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**'I/A' ITEM NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council  
Subject: COUNCIL DECISION appointing a member of the European Statistical Advisory Committee representing the Council (Kirchner)

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1. The European Statistics Advisory Committee (ESAC) was established by Decision No 234/2008/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008. Its purpose is to contribute to a close cooperation in the programme-planning process in order to improve the governance of the European Statistical System and enhance the quality of Community statistics.
2. In accordance with Article 4(b)(ii) of the above-mentioned Decision, one Member of ESAC shall be directly appointed by the Council.
3. The current representative of the Council of the European Union to ESAC, Ms Ylva HEDÉN WESTERDAHL, who served a first five-year term since January 2024, resigned on 18 December 2025.

4. It is therefore necessary to appoint a new member representing the Council for the remainder of the term of office, ending on 10 February 2029. This Decision should therefore enter into force as a matter of urgency.
  5. On 26 March 2026 the Economic and Financial Committee recommended that the Council appoints Mr Robert Kirchner as the new Member representing the Council in ESAC.
  6. The Permanent Representatives Committee is therefore asked to invite the Council to adopt a Decision on the appointment of the member of the European Statistical Advisory Committee representing the Council, as set out in document ST 7986/26, as an "A-item" at one of its forthcoming meetings.
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