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From: Secretary-General of the European Commission, signed by Ms Martine DEPREZ, Director

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To: Ms Thérèse BLANCHET, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union

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Subject: REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL on the 'Commitments on Confidence in Statistics' by Member States as required by Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009

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Delegations will find attached document COM(2026) 270 final.

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# REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL

on the ‘Commitments on Confidence in Statistics’ by Member States as required by Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics

This report has been drawn up in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics, as amended, most recently by Regulation (EU) 2024/3018,<sup>1</sup> in particular Article 11(4), which provides that:

*‘The Commitments by Member States shall be monitored regularly by the Commission on the basis of annual reports sent by Member States and shall be updated as necessary ... The Commission shall report to the European Parliament and the Council on the published Commitments and, where appropriate, progress reports, by 9 June 2018 and every two years thereafter.’*

This report covers the period from January 2024 to December 2025 (‘this reporting period’ from here on). Previous reports were published in 2018,<sup>2</sup> 2020,<sup>3</sup> 2022<sup>4</sup> and 2024.<sup>5</sup>

### 1.2. Commitment on Confidence in Statistics

According to Article 11(3) of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009, *‘Member States and the Commission shall take all the necessary measures to maintain confidence in European statistics. To this effect, “Commitments on Confidence in Statistics” shall further aim to ensure public trust in European statistics and progress in the implementation of the statistical principles contained in the Code of Practice.’*

The Commitments on Confidence in Statistics (the Commitments) were established as part of the objective to strengthen the framework for quality management in the field of statistics.<sup>6</sup> They serve as a mechanism to involve governments continuously in taking responsibility for their countries’ adherence to the European Statistics Code of Practice (the Code of Practice).<sup>7</sup>

The Code of Practice created the benchmark for developing, producing and disseminating European statistics. It encompasses 16 principles covering the institutional environment, statistical processes and statistical output. Its main objective is to ensure that the statistics produced in the European Statistical System (ESS) fulfil not only quality criteria, but also other principles, such as professional independence, impartiality and objectivity.

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<sup>1</sup> [Regulation \(EC\) No 223/2009](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on European statistics and repealing Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1101/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the transmission of data subject to statistical confidentiality to the Statistical Office of the European Communities, Council Regulation (EC) No 322/97 on Community Statistics, and Council Decision 89/382/EEC, Euratom establishing a Committee on the Statistical Programmes of the European Communities (OJ L 87, 31.3.2009, p. 164).

<sup>2</sup> [COM\(2018\) 516 final](#)

<sup>3</sup> [COM/2020/278 final](#)

<sup>4</sup> [COM/2022/333 final](#)

<sup>5</sup> [COM\(2024\) 390 final](#)

<sup>6</sup> [COM \(2011\) 211 final](#)

<sup>7</sup> [European Statistics Code of Practice – revised edition 2017 - Products Catalogues - Eurostat \(europa.eu\)](#)

Recital 17 of Amending Regulation (EU) 2015/759<sup>8</sup> states that *‘The quality of European statistics could be strengthened and the confidence of users reinforced, by involving national governments in the responsibility of applying the European Statistics Code of Practice (the Code of Practice). To that end, a “Commitment on Confidence in Statistics” (Commitment) by a Member State, taking account of national specificities, should include specific undertakings by the government of that Member State to improve or maintain the conditions for the implementation of the Code of Practice. The Commitment, which should be updated as necessary, could include national high quality assurance frameworks, including self-assessments, improvement actions and monitoring mechanisms.’*

## **2. OVERVIEW OF COMMITMENTS ON CONFIDENCE AND REPORTS BY MEMBER STATES**

This report gives an overview of the specific actions undertaken by the Member States during this reporting period to maintain confidence in European statistics and to improve the conditions for implementing the Code of Practice.

### **2.1. Form of the Commitment**

Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 does not set out rules on what form the Commitment should take. However, the objective of maintaining the public’s trust by means of governmental commitment to creating the conditions for high-quality statistics must be achieved.

As the previous Commission reports on Commitments on Confidence by Member States, most recently in 2024,<sup>9</sup> say, most Member States consider certain parts of their legislation to constitute their Commitment. Occasional amendments to this legislation during this reporting period, as reported to the Commission, illustrate Member States’ continued awareness of the importance of public trust in statistics. Overall, the Commission notes that the number of Member States that have drawn up stand-alone Commitments has increased slightly over the years, with a new stand-alone Commitment established by one country in the ESS and one existing stand-alone Commitment renewed by another country during this reporting period.

### **2.2. The role of ESS peer reviews and quality reports**

ESS peer reviews and quality reports are a recurring element in Member States’ reports on Commitments on Confidence in Statistics.

