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COVER NOTE

From: Mr Robert KIRCHNER, CMFB Chair
date of receipt: 27 May 2026
To: General Secretariat of the Council

Subject: CMFB Opinion on Exchange of confidential statistical information (ECI)
on European Statistics for statistical purposes

Delegations will find attached the CMFB Opinion on the exchange of confidential statistical information on European Statistics for statistical purposes.

E-MAIL



CMFB

COMMITTEE ON MONETARY, FINANCIAL AND BALANCE
OF PAYMENTS STATISTICS

– The Chair –

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27 May 2026

Dear Council Secretariat,

Subject: CMFB Opinion on a 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 (ESA 2030)

I am contacting you in my capacity as Chair of the Committee on Monetary, Financial and Balance of Payments Statistics (CMFB). It is my honour to inform you about the Committee's opinion on the draft proposal for a revision of the European System of Accounts (ESA 2030).

The opinion, which I enclose for your convenience, has been published on the CMFB website on 27 May 2026 and is available at <https://www.cmfbeuropa.eu/opinions>.

Yours sincerely,

Alfredo Cristobal
CMFB Chair

Encl.

- CMFB opinion on the draft proposal for a revision of the European System of Accounts (ESA 2030)

CMFB Opinion
on a 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 (ESA 2030)

Introduction

1. At Eurostat's request, the CMFB Chairman, with the assistance of the CMFB Executive Body, asked CMFB Members on 6 April 2026 to state their opinion by 20 April 2026 (later postponed by the Chair until 30 April) on the draft proposal for a revision of the European System of Accounts, ESA 2030. 17 national statistical institutes (NSIs) and 18 national central banks (NCBs) from EU Member States returned their contributions within the specified time period. The The European Central Bank's Directorate General Statistics (ECB DG-S) and Statistics Norway also provided their views. A total of 37 Members responded to the consultation.

Consultation of the CMFB

2. The CMFB is composed of Member State representatives from the institutions principally concerned with compiling monetary, financial and balance of payments statistics (NSIs and NCBs), as well as representatives of the Commission (Eurostat) and the ECB DG-S.
3. The CMFB acts in an advisory capacity to the Commission.
4. The CMFB has been consulted on the draft ESA 2030 Regulation in line with Article 2 of Decision 2006/856/EC establishing the CMFB. Recital 18 and Article 8 of the draft ESA 2030 Regulation highlight this consultation of the CMFB. The consultation took place on a draft version of the ESA proposal, which remains subject to technical discussions and inputs from Member States, so that the CMFB's views could be taken into account as the proposal is finalised.
5. Changes in ESA concepts, classifications and accounting rules, as well as amendments to the ESA Transmission Programme, are directly linked to the statistics that are within the scope of interest of the CMFB, and these statistics are closely coordinated. Monetary, financial and balance of payments statistics are used as input for the compilation of national accounts. The compilation of national accounts is a shared responsibility of national statistical institutes and national central banks in many Member States, and between Eurostat and the ECB/DGS at European level.
6. The CMFB underlines the importance of the consultation of users and other stakeholders in preparing the ESA. This includes, for example, users within the Commission that will be consulted in a so-called 'inter-service consultation' initiated by Eurostat. The ECB will be formally consulted on the basis of Article 127(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

Background

7. The ESA methodology is consistent with the international methodological standard for national accounts established in the System of National Accounts (SNA), which is developed and maintained under the guidance of the United Nations, the European Commission, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. The SNA has recently been updated, with the 2025 SNA¹ replacing the 2008 SNA, to reflect the evolving needs of users for more effective measurement of economic developments (most notably in the areas of globalisation, digitalisation, wellbeing and sustainability).
8. European experts have been heavily involved in preparing the draft ESA 2030 under the guidance and coordination of Eurostat, notably through task forces, working groups, and written consultations.

