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General Secretariat

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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Working Party on Competitiveness and Growth (Internal Market – SMCP)

Subject: Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL establishing the Single Market and Customs Programme for the period 2028-2034 and repealing Regulations (EU) 2021/444, (EU) 2021/690, (EU) 2021/785, (EU) 2021/847 and (EU) 2021/1077
Consolidated comments by AT, BE, CZ, DE, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, HU, IE, IT, LT, NL, PL, PT, SE, SI and SK

Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL establishing the Single Market and Customs Programme for the period 2028-2034 and repealing Regulations (EU) 2021/444, (EU) 2021/690, (EU) 2021/785, (EU) 2021/847 and (EU) 2021/1077
 Deadline: *23 October 2025*

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Please add your contributions in the table below, only in the columns '**Drafting**' and/or '**Comments**'.

To make it feasible to consolidate all contributions, the structure of the table must not be changed, so **no rows can be added or deleted**.

New provisions may only be added in any of the '**existing cells**'.

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Thank you for your cooperation!

Commission proposal bracketed provisions	Drafting Suggestions and Comments
<p style="text-align: center;">General comments</p>	<p>CZ (Comments): First of all, the Czech Republic would like to express its concerns regarding the inclusion of the European Statistical Programme (ESP) as an annex of the Single Market and Customs Programme. We believe that it jeopardizes the statistical independence and makes it more difficult to address the specialities foreseen in the statistical legislation along the legal text. In accordance to article 338 TFEU European statistics are those necessary for the performance of the activities of the Union. Therefore, the production of Union statistics is not a policy but a tool. This is why it is ruled in PART SEVEN (GENERAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS) of the Treaty and not in PART THREE (UNION POLICIES AND INTERNAL ACTIONS). Secondly, the ESP is the main instrument for the production of European Statistics. As stated in article 13 of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the</p>

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	<p>European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on European statistics, the ESP shall set out the main fields and the objectives of the actions and shall lay down priorities concerning the needs for information. Those needs shall be weighed against the resources needed at Community and national level. Therefore, from our point of view, the annex should change the name by “European Statistical Programme”.</p> <p>DE (Comments):</p> <p>European Statistical Programme:</p> <p>The ESP is the main instrument for the production of European Statistics. As stated in article 13 of Regulation 223, the ESP shall set out the main fields and the objectives of the actions and shall lay down priorities concerning the needs for information. Those needs shall be weighed against the resources needed at Community and national level. Therefore, from our point of view, the “draft annex of the Programming framework for European statistics” should change the name by “European Statistical Programme (ESP)” and detail the actions under the six specific objectives and the actions proposed in the Annex.</p> <p>The Single Market Programme, as the former separate Regulations on the European Statistical Programme, should fully reflect the priorities and</p>

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	<p>strategic goals of the European Statistical System ESS, as recently laid down in the 2025 European Statistical System common position on the future of European statistics. We see the European Statistical Programme as the framework that defines the scope of the European statistics, including the main fields and objectives of the actions envisaged for a seven-year period - in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 223/2009.</p> <p>We reserve the right of making further comments and amendment proposals -also on the Annex and the recitals- during the negotiations.</p> <p>EE (Comments): On European statistics: Estonia welcomes the Proposal but underlines the importance of ensuring continuity, legal clarity, and coherence within Regulation (EC) No 223/2009. We consider it is essential that the term “European Statistical Programme” be retained and that clear provisions on monitoring, reporting, evaluation indicators, and interim and final assessments be addressed during the negotiations. Estonia stresses the need for adequate and balanced budget allocations across programme</p>

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	<p>areas to safeguard sufficient resources for the production of high-quality European statistics.</p> <p>Estonia reserves the right to provide further comments in the course of future discussions.</p> <p>ES (Comments):</p> <p>Spain communicates to the Presidency a general study reservation on the entire proposal, as it needs time to consult the Departments involved in the Single Market and Customs Programme (SMCP) 2028–2034. It requests detailed information on the continuity of activities under the current Internal Market, Customs, Fiscalis and Anti-Fraud Programmes, and, following the Portuguese proposal, asks for a comparative table showing current and future activities and financing. Spain is particularly interested in how SME empowerment will continue (previously financed with €1 billion but now only vaguely referred to under the European Competitiveness Fund), in the support measures for Internal Market resilience in crises (including Article 3.2.e and IMERA), and in ensuring proper financing for the Customs Reform, especially the Customs Data</p>

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	<p>Hub. It also seeks clarifications on governance mechanisms, Member States' role in programme implementation, budget redistribution, participation in Annual and Multiannual Programmes, and the comitology mechanisms not included in the proposal. Finally, Spain expresses concern about the inclusion of the European Statistical Programme (ESP) as an annex to the SMCP, considering that it could jeopardise statistical work, hinder the application of statistical legislation, and risk diverting ESP funds to other policies.</p> <p>Overall, the proposal is supported and seen positively, though it would be desirable to increase the budget for consumer-related measures during the legislative process.</p> <p>Regarding the Fiscalis Programme, all existing and future IT applications financed through it should continue to be funded by the European Commission, not by Member States, except for the necessary connection with national systems.</p>

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	<p>As for the Annex and the European Statistical Programme (ESP), it should define priorities and objectives in line with the ESS common position on the future and strategic priorities of European statistics, ensuring consistency with available resources at both EU and national levels.</p> <p>FI (Comments): Finland 23 October 2025</p> <p>IT (Comments): While we agree on the importance of the necessary flexibility of spending programs, we believe that a clearer and more binding distinction between the allocations of the various components of the program is preferable. Only through stable and clearly defined funding will it be possible to ensure the continued operation of the initiatives financed by the program. It is also essential that the functions and operations currently carried out are maintained in full, even if they are brought under a new program structure, in order to preserve the strength and effectiveness of</p>