#### **2.2.1. ESS peer reviews – adherence to the Code of Practice**

The ESS, in which Eurostat and the national statistical authorities of the EU Member States and European Free Trade Area (EFTA) countries cooperate, aims to produce high-quality European statistics. To guarantee high-quality statistics, the ESS has created a common quality framework<sup>10</sup> with the Code of Practice as its cornerstone. National statistical authorities’ compliance with the full set of principles and indicators of the Code of Practice is periodically assessed through ESS peer reviews. Previous rounds of ESS peer reviews were carried out from 2006 to 2008 and from 2013 to 2015. In May 2024 the Commission published the results of the

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<sup>8</sup> [Regulation \(EU\) 2015/759](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2015 amending Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics (OJ L 123,19.5.2015, p. 90).

<sup>9</sup> [COM\(2024\) 390 final](#).

<sup>10</sup> [Quality Assurance Framework - Quality - Eurostat](#).

third round of ESS peer reviews, covering the 2021-2023 period.<sup>11</sup> The individual peer review reports are on Eurostat's website.<sup>12</sup>

ESS peer reviews are a critical mechanism for strengthening the credibility and reliability of statistical systems across Member States. They provide a structured approach to assessing adherence to established standards and pinpoint areas for improvement. The latest peer review round had two objectives:

- to review the alignment of the ESS with the Code of Practice to demonstrate that it is a system based on the principles of the Code of Practice;
- to help national statistical institutes (NSIs) and other national authorities (ONAs) to further improve and develop national statistical systems (NSS) by making future-oriented recommendations; at the same time, they should encourage government authorities to support the implementation of these recommendations.

Considering the second objective, ESS peer reviews have involved stakeholders that are external to NSS, such as government bodies, including the possibility to issue recommendations addressed to them, with a view to encouraging them to support findings identified during the reviews.

In their reports to the Commission for this reporting period, all Member States emphasised the significant role of ESS peer reviews in identifying gaps and the potential for strengthening their statistical frameworks. They noted that follow-up improvement actions form an essential part of the peer review process, ensuring that the recommendations resulting from the reviews are implemented effectively.

### **2.2.2. Quality reports**

Quality reports on statistical products play an essential role in improving statistical processes and ensuring the integrity of statistics. In their reports to the Commission for this reporting period, several Member States emphasised the importance of quality reports for systematic quality assessment and improvement.

Several Member States reported that they had integrated uniform quality standards and indicators into statistical processing systems in recent years, broadening knowledge of quality-related matters through training. These efforts underline the critical role quality reports play in strengthening trust in official statistics and accommodating emerging technological and methodological considerations.

### **2.3. Specific actions undertaken nationally to maintain confidence in European statistics and improve the conditions for implementing the Code of Practice**

The reports sent by Member States to Eurostat detailed various strategic actions undertaken nationally to improve statistical systems. These reflect a broad range of efforts aimed at adapting to emerging challenges, refining methodologies, making the best use of technology and ensuring that statistical outputs meet users' demands effectively.

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<sup>11</sup> [Register of Commission Documents - SWD\(2024\)136 \(europa.eu\)](#).

<sup>12</sup> [Third round \(2021-2023\) - Eurostat \(europa.eu\)](#).

### **2.3.1. Communication activities**

In their reports to the Commission for this reporting period, Member States listed various communication activities aimed at increasing statistical literacy and the use of official data. Initiatives in this area included educational programmes and workshops designed to help different audiences better understand statistical methods and interpret data.

The focus was also on getting the most out of social media platforms to disseminate statistical information widely and effectively. These platforms are used to reach a broader audience with timely updates and engaging content that facilitates interaction and discussion.

Outreach to journalists was prioritised by several Member States, thereby recognising the importance of disseminating accurate information. Member States' initiatives included targeted briefings and workshops for journalists to ensure they have the necessary understanding and resources to report on statistical data accurately and comprehensively.

Member States' actions during this reporting period show that creating a trust and transparency hub on statistical authorities' websites can be a good way of making relevant information about crucial aspects of statistical production available, including information on methodological matters and confidentiality.

During this reporting period, Member States also did a lot of work to help small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) make the best use of statistics. By providing tailored statistical information and support, Member States aimed to help SMEs use data to assist them in making business decisions. This in turn helped SMEs to be economically resilient and to grow.

To further support the interpretation and use of statistical releases, Member States focused on providing comprehensive metadata. These metadata accompanied statistical publications and served to clarify methodologies, sources and data limitations, thereby increasing transparency and helping stakeholders understand and use the data effectively.

Such initiatives have the potential to strengthen public trust in the activities of individual authorities and in official statistics in general.

### **2.3.2. Actions related to user satisfaction and outreach**

Member States focused on increasing user satisfaction and improving outreach through innovative survey methods and targeted efforts for various user groups. The Commission sees a trend in which user satisfaction surveys are increasingly common at national level, with innovative practices such as micro surveys being implemented. These smaller, more frequent surveys enable Member States to gather timely insights into user feedback, allowing for agile adjustments and responses to user needs and concerns.