Comments of the CMFB

9. The CMFB welcomes the extensive preparatory work – in collaboration with Member States - on the draft proposal for a new ESA, which has taken place since 2024.
10. The CMFB considers that the draft ESA 2030 takes account – within the scope of national accounts - of changes over the past 15 years in the economic environment, advances in methodological research, and emerging user needs. It notes that national accounts are complemented to meet these emerging user needs, by a broader framework of related statistics, such as environmental economic accounts.
11. The CMFB welcomes that the draft ESA 2030 follows international standards, in particular the 2025 SNA, but also the IMF Integrated Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual, seventh edition (BPM7) and the UN International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC) and other classifications. This alignment provides a sound basis for international comparability by third countries adhering to the 2025 SNA, and supports conceptual consistency with Balance of Payments and International Investment Position statistics. At the same time, given the high priority attached to this issue, the CMFB considers that continuous efforts towards ensuring full and consistent alignment between the ESA and BPM frameworks would be desirable, notably through closer coordination or wording and conceptual treatments in order to minimize the scope for different interpretations.
12. The CMFB further welcomes the efforts to ensure the consistency of statistical concepts and definitions within the draft ESA 2030 and the consistency of definitions and concepts with other statistical domains in the EU, including those compiled under the umbrella of the European System of Central Banks (ESCB), since this will facilitate the application of the EU standards. The CMFB is firmly committed to a well-coordinated simultaneous introduction of ESA 2030 and the BPM7.
13. While much of the ESA remains unchanged, the CMFB notes that several new elements in ESA 2030 have been introduced to reflect changes to the SNA. It understands that in some cases the use of the ESA in the European Union and the high importance attached to comparability across Member States requires some additional precision or even adaptations to the definitions, classifications, and accounting rules compared to the SNA. However, those cases should be clearly identified, well justified and broadly supported by the European statistical community. Their identification would also help ensure consistent guidance on their treatment across European macroeconomic statistics, including national accounts, monetary statistics and balance of payments.
14. The CMFB is strongly of the opinion that the transmission programme should be based on rigorous prioritisation, taking into account its appropriateness for user needs whilst reflecting the constraints faced by national compilers, both in terms of resources and data availability. The transmission programme should also ensure consistency across statistical domains.
15. In this context, the CMFB believes that it is important that an appropriate balance is found between quality of data, relevance for users, burden on reporting agents, and resources, throughout the lifetime of the ESA 2030. For that purpose, the Regulation should have a balanced approach to ensure

¹ <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/sna2025.asp>

stability of concepts and definitions while at the same time being flexible with respect to new economic and financial developments and requirements in the transmission programme.