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	<p>cooperation at European level in the relevant fields (statistic, customs and fiscal).</p> <p>Moreover, the comitology procedure is essential to ensure internal consistency and Member States ownership.</p> <p>LT (Comments):</p> <p>In general, Lithuania supports the overall and specific objectives set out in the proposal for the Single Market and Customs Programme. We welcome the fundamental principles of simplification and synergy, and express the expectation that these principles will contribute to making the programme a practical and effective tool for enhancing and deepening the functioning of the Single Market and the Customs Union, as well as for achieving the specific objectives of the programme.</p> <p>The specific drafting suggestions and/or comments are provided in the table below.</p> <p>On European statistics: Lithuania welcomes the Proposal but underlines the importance of ensuring continuity, legal clarity, and coherence within</p>

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	<p>Regulation (EC) No 223/2009. We consider it is essential that the term “European Statistical Programme” be retained and that clear provisions on monitoring, reporting, evaluation indicators, and interim and final assessments be addressed during the negotiations. Lithuania stresses the need for adequate and balanced budget allocations across programme areas to safeguard sufficient resources for the production of high-quality European statistics.</p> <p>Lithuania reserves the right to provide further comments on all parts of the text during the course of future discussions.</p> <p>PL (Comments): We reserve the right of making further comments and amendment proposals to the whole text during the negotiations.</p> <p>PT (Comments): PT supports in general this new Programme, although caution is commended on the possible outcomes of replacing 5 existing financing</p>

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	<p>instruments by one: while welcoming the objective of flexibility underpinning this choice, it should be managed in a manner that is not detrimental to the continuity and predictability of the support to each of the policies covered in the new Programme.</p> <p>PT supports in general the priorities for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics as foreseen in the Annex of the proposal.</p> <p>They consider to a certain extent the European Statistical System (ESS) common position on the future and strategic priorities of European statistics, adopted by the ESS Committee in May 2025.</p> <p>However, PT considers that a more detailed European Statistical Programme should be foreseen, setting out the main fields and the objectives of the actions envisaged for the period 2028-2034, in line with Article 13 of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009.</p> <p>This Article foresees that “The European statistical programme shall lay down priorities concerning the needs for information for the purpose of carrying out the activities of the Community. Those needs shall be weighed</p>

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	<p>against the resources needed at Community and national level to provide the required statistics, and also against the response burden and the respondent's associated costs.”</p> <p>We are therefore proposing additional specifications to the Annex, which further consider the referred ESS common position.</p> <p>PT also underlines that the implementation of the European Statistical Programme will largely depend on the actual capacity of each national statistical authority — particularly the availability of sufficient and adequately skilled human resources. Therefore, the Programme should be supported by capacity-building mechanisms and EU-level instruments to ensure its successful implementation.</p> <p>Finally, PT would have preferred a stand-alone Regulation on the European Statistical Programme, which would better address the specificities of European Statistics and stress their independent and impartial nature.</p> <p>PT reserves the right to provide further comments on the European statistics component of the SMCP or to change its opinion depending on the course of the negotiations.</p>

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	<p>SE (Comments):</p> <p>The Swedish Government welcomes, within the framework of a restrictive budget, the Commission’s proposal for a new programme, as there are positive experiences from the previous programmes included in the proposal. The Government also welcomes the proposal for a simplified structure with fewer programmes. This approach provides better conditions for synergies and economies of scale, as well as a reduced risk of overlap between different programmes.</p> <p>That said, it is not yet clear whether the merger will actually lead to simplification or whether it risks increasing the administrative burden.</p> <p>The distribution of the money between the different policy areas remains unclear. It is a need to clarify by whom, and how, should decisions be made.</p> <p>In the document <i>Legislative financial and digital statement</i> it is stated estimated financial distribution of the proposal. What is the status of this document, will also this part be legally binding document.</p> <p>The Swedish Government also questions the fact that Member States do not appear to have any role or influence in the programme.</p> <p>In some of the current acts, for example customs programme and Fiscalis, there are provisions regarding eligible actions. Since there is no</p>

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	<p>corresponding provision in the proposal, how and where will it be determined which types of actions are eligible for support?</p> <p>SI (Comments): Slovenia welcomes the Commission's proposal to establish the Single Market and Customs Programme (SMCP) for the period 2028-2034 and supports its overarching objectives of creating synergies, achieving greater flexibility, and simplifying administrative procedures. The integration of several programmes into a single framework presents an opportunity to strengthen the functioning of the Single Market and the Customs Union. However, Slovenia has several comments and concerns regarding the proposal's governance, budgetary framework, and specific objectives.</p> <p>SK (Comments): Slovakia supports in general the objectives of the SMCP proposal.</p>

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	<p>On the one hand we understand the reasons for merging several programmes under one umbrella of SMPC framework in order to achieve greater flexibility, synergy and reduction of administrative burden. However, on the other hand we have some concerns in this regard as to whether merging previously separated programmes could not weaken funding for some of the areas covered by the SMCP in the future, especially with regard to financing customs union initiatives and anti-fraud activities. Therefore clear rules for transfers between individual areas/objectives of the SMCP is to be considered in line with better regulation principles.</p> <p>We appreciate that the SMCP includes the continuation of the Union's anti-fraud programme. In our view, this is one of the key components of the SMCP in order to ensure the effective protection of the EU financial interests. Therefore it is necessary to continue to strengthen the capacities of Member States, to increase their ability to prevent and investigate fraud (as on the revenue as on the expenditure part of the EU budget), as well as</p>

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	<p>to provide the necessary tools, including digital and analytical tools, to fight fraud (AFIS, IMS).</p> <p>We also welcome SMCP focus on consumer protection as one of the key areas that directly contributes to strengthening citizens' trust in the Single Market. SMCP initiatives proposed in this area are welcomed, in particular projects aimed at increasing consumer awareness, including digital and financial literacy; empowering consumers in the Single Market, including access to advice, information and consumer redress and compensation mechanisms; strengthening the human, professional and technical capacities of Member States to improve consumer law enforcement; making wider use of digital technologies and artificial intelligence.</p> <p>However, in implementation of the projects it is necessary to take into account the need to simplify applicants' access to funding, reduce the overall administrative burden, especially with regard to small Member</p>