Member States also reported on expanded outreach activities to include a wide range of user groups, recognising varying needs and expectations across sectors. Specific groups were engaged, such as researchers, educators, businesses, and policymakers, and received tailored statistical information for their specific interests and requirements.

Member States also reported on their proactive approaches to engaging directly with users through workshops, forums and advisory panels.

All these activities aimed to create platforms for dialogue and feedback, offering users opportunities to express their needs and preferences related to statistical data and services, thereby increasing trust in statistics.

### **2.3.3. Actions related to transparency and advisory bodies**

Member States' initiatives aimed at boosting transparency included communicating more clearly on methodologies, data sources and limitations to stakeholders, so that they can easily understand and interpret statistical outputs.

The Commission notes that advisory bodies were created and/or enhanced at national level to further bolster transparency and stakeholder engagement. These bodies, comprised of experts and representatives from various sectors, provided guidance and feedback on statistical authorities' programmes and priorities.

By facilitating dialogue between statistical authorities and stakeholders, advisory bodies contribute to informed decision-making and alignment with user needs, thereby strengthening trust in European statistics and the overall relevance and impact of statistical activities.

### **2.3.4. Actions related to cooperation with academia**

During this reporting period, Member States worked with the academic community, including universities and research institutes, to improve statistical methodologies and facilitate access to valuable data resources. These partnerships aimed to leverage academic expertise in methodological innovation, to ensure that statistical approaches remain robust, current and aligned with best practices.

Improving statistical methodologies was a key focus, with initiatives often involving joint research projects and methodological studies. This cooperation has contributed to the development of advanced techniques and tools, thereby improving the overall quality and reliability of statistical data.

Access to microdata was considered a priority by the Member States in the context of this cooperation. Member States were working to streamline processes, by giving researchers greater access to detailed datasets for scientific purposes. Such access supports the academic community's capacity to conduct comprehensive analyses and achieve a broader understanding of social and economic phenomena.

Active engagement with academic institutions reflects a shared commitment to continuous improvement in statistical practices, by supporting an environment conducive to research-driven insights.

Cooperation with academic institutions helps strengthen trust in official statistics.

### **2.3.5. Actions related to outreach to students**

Member States reported on actions to get students more involved and interested in official statistics. Statistical competitions are a key outreach tool, aiming to spark interest and inspire innovation among young people. These competitions often challenge students to analyse data or propose solutions to statistical challenges, thereby giving them practical insights into statistics.

For example, one Member State reported on a recurring international conference that, for the first time, featured a session on the European Master's in Official Statistics, an initiative led by Eurostat. This kind of activity helps students gain comprehensive knowledge of and skills in official statistics, thereby improving their career prospects and adding to the cohort of future statistical experts.

Member States' outreach efforts were designed to raise awareness of official statistics among students and help them realise how important and useful official statistics are, fostering a new

generation of statistically literate individuals ready to contribute to the statistical community and beyond.

### **2.3.6. Actions related to the modernisation and innovation, burden reduction and simplification in national statistical systems**

Member States reported on their significant reforms to modernise the organisation and operation of their national statistical authorities. Digitalisation was at the forefront of these reforms, aimed at streamlining processes and improving efficiency. The adoption of digital tools and platforms nationally has been enhancing data collection, processing and dissemination, facilitating faster and more accurate statistical outputs.

Member States strengthened cooperation with bodies in charge of administrative data sources, for more comprehensive data integration and use. These efforts offer a chance to reduce redundancies and improve the quality of statistics.

Member States emphasised training for staff as a crucial component of institutional improvement. During this reporting period, they invested in professional development programmes to improve skills in data science, analysis and digital management, ensuring staff are well able to handle modernised systems and methodologies.

Measures to ensure confidentiality and the protection of personal data remained a top priority for Member States. They implemented rigorous measures and technologies to safeguard confidential information, ensuring compliance with privacy regulations and maintaining public trust in the integrity of statistical practices.

Actions to reduce burden on respondents and simplify the processes focused on streamlining data collection, increasing re-use of existing data, accessing administrative data and improving reporting tools. Measures aimed to access administrative data by establishing dialogue with data holders and fostering collaboration. Other examples include developing single-entry or one-stop reporting channels and enabling more automated data transfers (e.g., machine-to-machine exchange), alongside broader measures such as providing practical feedback to respondents to make compliance simpler and less time-consuming.

## **3. CONCLUSION**

As provided for in Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics, the Commitments on Confidence in Statistics by the Member States help ensure public trust in European official statistics and progress in implementing the statistical principles of the Code of Practice.

The actions presented in this report reflect a commitment across the Member States to ensuring the trustworthiness and credibility of European official statistics.

Maintaining public trust in European official statistics – strengthened through sustained commitments by the Member States to uphold and increase confidence in statistics – is essential for ensuring the continued relevance, credibility and integrity of the European Statistical System as a whole. It is equally important for enabling the European Union and its Member States to address present and future challenges through decisions grounded in objective data and sound evidence, thereby strengthening the democratic legitimacy and accountability of public policy.