16. The CMFB emphasizes that the European Business Statistics may have to be adapted as one of the main data sources for national accounts to the new requirements of the ESA 2030 regarding business data. The CMFB acknowledges that a good communication strategy is needed for clarifying differences between national accounts and business data. The CMFB also recognizes the need for a simplification of the burden on respondents concerning business statistics but guaranteeing that the quality criteria of National Accounts are met.
17. The CMFB appreciates that the Council has repeatedly acknowledged the need for statistics and resources for meeting those needs. In its Conclusions of 13 November 2025² the Council acknowledged that "the implementation of the updated global system of national accounts is essential to ensure that European and national statistics reflect the realities of a digital, global and sustainable economy". The Council further stressed "the urgent need for Member States to ensure the adequacy of human and financial resources for the development and production of European official statistics, including the resources needed for the substantial work to be carried out on the update of the European System of National accounts and for harnessing the potential of new data sources and technologies".
18. The CMFB acknowledges that the allocation of sufficient resources and qualified staff, especially at Member State level, will be a priority during the implementation phase in order to develop new data sources and adapt systems. For several new concepts and breakdowns (such as crypto assets, emission permits, and foreign-controlled corporations), synergies and enhanced collaboration between the ESS and the ESCB should also be stimulated to reduce the overall burden, to work towards harmonised data requirements and to improve data quality. The European institutions should strongly support these efforts.
19. The CMFB notes that there is ongoing technical development work on Data as an asset and on Natural Resources, through DMES Task Forces, and on Crypto Assets and Digital Trade through CMFB Task Forces. To ensure a sufficient degree of robustness, reliability and harmonization, the CMFB stresses the importance of thoroughly assessing international guidance on these issues against EU data sources and practices, and – where relevant – reflecting the results of the work in developing further related EU guidance. The CMFB also considers essential a coordinated implementation of this guidance, including evaluation of its effects on macroeconomic aggregates, to achieve a great degree of comparability among countries, while ensuring that the necessary quality criteria have been met across Member States and that there is a balance between the statistical needs and the burden on the data producers specially before new elements are included in the regulation.
20. The CMFB underlines that the compilation of national data should represent a consistent picture of the macro-economic situation in each Member State and that European aggregates should retain their level of overall quality. In this context the CMFB recognises that the burden on smaller countries in ESA 2030 should be set in relation to the quality of data required for the compilation of EU and euro area aggregates. Additionally, very detailed compilation can cause confidentiality issues regarding dissemination of results for some of the Member States.
21. The CMFB welcomes that the draft ESA 2030 emphasises the need for European Union statistics to properly reflect the statistical accounts of the institutions and bodies of the Union and, notably, the net lending / net borrowing and the outstanding Maastricht debt liabilities of the units classified to the government sector. The CMFB stresses the need to ensure good timeliness for the dissemination of the accounts of the EU (governmental) institutions and bodies. To increase transparency and to serve the user needs net lending / net borrowing and Maastricht debt liabilities of the EU institutions should be made available together with the national data on deficit and debt.
22. The CMFB believes that users should be well informed about changes in methodology and the implications in line with the 'CMFB guidelines on communication of major statistical revisions in the

² <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-15150-2025-INIT/en/pdf>

European Union'³. For that purpose, and also to assist implementation, the CMFB encourages Eurostat to prepare a Handbook on the main changes between ESA 2010 and ESA 2030.

23. Regarding back data, the CMFB supports the approach currently being taken to limit the length of time series for new features in the ESA 2030. Whilst accepting that users appreciate consistent long time series, the CMFB believes that due consideration should be taken to lack of data sources and resource constraints, including lack of data, in setting the overall length of the time series; a reference of best estimates for back data should be introduced.

The CMFB acknowledges the ongoing efforts made by Eurostat and the ECB to align to the extent possible the data transmission requirements in the draft ESA 2030 and those in future relevant ECB Guidelines. The CMFB urges further efforts to minimise the differences between these requirements, to reduce to the extent possible the burden on Member States by sponsoring a “single data collection” approach, where feasible, whereby data are compiled once at national level and subsequently used to fulfil multiple European reporting requirements. Therefore, the CMFB welcomes efforts to further enhance the sharing of national data and European aggregates between Eurostat and the ECB for those parts of the ESA Transmission Programme and related ECB Guidelines, in particular financial accounts and government finance statistics. The CMFB also encourages further convergence in validation rules and metadata requirements, in order to avoid duplication of reporting and ensure consistency across statistical domains. This should improve efficiency of data transmissions in the EU, reduce the reporting burden on Member States and, at the same time, serve user needs by improved data alignment and timeliness.

24. The CMFB notes that recent amendments to Regulations 223/3009 and 2533/98 have expanded the scope of statisticians’ access to administrative and privately held data sources and for the sharing of microdata. In the context of ESA 2030 and BPM7, the CMFB strongly supports the engagement of Member State authorities to encompass the development of procedures for an enhanced re-use of available information and sharing of microdata, where necessary, for statistical purposes.

(signed)

Alfredo Cristobal
CMFB Chairman

Madrid, 27 May 2026

³ <https://circabc.europa.eu/sd/a/f61e53c6-fb41-4536-907d-284b4a62b91c/2007-07-04%20-%20CMFB%20Guidelines%20on%20communication%20of%20major%20statistical%20revisions.pdf>