Council of the European Union

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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	European Statistics – 2026 Council conclusions on European Statistics (9 November 2026)

Delegations will find attached the 2026 Council conclusions on European Statistics as approved by the Council in its 4206th meeting held on 9 November 2026.

2026 Council conclusions
on European statistics

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

Following the priorities set in the previous Council Conclusions on European statistics of November 2025, notably on the EFC Status Report on Information Requirements in EMU and taking into consideration the EU political priorities 2024-2029, the Council has reviewed the progress related to information requirements in EMU, statistics for the EDP, surveillance of macroeconomic imbalances and structural statistics.

Building the future European Statistical System

The Council WELCOMES the progress on the implementation of revised Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 and ENCOURAGES the European Statistical System (ESS) to make full use of provisions giving access to administrative and privately held data sources and to establish effective ways of engaging with data holders. In this context, the Council CALLS UPON Member States for further work on data sharing for statistical purposes to reduce reporting burden.

The Council WELCOMES the strategic priorities for improving the AI readiness of the ESS as endorsed by the ESS Committee, including the responsible use of AI for statistical production, making dissemination of European official statistics ready for the AI age, adoption of AI in operations of national statistical institutes and Eurostat, and measuring the adoption of AI and its impact on the economy and society. The Council UNDERLINES the importance of ensuring the quality, transparency, security and appropriate human oversight of AI use in official statistics.

The Council WELCOMES the efforts to further strengthen the close cooperation between the ESS and the European System of Central Banks (ESCB) for the production and usage of European statistics, as also reflected in the agreed strategic priorities for statistical cooperation between the ESS and the ESCB over the next five years.

The Council REITERATES that high-quality European official statistics require adequate human and financial means and STRESSES the necessity of providing these dedicated resources, including in the implementation of the updated European System of National Accounts and for projects that replace direct data collection with administrative and other existing and new data sources.

Simplification

The Council TAKES NOTE of the ongoing work on simplification and reducing administrative burden in European official statistics, while keeping its relevance and role as a sound basis for evidence-based policy making. The Council WELCOMES the conclusions from the ESS High Level Meeting held in Dublin on 3 and 4 of September under the Irish presidency of the Council of the EU, including the agreed-upon roadmap.

The Council URGES the ESS to accelerate its work on achieving measurable results on simplification and burden reduction through implementing a roadmap of actions, taking into account the need to reinforce the 'once-only principle' and thereby promote the re-use of existing administrative and privately held data sources for statistical purposes. The Council CALLS for a balanced prioritisation between user needs, costs and reporting burden and ENCOURAGES the Commission to report regularly on the progress achieved. The Council CALLS UPON the Commission to develop in 2027 a first package aimed at simplification and reducing administrative burden in delegated and implementing acts. The Council ENCOURAGES the continuous review of existing legal requirements, with a view to reducing or discontinuing those requirements where appropriate.

The 2026 EFC Status Report on Information Requirements in EMU

The Council TAKES NOTE of the further improvements in the quality and availability of the Principal European Economic Indicators (PEEIs) and UNDERLINES the continuing important role played by the PEEIs as a basis for monitoring short-term economic developments. The Council ENCOURAGES the important ongoing statistical work under the G20 Data Gaps Initiative. The Council WELCOMES the completed classification update of the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices that ensures its international comparability and relevance for decision making.

Statistics for the Stability and Growth Pact and the Macroeconomic Imbalance Procedure

The Council WELCOMES the ongoing delivery of high-quality government finance statistics for the Stability and Growth Pact. It RECOGNISES the quality assurance work carried out for statistics related to the Macroeconomic Imbalance Procedure (MIP) and ENCOURAGES Member States to follow up on the recommendations identified in the annual ESS-ESCB quality assessment report prepared by Eurostat and the ECB's Directorate General Statistics.

Macroeconomic statistics

The Council TAKES NOTE that the Commission intends to bring forward by the end of 2026 legislative proposals for the future update of the European System of Accounts (ESA 2030) and for the amendment of the BOP Regulation (Regulation (EC) No 184/2005) to ensure alignment with the UN global system of national accounts (SNA 2025) and the Balance of Payments manual (BPM7) and to bring major improvements in measuring digitalisation, globalisation, wellbeing and sustainability, based on reliable and robust data sources and methods. The Council WELCOMES the ESS and ESCB coordination in development and implementation of the new statistical requirements.

Statistics for European defence

The Council WELCOMES the provision of timely data by national statistical authorities on defence spending as defined by national accounts and expenditure, including those under the SAFE instrument as part of the EDP reporting to Eurostat, also for the consistent application of the National Escape Clauses. The Council UNDERLINES the importance of enhanced dialogue and coordination among the national authorities in providing comparable, reliable and timely defence expenditure statistics. The Council WELCOMES the development of Eurostat guidance on the statistical recording of public private partnerships for defence infrastructure.

Housing statistics

The Council WELCOMES the publication of the Eurostat housing dashboard and the ESS's contribution to the monitoring of the housing situation in Europe in line with the Affordable Housing Plan. It ENCOURAGES the ongoing work to improve the timeliness and availability of housing statistics.

Statistics for the green and energy transitions

The Council UNDERLINES the essential contribution of European statistics to support the green and energy transitions. The Council TAKES NOTE of the first mandatory data collection on ecosystem accounts, providing data for natural capital, biodiversity, climate, water and forestry-related thematic policies. The Council WELCOMES the continued cooperation efforts between the ESS and the ESCB in the development of climate-related indicators.

Agricultural statistics

The Council LOOKS FORWARD TO the Commission's legislative proposal for an Integrated Farm Statistics Regulation, which is expected to provide the basis for farm data collection for 2030-2039 as well as to enhance efficiency and reduce the reporting burden on farmers, including through increased reuse of administrative and new digital data sources.

Statistics on demography and migration

The Council STRESSES the importance of high-quality European population statistics for the design of EU policies and LOOKS FORWARD TO the timely implementation of Regulation (EU) 2025/2458 on European Statistics on Population and Housing (ESOP), applicable from 2028.

The Council WELCOMES the publication by Eurostat of long-term population projections for the time horizon 2025 to 2100. The Council ACKNOWLEDGES the agreed new arrangements between Eurostat and the European Union Agency for Asylum for the timelier provision of European statistics on international protection, which will result in reduced reporting burden for Member States.

Labour market statistics

The Council WELCOMES the ESS's efforts to make new labour market data available in the context of labour supply impacts on EU competitiveness, for example through the release of experimental job vacancy rates by detailed occupation and region, the on-going EU-LFS module on digital platform employment, and the publication of data on young people in the labour market.

Tourism statistics

The Council ACKNOWLEDGES the ESS commitment to modernise tourism statistics, notably to improve understanding of the economic dimension of tourism and its impact on the labour market and local communities. The Council ENCOURAGES related follow up work and LOOKS FORWARD TO the forthcoming Commission proposal for amending Regulation (EU) No 692/2011 on European statistics on tourism.

Eighteenth report by the European Statistical Governance Advisory Board (ESGAB) on the implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice

The Council TAKES NOTE of the eighteenth report of the European Statistical Governance Advisory Board (ESGAB), providing an independent overview of the European Statistical System as regards the implementation of the Code of Practice together with recommendations for its future strengthening.