



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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LEGISLATIVE ACTS AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS

Subject: COUNCIL REGULATION amending Regulation (EC) No 2533/98
concerning the collection of statistical information by the European
Central Bank

COUNCIL REGULATION

of

amending Regulation (EC) No 2533/98 concerning the collection of statistical information by the European Central Bank

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Statute of the European System of Central Banks and of the European Central Bank (hereinafter the "Statute"), and in particular to Article 5.4 thereof,

Having regard to the recommendation of the European Central Bank¹,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament²,

Having regard to the opinion of the Commission³,

After consulting the European Data Protection Supervisor,

Acting in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 107(6) of the Treaty establishing the European Community and in Article 42 of the Statute,

¹ OJ C 251, 3.10.2008, p. 1.

² Opinion delivered on 24 March 2009 (not yet published in the *Official Journal*).

³ Opinion delivered on of 13 January 2009 (not yet published in the *Official Journal*).

Whereas:

- (1) Council Regulation (EC) No 2533/98 of 23 November 1998 concerning the collection of statistical information by the European Central Bank¹ is a key component in the legal framework supporting the statistical information collection tasks of the European Central Bank (ECB) assisted by the national central banks. The ECB has consistently relied on it to carry out and monitor the coordinated collection of statistical information necessary to undertake the tasks of the European System of Central Banks (ESCB).
- (2) In order to maintain Regulation (EC) No 2533/98 as an effective instrument for the ECB to carry out the statistical information collection tasks of the ESCB and to guarantee the continued availability to the ECB of statistical information of the necessary quality and covering the entire range of tasks of the ESCB it is essential to review the scope of the reporting requirements that the named Regulation imposes. In this context, attention needs to be paid not only to the performance of the tasks of the ESCB and to its independence, but also to the statistical principles laid down in this Regulation.

¹ OJ L 318, 27.11.1998, p. 8.

- (3) It is necessary to amend Regulation (EC) No 2533/98 to enable the ECB to collect the statistical information needed to undertake the ESCB's tasks referred to in the Treaty. Accordingly, the purposes for which statistical information may be collected should also comprise the compilation of macro-prudential statistics required for the performance of the ESCB's tasks under Article 105 of the Treaty.
- (4) The scope of the reporting requirements necessary for the performance of the ESCB's tasks should also take into account structural developments in the financial markets and address related statistical information requirements that were less apparent when Regulation (EC) No 2533/98 was adopted. For that reason, it is necessary to allow the collection of statistical information from the entire sector of financial corporations, and in particular from the insurance corporations and pension funds, which represent the second largest sub-sector of financial corporations in the euro area in terms of financial assets.
- (5) In order to allow for the continued compilation of balance of payments statistics of sufficient quality, it is necessary to clarify the reporting requirements imposed in connection with data on all positions and transactions between the residents of participating Member States.

- (6) Researchers increasingly require access to confidential statistical information which does not allow direct identification in order to analyse and understand developments within sectors and across countries. Therefore, it is important to allow the ECB and the national central banks to grant to scientific research bodies access to such detailed statistical information at the ESCB level, while maintaining strict confidentiality safeguards.
- (7) To minimise the reporting burden and to enable the efficient development, production and dissemination of high-quality statistics, and the proper performance of the ESCB's tasks, the ECB prioritises statistical needs and assesses the reporting burden. For the same reason, it is necessary to allow the maximum use of existing information, surveys, administrative data, statistical registers and other sources available, including an exchange of confidential statistical information within the ESCB and with the European Statistical System (ESS).
- (8) European statistics are developed, produced and disseminated by both the ESCB and the ESS but under separate legal frameworks, reflecting their respective governance structures. Regulation (EC) No 2533/98 should therefore apply without prejudice to Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on European statistics¹.

¹ OJ L 87, 31.3.2009, p. 164.

- (9) European statistics are developed, produced and disseminated by the ESCB in accordance with the statistical principles of impartiality, objectivity, professional independence, cost-effectiveness, statistical confidentiality, minimisation of the reporting burden and high output quality, including reliability. These principles are defined and further elaborated by the ECB and published on its website as a public commitment concerning European statistics produced by the ESCB. These principles are similar to the statistical principles laid down in Regulation (EC) No 223/2009.
- (10) The development, production and dissemination of European statistics should take into account best practice and the relevant European and international statistical standards.
- (11) In line with Article 5.1 of the Statute, the ESCB and the ESS cooperate closely to ensure the coherence necessary to develop, produce and disseminate European statistics. In particular, the ESCB and the ESS cooperate when elaborating their own statistical principles, when designing their respective statistical work programmes and when striving to reduce the overall response burden. To this end the exchange of appropriate information related to the ESCB and the ESS statistical work programmes between the relevant ESCB and ESS committees, as well as between the ECB and the Commission, is of particular importance to maximise the benefits of good cooperation and to avoid duplication in collecting statistical information.