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	<p>States, availability of Member States resources for co-financing projects and aspect of interoperability in proposed digital solutions.</p> <p>We appreciate the proposal to increase budget for European statistics to €833 million, which clearly confirms the importance of credible and high-quality European statistics.</p> <p>We welcome the efforts to strengthen cooperation within the European Statistical System (ESS) by building collective networks, sharing expertise and results, and promoting specialization in selected tasks. At the same time, we consider it necessary to underline that any specialisation of individual national statistical offices (NSIs) should be purely voluntary and based on mutual agreement between Member States. In the case of smaller Member States, mandatory or excessive specialization could weaken their overall capacities and increase dependence on other resources and jeopardise their ability to meet all statutory statistical tasks at national level. Flexibility and proportionality should be maintained in the implementation of such initiatives.</p>

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	<p>We also support the use of grants to strengthen national statistical offices, but we would like to point out that grants cannot ensure the long-term sustainability of the activities supported by the grant, as after the grants are exhausted there is a lack of financial resources and human capacity to continue these activities at national level.</p>
<p>2025/0590 (COD) Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL establishing the Single Market and Customs Programme for the period 2028-2034 and repealing Regulations (EU) 2021/444, (EU) 2021/690, (EU) 2021/785, (EU) 2021/847 and (EU) 2021/1077</p>	<p>IE (Drafting Suggestions): PLhave proposed the following new Article 8a <u>Art 8a Customs control equipment</u> Actions supporting the purchase, maintenance and upgrade of customs control equipment shall be available to Members States, in particular those managing the Union's external borders. Participation of associated third countries may be provided for in the work programmes in accordance with Article 7.</p> <p>IE</p>

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	<p>(Comments):</p> <p>While IE welcomes the addition of provisions to ensure that Member States can continue to avail of funding in the acquisition and maintenance of Customs Control Equipment, we cannot support the reference to ‘external borders’ as this can lead to misunderstanding as to what is included or more importantly excluded, it is our position that funding should be available to all MS who perform customs controls.</p> <p>IT</p> <p>(Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>2025/0590 (COD) Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL establishing the Single Market, and Customs and European statistics Programme for the period 2028-2034 and repealing Regulations (EU) 2021/444, (EU) 2021/690, (EU) 2021/785, (EU) 2021/847 and (EU) 2021/1077</p> <p>IT</p> <p>(Comments):</p>

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	<p>We suggest including in the title of the Regulation an explicit reference to the <i>European statistics</i>. The reasons behind this proposal are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthen recognition of the cross-cutting role of European statistics in supporting the entire spectrum of program policies, in line with Article 338 TFEU, which establishes their strategic role in supporting Union policies and activities; - Maintain consistency with the current Regulation (EU) 2021/690, which already includes an explicit reference to European statistics in its title.
THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,	
Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 33, Article 114(1), Article 169(3), Article 197(2), Article 207(2), Article 325(4), Article 338(1) thereof,	

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Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,	
After transmission of the draft legislative act to the national parliaments,	
Having regard to the opinion of the Court of Auditors ¹ ,	
Having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee ² ,	
Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure,	

¹ Reference to be added

² OJ C [...], [...], p. [...].

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Whereas:	
<p>(1) [This Regulation lays down an indicative financial envelope for the ‘Single Market, and Customs Programme for the period 2028-2034’ (the ‘programme’). For the purpose of this Regulation, current prices are calculated by applying a fixed 2% deflator.]</p>	
<p>(2) In a rapidly changing economic, social and geopolitical environment, recent experience has shown the need for a more flexible multiannual financial framework and Union spending programmes. To that effect, and in line with the objectives of this regulation, the funding should consider the evolving policy needs and Union’s priorities as identified in relevant documents published by the Commission, in Council conclusions and Parliament resolutions while ensuring sufficient predictability for the budget implementation.</p>	<p>IT (Comments): We agree on the importance of the necessary flexibility of spending programs, as it is not always possible to define long-term priorities for action in the EU single market.</p> <p>LT (Comments): The reference to “relevant documents published by the Commission, in Council conclusions and Parliament resolutions” is too general. It would</p>

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	<p>be advisable to indicate, at least by some examples or criteria, which documents are meant.</p> <p>NL (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>(2) In a rapidly changing economic, social and geopolitical environment, recent experience has shown the need for a more flexible multiannual financial framework and Union spending programmes. To that effect, and in line with the objectives of this Regulation, the funding should consider the evolving policy needs and Union’s priorities as identified in relevant documents published by the Commission, in Council conclusions and Parliament resolutions while ensuring sufficient predictability, continuity and stability for the budget implementation.</p>
<p>(3) Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council³ applies to the programme. It lays down the rules on</p>	

³ Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (OJ L, 2024/2509, 26.9.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/2509/oj>).

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the establishment and the implementation of the general budget of the Union, including the rules on grants, prizes, non-financial donations, procurement, indirect management, financial assistance, financial instruments and budgetary guarantees.	
(4) In accordance with Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509, Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁴ , Council Regulations (EC, Euratom) No 2988/95 ⁵ , (EC, Euratom) No 2185/96 ⁶ and (EU) 2017/1939 ⁷ , the financial interests of the Union are to be protected through proportionate measures, including the prevention, detection, correction and investigation of irregularities and fraud, the recovery of funds lost, wrongly paid or incorrectly used and, where appropriate, the imposition of administrative sanctions. In accordance with Regulations (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013 and (EC, Euratom) No 2185/96, the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) may	

⁴ Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 September 2013 concerning investigations conducted by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1073/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Regulation (Euratom) No 1074/1999 (OJ L 248, 18.9.2013, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2013/883/oj>).

⁵ Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2988/95 of 18 December 1995 on the protection of the European Communities financial interests (OJ L 312, 23.12.95, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/1995/2988/oj>).

⁶ Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96 of 11 November 1996 concerning on-the-spot checks and inspections carried out by the Commission in order to protect the European Communities' financial interests against fraud and other irregularities (OJ L 292, 15.11.1996, p. 2, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/1996/2185/oj>).

