 327, 17.12.2019, p. 1.
³ OJ L 271, 18.8.2020, p. 1.