- (12) The ESS members need part of the data collected by the ESCB for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics within the meaning of Article 1 of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009. Appropriate arrangements for making the respective data available to the ESS members should therefore be set up.
- (13) Furthermore, it is important to ensure close cooperation between the ESCB and the ESS, and notably to foster the exchange of confidential statistical information between the two systems for statistical purposes, in the light of Article 285 of the Treaty and Article 5 of the Statute.
- (14) In order to enhance transparency, the statistics compiled on the basis of the statistical information collected from financial sector institutions by the ESCB should be made publicly available but a high level of protection of confidential information should be guaranteed.
- (15) Confidential statistical information collected and supplied to a member of the ESCB by an ESS authority should not be used for purposes that are not exclusively statistical, such as for administrative or tax purposes or legal proceedings or for the purposes referred to in Articles 6 and 7 of Regulation (EC) No 2533/98. In this respect, it is necessary to ensure the physical and logical protection of this confidential statistical information and ensure that no unlawful disclosure or use for non-statistical purposes occurs.

- (16) Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2000 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data¹ has entered into force and must be complied with in the development, production and dissemination of statistics by the ESCB,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Regulation (EC) No 2533/98 is amended as follows:

1. Article 1 is replaced by the following:

"Article 1

Definitions

For the purposes of this Regulation:

1. "the ECB's statistical reporting requirements" shall mean the statistical information which reporting agents are required to provide and which is necessary for the tasks of the ESCB to be performed;

¹ OJ L 8, 12.1.2001, p. 1.

- 1a. "European statistics" shall mean statistics that are: (i) necessary to undertake the ESCB's tasks as referred to in the Treaty; (ii) determined in the ESCB's statistical work programme; and (iii) developed, produced and disseminated in conformity with the statistical principles referred to in Article 3a;
2. "reporting agents" shall mean the legal and natural persons and the entities and branches referred to in Article 2(3) which are subject to the ECB's statistical reporting requirements;
3. "participating Member State" shall mean a Member State which has adopted the single currency in accordance with the Treaty;
4. "resident" and "residing" shall mean having a centre of economic interest in the economic territory of a country as described in Chapter 1(1.30) of Annex A to Council Regulation (EC) No 2223/96 of 25 June 1996 on the European system of national and regional accounts in the Community*; in this context, "cross-border positions" and "cross-border transactions" shall mean respectively positions and transactions in the assets and/or liabilities of residents of participating Member States seen as one economic territory vis-à-vis residents of non-participating Member States and/or residents of third countries;
5. "international investment position" shall mean the balance sheet of the stock of cross-border financial assets and liabilities;

6. "electronic money" shall mean an electronic store of monetary value on a technical device, including prepaid cards, that may be widely used for making payments to entities other than the issuer without necessarily involving bank accounts in the transaction, but acting as a prepaid bearer instrument;
- "7. "use for statistical purposes" shall mean the exclusive use for the development and production of statistical results and statistical analyses;
8. "development" shall mean activities aiming at setting up, strengthening and improving the statistical methods, standards and procedures used for the production and dissemination of statistics as well as at designing new statistics and indicators;
9. "production" shall mean all the activities related to the collection, storage, processing and analysis necessary for compiling statistics;
10. "dissemination" shall mean the activity of making statistics, statistical analyses and non-confidential information accessible to users;
11. "statistical information" shall mean aggregated and individual data, indicators and related metadata;

12. "confidential statistical information" shall mean statistical information which allows reporting agents or any other legal or natural person, entity or branch to be identified, either directly from their name or address or from an officially allocated identification code, or indirectly through deduction, thereby disclosing individual information. To determine whether a reporting agent or any other legal or natural person, entity or branch is identifiable, account shall be taken of all the means that might reasonably be used by a third party to identify the said reporting agent or the other legal or natural person, entity or branch.

* OJ L 310, 30.11.1996, p. 1."