⁷ Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1939 of 12 October 2017 implementing enhanced cooperation on the establishment of the European Public Prosecutor's Office ('the EPPO') (OJ L 283, 31.10.2017, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2017/1939/oj>).

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<p>carry out investigations, including on-the-spot checks and inspections, with a view to establishing whether there has been fraud, corruption or any other illegal activity affecting the financial interests of the Union. In accordance with Regulation (EU) 2017/1939, the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) may investigate and prosecute fraud and other illegal activities affecting the financial interests of the Union as provided for in Directive (EU) 2017/1371 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁸. In accordance with Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509, any person or entity receiving Union funds is to fully cooperate in the protection of the Union's financial interests, to grant the necessary rights and access to the Commission, OLAF, the EPPO and the European Court of Auditors and to ensure that any third parties involved in the implementation of Union funds grant equivalent rights.</p>	
<p>(5) [The programme is to be implemented in accordance with Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2025/XXXX of the European Parliament and of the Council⁹ establishing a budget expenditure tracking and performance framework and other horizontal rules for the Union programmes and activities, including rules for ensuring a uniform application of the</p>	

⁸ Directive (EU) 2017/1371 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2017 on the fight against fraud to the Union's financial interests by means of criminal law (OJ L 198, 28.7.2017, p. 29, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2017/1371/oj>).

⁹ [Proposal for a Regulation - EUR-Lex - 52025PC0545 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#), currently under negotiations - .Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2025/... of the European Parliament and of the Council of ... on ... (OJ, L, ..., ELI:...) [*insert date, full title and publication references of this Regulation*].-

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<p>principles of ‘do no significant harm’ and gender equality referred to in Article 33(2), points (d) and (f), of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 respectively, the principles of preparedness and climate resilience by design, rules for monitoring and reporting on the performance of Union programmes and activities, rules for establishing a Union funding portal, rules for the evaluation of the programmes, as well as other horizontal provisions applicable to all Union programmes such as those on information, communication and visibility.]</p>	
<p>(6) Pursuant to Article 85(1) of Council Decision (EU) 2021/1764¹⁰, persons and entities established in overseas countries and territories (OCTs) are eligible for funding under the programme and subject to possible arrangements applicable to the Member State to which the relevant overseas country or territory is linked.</p>	
	<p>ES (Drafting Suggestions): (6A) The outermost regions of the Union, as referred to in Article 349 TFEU, face specific structural difficulties related to their remoteness,</p>

¹⁰ Council Decision (EU) 2021/1764 of 5 October 2021 on the association of the Overseas Countries and Territories with the European Union including relations between the European Union on the one hand, and Greenland and the Kingdom of Denmark on the other (Decision on the Overseas Association, including Greenland) (OJ L 355, 7.10.2021, p. 6, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2021/1764/oj>).

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	<p>insularity, small size, relief and climate, as well as their economic dependence on a small number of products. These difficulties are compounded by their exposure to extreme natural phenomena and climate change. The Programme should therefore take into account the specific characteristics and needs of these regions in the annual and multiannual work programmes.</p> <p>ES (Comments): ES suggests including Recital 46 from the current programme, which refers the outermost regions.</p>
<p>(7) The Single Market is governed by the fundamental principles of free movement of goods, services, people, and capital and has been a major contributor to growth, competitiveness and employment. A well-functioning and safe-guarded Single Market is a pre-requisite for a competitive, safe and secure Union economy and for advancing the Savings and Investments Union. As stressed by the new approach proposed by the Single Market Strategy, more action is needed to address the barriers, stimulate reforms, reduce fragmentation and complete the Single Market, especially in the context of new global challenges. This has been and will continue to be reinforced by an effective cohesion policy as an additional key condition for the success of the Single Market.</p>	<p>CZ (Drafting Suggestions): (7) [...] A well-functioning and safe-guarded Single Market is a pre-requisite for a competitive, safe and secure Union economy and for advancing the Savings and Investments Union. [...]</p> <p>LT (Drafting Suggestions): (7) The Single Market is governed by the fundamental principles of free movement of goods, services, people, and capital and has been a</p>

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<p>The Member States and the Commission share the responsibility for enforcing Union law to ensure compliance with Single Market rules and to protect people’s and businesses’ rights. The Union-level responsibility combines three main aspects: removal of barriers, collaboration between Member States, and corrective implementation and enforcement actions and stimulating reforms. Barriers such as knowledge and data gaps, and gold plating are obstacles for citizens, consumers, businesses, investors, economic operators to access and operate within the Single Market. Capacity building, administrative and operational cooperation, including digital cooperation, and integration among Member States and between Member States and the Commission remain suboptimal and could be reinforced to improve efficiency and a level-playing field. Low efficiency and lack of flexibility in rulemaking, standard setting and enforcement may hamper their adaptability. There is a need to combine the infrastructure accompanying and enabling the lifting of internal barriers and the infrastructure protecting the external borders of the Single Market.</p>	<p>major contributor to growth, competitiveness and employment. A well-functioning and safe-guarded Single Market is a pre-requisite for a competitive, safe and secure Union economy and for advancing the Savings and Investments Union. As stressed by the new approach proposed by the Single Market Strategy, more action is needed to prevent and address the barriers, stimulate reforms, reduce fragmentation and complete the Single Market, especially in the context of new global challenges. This has been and will continue to be reinforced by an effective cohesion policy as an additional key condition for the success of the Single Market. The Member States and the Commission share the responsibility for enforcing Union law to ensure compliance with Single Market rules and to protect people’s and businesses’ rights. The Union-level responsibility combines three main aspects: removal of barriers, collaboration between Member States, and corrective implementation and enforcement actions and stimulating reforms. Barriers such as knowledge and data gaps, and gold plating are obstacles for citizens, consumers, businesses, investors, economic operators to</p>