2. Article 2 is amended as follows:

(a) Paragraph 1 is replaced by the following:

"1. For the fulfilment of the ECB's statistical reporting requirements, the ECB, assisted by the national central banks in accordance with Article 5.2 of the Statute, shall have the right to collect statistical information within the limits of the reference reporting population and of what is necessary to carry out the tasks of the ESCB. Information may be collected in particular in the area of monetary and financial statistics, banknote statistics, payments and payment systems statistics, financial stability statistics, balance of payments statistics and international investment position statistics. When necessary to perform the tasks of the ESCB, additional information may be collected also in other areas in duly justified cases. The information that is collected for the fulfilment of the ECB's statistical reporting requirements shall be further specified in the ESCB's statistical work programme."

(b) Paragraph 2 is replaced by the following:

"2. In this respect, the reference reporting population shall comprise the following reporting agents:

(a) legal and natural persons residing in a Member State and falling within the sector "financial corporations" as defined in ESA 95;

- (b) post office giro institutions residing in a Member State;
- (c) legal and natural persons residing in a Member State, to the extent that they hold cross-border positions or have carried out cross-border transactions;
- (d) legal and natural persons residing in a Member State, to the extent that they have issued securities or electronic money;
- (e) legal and natural persons residing in a participating Member State, to the extent that they hold financial positions vis-à-vis residents of other participating Member States or have carried out financial transactions with residents of other participating Member States."

(c) The following paragraph is added:

"4. In duly justified cases, such as for financial stability statistics, the ECB shall have the right to collect from the legal and natural persons referred to in paragraph 2(a), and from the entities and branches referred to in paragraph 3, statistical information on a consolidated basis, including information on the entities controlled by such legal and natural persons and entities. The ECB shall specify the extent of the consolidation."

3. The following Article is inserted after Article 2:

"Article 2a

Cooperation with the ESS

To minimise the reporting burden and guarantee the coherence necessary to produce European statistics, the ESCB and the ESS shall cooperate closely, while complying with the statistical principles laid down in Article 3a."

4. Article 3 is replaced by the following:

"Article 3

Modalities for the definition of statistical reporting requirements

In defining and imposing its statistical reporting requirements, the ECB shall specify the actual reporting population within the limits of the reference reporting population as defined in Article 2. Without prejudice to the fulfilment of its statistical reporting requirements, the ECB:

- (a) shall use existing statistics as far as possible;
- (b) shall take into account the relevant European and international statistical standards;
- (c) may fully or partly exempt specific classes of reporting agents from its statistical reporting requirements.

Before adopting a regulation as referred to in Article 5 concerning new statistics, the ECB shall assess the merits and costs of the collection of the new statistical information in question. It shall in particular take into account the specific collection characteristics, the size of the reporting population and the periodicity, and the statistical information already held by the statistical authorities or administrations."

5. The following Article is inserted after Article 3:

"Article 3a

Statistical principles underlying European statistics produced by the ESCB

The development, production and dissemination of European statistics by the ESCB shall be governed by the principles of impartiality, objectivity, professional independence, cost-effectiveness, statistical confidentiality, minimisation of the reporting burden and high output quality, including reliability and the definitions of these principles shall be adopted, elaborated on and published by the ECB. These principles are similar to the statistical principles of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on European statistics*.

* OJ L 87, 31.3.2009, p. 164"

6. Article 8 is replaced by the following:

"Article 8

Protection and use of confidential statistical information collected by the ESCB

The following rules shall apply to prevent the unlawful use and disclosure of confidential statistical information provided by the reporting agent or other legal or natural person, entity or branch to an ESCB member or transmitted within the ESCB:

- 1) The ESCB shall use confidential statistical information exclusively for the exercise of the tasks of the ESCB except in any of the following circumstances:
 - (a) if the reporting agent or the other legal or natural person, entity or branch which can be identified, has explicitly given its consent to the use of the said statistical information for other purposes;
 - (b) for transmission to the members of ESS in accordance with Article 8a (1);
 - (c) for granting scientific research bodies access to confidential statistical information which does not allow direct identification, and with the prior explicit consent of the authority which provided the information;
 - (d) as regards national central banks, if the said statistical information is used in the field of prudential supervision or, in accordance with Article 14.4 of the Statute, for the exercise of functions other than those specified in the Statute.

- 2) Reporting agents shall be informed of the statistical and other administrative uses, to which statistical information provided by them, may be put. Reporting agents shall have the right to obtain information concerning the legal basis for the transmission and the protective measures adopted.
- 3) The ESCB members shall take all the necessary regulatory, administrative, technical and organisational measures to ensure the physical and logical protection of confidential statistical information. The ECB shall define common rules and implement minimum standards to prevent unlawful disclosure and unauthorised use of confidential statistical information.
- 4) Transmission of confidential statistical information within the ESCB that has been collected pursuant to Article 5 of the Statute shall take place:
 - (a) to the extent and at the level of detail necessary for the performance of the tasks of the ESCB referred to in the Treaty; or
 - (b) provided that such transmission is necessary for the efficient development, production or dissemination of statistics under Article 5 of the Statute or for increasing their quality.

- 5) The ECB may decide on the collection and transmission, to the extent and level of detail necessary, within the ESCB of confidential information originally collected for purposes other than those of Article 5 of the Statute, provided that this is necessary for the efficient development or production of statistics or for increasing their quality and that these statistics are necessary for the performance of the tasks of the ESCB referred to in the Treaty.
- 6) Confidential statistical information may be exchanged within the ESCB to grant scientific research bodies access to such information, in accordance with paragraphs 1(c) and 2.
- 7) Statistical information taken from sources which are available to the public in accordance with national legislation shall not be considered confidential.
- 8) Member States and the ECB shall adopt all necessary measures to ensure the protection of confidential statistical information, including the imposition of the appropriate enforcement measures in the event of an infringement.

This Article shall apply without prejudice to special national or Community provisions relating to the transmission of information other than confidential statistical information to the ECB and shall not apply to confidential statistical information initially transmitted between an ESS authority and an ESCB member, to which Article 8a shall apply.

This Article shall not prevent confidential statistical information collected for purposes other than, or in addition to, meeting the ECB's statistical reporting requirements from being used to meet those other purposes."

7. The following Articles are inserted after Article 8:

"Article 8a

Exchange of confidential statistical information between the ESCB and the ESS

1. Without prejudice to national provisions on the exchange of confidential statistical information other than information covered in this Regulation, the transmission of confidential statistical information between an ESCB member that collected the information and an ESS authority may take place provided that this transmission is necessary for the efficient development, production or dissemination, or for increasing the quality, of European statistics within the respective spheres of competence of the ESS and the ESCB and that this necessity has been justified.
2. Any further transmission beyond the first transmission must be explicitly authorised by the authority that collected the information.

3. The confidential statistical information which is transmitted between an ESS authority and an ESCB member shall not be used for purposes that are not exclusively statistical, such as for administrative or tax purposes or legal proceedings or for the purposes referred to in Articles 6 and 7.
4. Statistical information which the ESCB members receive from ESS authorities and which was obtained from sources lawfully available to the public and which remains available to the public according to national legislation shall not be considered confidential for the purpose of dissemination of statistics obtained from this statistical information.
5. Within their respective spheres of competence, the ESCB members shall take all necessary regulatory, administrative, technical and organisational measures to ensure the physical and logical protection of confidential statistical information (statistical disclosure control) provided by the ESS authorities.
6. Confidential statistical information provided by the ESS authorities shall only be accessible to staff working in statistical activities within their specific domain of work. These persons shall use these data exclusively for statistical purposes. They shall be subject to this restriction even after the cessation of their functions.

7. Member States and the ECB shall take appropriate measures to prevent and sanction any violations of the protection of confidential statistical information provided by the ESS authorities.

Article 8b

Confidentiality report

The ECB shall publish an annual confidentiality report on the measures adopted to safeguard the confidentiality of the statistical information referred to in Articles 8 and 8a.

Article 8c

Protection of confidential information on individuals

This Regulation shall apply without prejudice to Directive 95/46/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 1995 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data* and Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2000 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and of the free movement of such data**.

Article 8d

Access to administrative records

To reduce the burden on respondents, the national central banks and the ECB shall have access to relevant sources of administrative data within their respective public administration systems, to the extent that these data are necessary for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics.

The practical arrangements and the conditions for achieving effective access shall be determined where necessary by each Member State and the ECB, within their respective spheres of competence.

These data shall be used by the ESCB members exclusively for statistical purposes.

* OJ L 281, 23.11.1995, p. 31.

** OJ L 8, 12.1.2001, p. 1."

8. Annexes A and B are deleted.

Article 2
Entry into force

This Regulation shall enter into force on the day following its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at

For the Council
The President