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	<p>access and operate within the Single Market. Capacity building, administrative and operational cooperation, including digital cooperation, and integration among Member States and between Member States and the Commission remain suboptimal and could be reinforced to improve efficiency and a level-playing field. Low efficiency and lack of flexibility in rulemaking, standard setting and enforcement may hamper their adaptability. There is a need to combine the infrastructure accompanying and enabling the lifting of internal barriers and the infrastructure protecting the external borders of the Single Market.</p> <p>LT (Comments): Comment on the structure and logic of the recital: points 1 to 6 are mostly technical in nature and would be more appropriate towards the end of the preamble. The main substance should be presented at the beginning. It is therefore suggested to consider starting the preamble from point 7 and moving points 1 to 6 to the end.</p>

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	<p>In our view, the text should place greater emphasis on the prevention and removal of barriers within the Single Market.</p> <p>NL (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>(7) The Single Market is governed by the fundamental principles of free movement of goods, services, people, and capital and has been a major contributor to growth, competitiveness and employment. A well-functioning and safe-guarded Single Market is a pre-requisite for a competitive, safe and secure Union economy and for advancing the Savings and Investments Union. As stressed by the new approach proposed by the Single Market Strategy, more action is needed to address the <u>discriminatory, unjustified or disproportionate</u> barriers, stimulate reforms, reduce fragmentation <u>and regulatory and administrative burden</u> and <u>complete strengthen</u> the Single Market, especially in the context of new global challenges. This has been and will continue to be reinforced by an effective cohesion policy as an additional key condition for the success of the Single Market. The Member States and the Commission share the responsibility for enforcing Union law to ensure</p>

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	<p>compliance with Single Market rules and to protect people's and businesses' rights. The Union-level responsibility combines three main aspects: removal of <u>discriminatory, unjustified or disproportionate</u> barriers, collaboration between Member States, and corrective implementation and enforcement actions and stimulating reforms. Barriers such as knowledge and data gaps, and gold-plating are obstacles for citizens, consumers, businesses, investors, economic operators to access and operate within the Single Market. Capacity building, administrative and operational cooperation, including digital cooperation, and integration among Member States and between Member States and the Commission remain suboptimal and could be reinforced to improve efficiency and a level-playing field. Low efficiency and lack of flexibility in rulemaking, standard setting and enforcement may hamper their adaptability. There is a need to combine the infrastructure accompanying and enabling the lifting of internal barriers and the infrastructure protecting the external borders of the Single Market.</p> <p>SK (Drafting Suggestions):</p>

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	<p>After the sentence "The Member States and the Commission share the responsibility for enforcing Union law to ensure compliance with Single Market rules and to protect people's and businesses' rights," we propose to add the following text: <i>"This responsibility also includes actively combating fraud, corruption, and other illegal activities that could undermine a level playing field for all participants in the Single Market and threaten the Union's financial interests."</i></p>
<p>(8) Under the multiannual financial framework for the years 2021 to 2027 laid down in Council Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2020/2093¹¹, the Single Market Programme ('SMP') established by Regulation (EU) 2021/690 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹² supports the design, implementation and enforcement of Union legislation underpinning the proper functioning of the Single Market, so that it can reach its full potential. The Customs programme established by</p>	<p>IT (Comments): The importance of border control authorities as key players in market surveillance is fundamental, so it is important to align the various</p>

¹¹ Council Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2020/2093 of 17 December 2020 laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2021 to 2027 (OJ L 433I, 22.12.2020, p. 11, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2020/2093/oj>).

¹² Regulation (EU) 2021/690 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing a programme for the internal market, competitiveness of enterprises, including small and medium-sized enterprises, the area of plants, animals, food and feed, and European statistics (Single Market Programme) and repealing Regulations (EU) No 99/2013, (EU) No 1287/2013, (EU) No 254/2014 and (EU) No 652/2014 (OJ L 153, 3.5.2021, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/690/oj>).

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<p>Regulation (EU) 2021/444 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹³ and the Fiscalis programme established by Regulation (EU) 2021/847 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹⁴ accompany the customs and tax policies in the Union by supporting Union level digital solutions for customs and taxation, project based collaborative activities as well as human competency building activities. In addition, the Customs Control Equipment Instrument established as part of the Integrated Border Management Fund by Regulation (EU) 2021/1077 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹⁵, contributes to increasing the efficient and effective customs controls, essential for the facilitation of legitimate trade, while ensuring sufficient level of protection at the external borders. The Union Anti-Fraud Programme ('UAFP') established by Regulation (EU) 2021/785 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹⁶ funds actions which aim to prevent and combat fraud, corruption and other illegal activities such as money-laundering, affecting the Union's financial</p>	<p>customs reforms and encourage proposals for improvements that could make border controls more effective and efficient.</p> <p>SK (Drafting Suggestions): We propose to expand the last sentence as follows: <i>“The Union Anti-Fraud Programme (UAFP), established by Regulation (EU) 2021/785 of the European Parliament and of the Council, finances actions aimed at preventing, detecting and investigating fraud, corruption and other illegal activities, such as money laundering, affecting the Union’s financial interests.</i> <i>The Programme also supports cooperation and exchange of information</i></p>

¹³ [Regulation \(EU\) 2021/444 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2021 establishing the Customs programme for cooperation in the field of customs](http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/444/oj) (OJ L 87, 15.3.2021, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/444/oj>).

¹⁴ [Regulation \(EU\) 2021/847 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 establishing the ‘Fiscalis’ programme for cooperation in the field of taxation and repealing Regulation \(EU\) No 1286/2013](http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/847/oj) (OJ L 188, 28.5.2021, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/847/oj>).

¹⁵ [Regulation \(EU\) 2021/1077 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 establishing, as part of the Integrated Border Management Fund, the instrument for financial support for customs control equipment](http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/1077/oj) (OJ L 234, 2.7.2021, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/1077/oj>).

¹⁶ [Regulation \(EU\) 2021/785 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2021 establishing the Union Anti-Fraud Programme and repealing Regulation \(EU\) No 250/2014](http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/785/oj) (OJ L 172, 17.5.2021, p. 110, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/785/oj>).

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interests and to foster Member States' cooperation in this field among one another and with the Commission.	<i>between Member States, the Commission, and other relevant Union bodies, including the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) in order to strengthen coordination and effective law enforcement in this field."</i>
(9) With economic and security uncertainty caused by geopolitical challenges and trade tensions, the Single Market is our anchor for stability and resilience. Those challenges require a collective and coordinated Union response considering their scale and the high levels of interdependence among Member States and regions. In addition, an adequate level of protection and resulting benefits for citizens, consumers, investors and businesses could not be achieved solely through actions at national level, nor could it generate economies of scale, especially given the cross-border nature of those benefits.	SK (Drafting Suggestions): We propose to add the following at the end of the text: <i>"Coordinated action by the Union is therefore essential to ensure market integrity and effectively combat fraud, thereby strengthening citizens' trust and the stability of the economic environment."</i>
(10) Union funding is required to enable the Commission to meet legal obligations of the Union that cannot be delegated to Member States, ensuring obligations under Union law are fulfilled, in particular in the areas of customs, market surveillance, product conformity, consumer protection, financial services, standard setting, competition policy, the provision of European statistics, taxation and anti-fraud.	

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<p>(11) It is therefore appropriate to establish a programme to enhance and deepen the functioning of the Single Market and a strong Customs Union and to protect the financial and economic interests of the Union and the Member States, with a design fostering flexibility, simplification and synergies, and supporting the horizontal policy mainstreaming priorities including what is set out in Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2025/XXXX of the European Parliament and of the Council¹⁷ establishing a budget expenditure tracking and performance framework and other horizontal rules for the Union programmes and activities. The following four programmes should therefore be merged in one single programme: parts of the Single Market Programme, excluding the small and medium-sized enterprises and food and feed strands, the Customs programme, including the Customs Control Equipment Instrument type interventions, the Fiscalis programme and the Union Anti-Fraud programme. A continuous and agile funding should be ensured in the areas of the Single Market, customs, taxation and anti-fraud, including funding for cooperation between national administrations encompassing activities such as streamlining administrative processes, harmonising rules across Member States, or facilitating quicker responses to evolving challenges with a comprehensive preparedness and crisis-response framework.</p>	<p>IT (Comments):</p> <p>We share the Commission's objectives of promoting greater flexibility, simplification, and synergy between the various instruments by combining them into a single program.</p> <p>In general, we welcome the intention to implement more flexible spending programs to ensure financial coverage for the actions necessary to comply quickly with the political priorities, also with regard to participation in market surveillance projects.</p> <p>Moreover, while we recognize that the new program aims at simplification and flexibility, more detailed information is needed on the mechanisms that will guarantee costs traceability for each different area, the ringfenced nature of the amounts allocated to the different components and the procedures for possible reallocation in the event of emergencies or emerging priorities.</p>

¹⁷ [Proposal for a Regulation - EUR-Lex - 52025PC0545 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#), currently under negotiations - .Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2025/... of the European Parliament and of the Council of ... on ... (OJ, L, ..., ELI:...) [insert date, full title and publication references of this Regulation].-

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	<p>LT (Comments):</p> <p>The proposed merger of the programmes lacks sufficient justification in the recital. Therefore, it is recommended to provide a more detailed explanation of the rationale behind the consolidation of the programmes at this point.</p> <p>NL (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>(11) It is therefore appropriate to establish a programme to enhance and deepen strengthen the functioning of the Single Market and a strong Customs Union and to protect the financial and economic interests of the Union and the Member States, with a design fostering flexibility, simplification and synergies, and supporting the horizontal policy mainstreaming priorities including what is set out in Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2025/XXXX of the European Parliament and of the Council¹⁸</p>

¹⁸ [Proposal for a Regulation - EUR-Lex - 52025PC0545 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#), currently under negotiations - .Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2025/... of the European Parliament and of the Council of ... on ... (OJ, L, ..., ELI:...) [insert date, full title and publication references of this Regulation].-

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	<p>establishing a budget expenditure tracking and performance framework and other horizontal rules for the Union programmes and activities. The following four programmes should therefore be merged in one single programme, <u>without disruption of long-established and essential activities</u>: parts of the Single Market Programme, excluding the small and medium-sized enterprises and food and feed strands, the Customs programme, including the Customs Control Equipment Instrument type interventions, the Fiscalis programme and the Union Anti-Fraud programme. A continuous and agile funding should be ensured in the areas of the Single Market, customs, taxation and anti-fraud, including funding for cooperation between national administrations encompassing activities such as streamlining administrative processes, harmonising rules across Member States, or facilitating quicker responses to evolving challenges with a comprehensive preparedness and crisis-response framework.</p> <p>PT (Comments):</p>

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	<p>Since the SME pillar of the current Single Market Programme shall be transferred to the Competitiveness fund, it is important to clarify that the actions falling within the scope of the SMCP (general standards, including Small Business Standards, Digital Product Passport, or others) shall continue to be designed taking into account the specificities of SME.</p>
<p>(12) In this regard, the programme should enable the implementation of the following generic types of actions: (a) digital capacity building, development and operation of centralised and decentralised European electronic systems and digital solutions, implementation tools and data; (b) support to policy, regulatory and enforcement work, for example, through studies, communication, impact assessment, evaluation and simplification proposals; (c) collaboration and cooperation between Member States, the Commission, Union agencies and national authorities and with stakeholders; (d) administrative and operational/technical capacity building, including purchase, maintenance, upgrade of equipment – notably customs control equipment – infrastructure and related costs; (e) human competency building; (f) joint tools, methods, data and statistics to support policy making (g) other actions to achieve the general and specific objectives, such as innovation, testing.</p>	<p>FI (Drafting Suggestions): We propose to add and delete as follows: <i>“(d) administrative and operational/technical capacity building, including purchase, maintenance, upgrade of equipment and vehicles – notably used for customs control equipment – infrastructure and related costs”</i></p> <p>FI (Comments): Adding vehicles to the recital derives from lessons learned under the current Customs Control Equipment Instrument.</p>

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	<p>Adding “vehicles” would enable procurement of i.a. crafts used by customs use as well as vehicles used as patrol cars by customs.</p> <p>HU (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>(12) In this regard, the programme should enable the implementation of the following generic types of actions: (a) digital capacity building, development and operation of centralised and decentralised European electronic systems and digital solutions, implementation tools and data; (b) support to policy, regulatory, statistical and enforcement work, for example, through studies, communication, impact assessment, evaluation and simplification proposals; (c) collaboration and cooperation between Member States, the Commission, Union agencies and national authorities and with stakeholders; (d) administrative and operational/technical capacity building, including purchase, maintenance, upgrade of equipment – notably customs control equipment – infrastructure and related costs; (e) human competency building; (f) joint tools, methods, data and statistics to support policy making (g) other actions to achieve the general and specific objectives, such as innovation, testing.</p>

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	<p>HU (Comments): Based on Regulation 223/2009 (Statistical Framework Regulation), in the case of the discussed dossiers (LMB, ESOP, CREI, EFAS files), every new data request must be preceded by a feasibility pilot study. We would like to underline our support for this, as indicated in the text.</p> <p>IE (Drafting Suggestions): (g) other actions to achieve the general and specific objectives, such as innovation, testing.</p> <p>IE (Comments): Part (g) of this recital reads as if it is unfinished. If the intended wording, it should read ‘innovation and testing’, or be elaborated upon.</p> <p>NL (Drafting Suggestions): (12) In this regard, the programme should enable the implementation of the following generic types of actions: (a) digital capacity building,</p>

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	<p>development and operation of centralised and decentralised European electronic systems and digital solutions, implementation tools and data; (b) support to policy, regulatory and enforcement work, for example, through studies, communication, impact assessment, evaluation and simplification proposals; (c) collaboration and cooperation between Member States, the Commission, Union agencies and national authorities and with stakeholders; (d) administrative and operational/technical capacity building, including purchase, maintenance, upgrade of equipment – notably customs control equipment – infrastructure and related costs; (e) human competency building; (f) joint tools, methods, data and statistics to support policy making (g) other actions to achieve the general and specific objectives, such as innovation, testing.</p> <p>SK (Drafting Suggestions): We propose to add the following at the end of point (a): “...including the modernization and expansion of systems for the protection of the Union’s financial interests (e.g., AFIS, IMS) with the aim of improving analytical</p>

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	<i>capabilities, interoperability, data exchange between Member States, and more effective detection and prevention of fraud."</i>
<p>(13) In light of the growing digitalisation of the economy and society, there is an increasing need for citizens, consumers, investors, economic operators, businesses, and public administrations to have timely, accurate and accessible information and advice on the functioning of the Single Market and their rights and obligations under Union law. Furthermore, reinforced cooperation and integration to ensure digitally enabled, seamless implementation, consistent and effective enforcement across the Union and to prevent barriers and limitations hindering the proper functioning of the Single Market, taxation, anti-fraud policies and the Customs Union should be enabled. Union authorities and bodies should maintain effective rulemaking, standard setting, as well as implementation and enforcement of Union law in the face of changing circumstances and to ensure enforcement of restrictive measures in the management of Union funds.</p>	<p>FI (Comments): How will the Commission manage the Single Market and Customs programme? Which Directorate-General will be responsible for the implementation? Where would the authorising officer be? Who is responsible for measures protecting the Union's financial interests?</p> <p>How will the annual budget be planned and implemented? On what basis and how will annual funding inside SMCP be allocated?</p> <p>How much of the programme's funding will be used for administrative expenses of the EU institutions and agencies (= for administrative expenditure)?</p> <p>NL</p>

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	<p>(Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>(13) In light of the growing digitalisation of the economy and society, there is an increasing need for citizens, consumers, investors, economic operators, businesses, and public administrations to have timely, accurate and accessible information and advice on the functioning of the Single Market and their rights and obligations under Union law. Furthermore, reinforced cooperation and integration to ensure digitally enabled, seamless implementation, consistent and effective enforcement across the Union and to prevent <u>discriminatory, unjustified or disproportionate</u> barriers and limitations hindering the proper functioning of the Single Market, taxation, anti-fraud policies and the Customs Union should be enabled. Union authorities and bodies should maintain effective rulemaking, standard setting, as well as implementation and enforcement of Union law in the face of changing circumstances and to ensure enforcement of restrictive measures in the management of Union funds.</p> <p>SK</p> <p>(Drafting Suggestions):</p>

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	<p>We recommend to add the following to the last sentence: “Union authorities and bodies should maintain effective rulemaking, standard setting, as well as implementation and enforcement of Union law in the face of changing circumstances and to ensure the enforcement of restrictive measures in the management of Union funds, <i>including measures against fraud.</i>”</p>
<p>(14) The programme should therefore further improve the functioning of the Single Market, including the external dimension, protect and empower citizens, consumers and businesses. That should be achieved by developing, implementing and enforcing Union law, offering digital tools and solutions, facilitating market access and public procurement, ensuring resilience, management of emergencies and security threats or crisis, standard setting, and supporting the development of the Union regulatory framework. The programme’s actions should cover the areas of intellectual property rights, company law, anti-money laundering, and contract law, and by ensuring a high level of consumer protection, including protection of passenger rights, and market surveillance, financial literacy, the free movement of capital and financial services, effective and efficient competition enforcement, customs, anti-fraud, effective and efficient enforcement of Union restrictive measures and taxation. The programme should also enhance cooperation between the</p>	<p>AT (Drafting Suggestions): ...disseminate high-quality, comparable, timely and reliable European statistics in accordance to Article 12 of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009</p> <p>AT (Comments): AT: To cover all quality criteria</p> <p>DE (Drafting Suggestions):</p>

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<p>competent authorities of Member States and the Commission, in particular cooperation and increased synergies between various national authorities, including national enforcement bodies, as well as cooperation between Member States, the Commission and third countries, including by providing digital solutions to improve information sharing among national authorities and with relevant stakeholders. It should allow to develop, produce and disseminate high-quality, comparable, timely and reliable European statistics. There is a need to implement cohesive digital solutions that facilitate and simplify doing business in the Union and with third countries and seize opportunities offered by the Single Market and Customs Union for citizens, consumers, investors and businesses, while respecting the Union’s climate objectives. Union coordinated platforms ensure cooperation among Member State’s authorities reducing fragmentation and duplication of efforts. Digital implementation tools reduce administrative burdens and create transparency. Different tools are designed to create synergies that facilitate and simplify doing business in the Union and in their international trade operations, enhancing day-to-day efficiency for businesses, fostering greater economic integration and drive innovation throughout the Union.</p>	<p>(14) The programme should therefore further improve the functioning of the Single Market, including the external dimension, protect and empower citizens, consumers and businesses. <u>The programme should, in addition, further improve the functioning of the Customs Union by assisting the Member States, especially by supporting the effective collection of customs duties.</u> That should be achieved by developing, implementing and enforcing Union law, offering digital tools and solutions, facilitating market access and public procurement, ensuring resilience, management of emergencies and security threats or crisis, standard setting, and supporting the development of the Union regulatory framework. The programme’s actions should cover the areas of customs, intellectual property rights, company law, anti-money laundering, and contract law, and by ensuring a high level of consumer protection, including protection of passenger rights, and market surveillance, financial literacy, the free movement of capital and financial services, effective and efficient competition enforcement, customs, anti-fraud, effective and efficient enforcement of Union restrictive measures and</p>

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	<p>taxation. The programme should also enhance cooperation between the competent authorities of Member States and the Commission, in particular cooperation and increased synergies between various national authorities, including national enforcement bodies, as well as cooperation between Member States, the Commission and third countries, including by providing digital solutions to improve information sharing among national authorities and with relevant stakeholders. It should allow to develop, produce and disseminate high-quality, comparable, timely and reliable European statistics. There is a need to implement cohesive digital solutions that facilitate and simplify doing business in the Union and with third countries and seize opportunities offered by the Single Market and Customs Union for citizens, consumers, investors and businesses, while respecting the Union’s climate objectives. Union coordinated platforms ensure cooperation among Member State’s authorities reducing fragmentation and duplication of efforts. Digital implementation tools reduce administrative burdens and create transparency. Different tools are designed to create synergies that facilitate and simplify doing business in</p>

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	<p>the Union and in their international trade operations, enhancing day-to-day efficiency for businesses, fostering greater economic integration and drive innovation throughout the Union.</p> <p>DE (Comments):</p> <p>According to the Commission, the SMCP is expected to maintain coverage for the interventions and objectives relevant for the Customs Union and also regarding the aims of current Customs programmes (Alternatively, a new recital for the specific aims of the customs part of the programme could be added.).</p> <p>Customs is not a sub-group of consumer protection. Regarding its volume in the programme, it should be named more prominently.</p> <p>IE (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>... The programme's actions should cover the areas of intellectual property rights, company law, anti-money laundering, and contract law, and by ensuring a high level of consumer protection, including</p>

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	<p>protection of passenger rights, and market surveillance, financial literacy, the free movement of capital and financial services, effective and efficient competition enforcement, customs, anti-fraud, effective and efficient enforcement of Union restrictive measures and taxation.</p> <p>IE (Comments): Reworded slightly (correct English)</p> <p>LT (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>(14) The programme should therefore further improve the functioning of the Single Market, including the external dimension, protect and empower citizens, consumers and businesses. That should be achieved by developing, implementing and enforcing Union law, offering digital tools and solutions, facilitating market access and public procurement, ensuring resilience, management of emergencies and security threats or crisis, standard setting, and supporting the development of the Union regulatory framework. The programme’s actions should cover the areas of intellectual property rights, company law, anti-money laundering, and</p>

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	<p>contract law, and by ensuring a high level of consumer protection, including protection of passenger rights, and market surveillance, financial literacy, the free movement of capital and financial services, effective and efficient competition enforcement, customs, anti-fraud, effective and efficient enforcement of Union restrictive measures and taxation. The programme should also enhance cooperation between the competent authorities of Member States and the Commission, in particular cooperation and increased synergies between various national authorities, including national enforcement bodies, as well as cooperation between Member States, the Commission and third countries, including by providing digital solutions to improve information sharing among national authorities and with relevant stakeholders. <u>The programme should also reinforce the Single Market tools such as but not limited to SOLVIT, SMET, Your Europe, Your Europe Advice.</u> It should allow to develop, produce and disseminate high-quality, comparable, timely and reliable European statistics. There is a need to implement cohesive digital solutions that facilitate and simplify doing business in the</p>

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	<p>Union and with third countries and seize opportunities offered by the Single Market and Customs Union for citizens, consumers, investors and businesses, while respecting the Union’s climate objectives. Union coordinated platforms ensure cooperation among Member State’s authorities reducing fragmentation and duplication of efforts. Digital implementation tools reduce administrative burdens and create transparency. Different tools are designed to create synergies that facilitate and simplify doing business in the Union and in their international trade operations, enhancing day-to-day efficiency for businesses, fostering greater economic integration and drive innovation throughout the Union.</p> <p>LT (Comments): Consideration could be given to explicitly mentioning relevant Single Market tools. In particular, the inclusion of the SOLVIT mechanism is important, as it serves as an early warning and problem-solving system that contributes to the effective functioning of the Single Market and should be further reinforced under the SMCP.</p>

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	<p>NL (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>(14) The programme should therefore further improve the functioning of the Single Market, including the external dimension, protect and empower citizens, consumers and businesses. That should be achieved by developing, implementing and enforcing Union law, offering digital tools and solutions, facilitating market access and public procurement, ensuring resilience, management of emergencies and security threats or crisis, standard setting, and supporting the development of the Union regulatory framework. The programme's actions should cover the areas of intellectual property rights, company law, anti-money laundering, and contract law, and by ensuring a high level of consumer protection, including protection of passenger rights, and market surveillance, financial literacy, the free movement of capital and financial services, effective and efficient competition enforcement, customs, anti-fraud, effective and efficient enforcement of Union restrictive measures and taxation. The programme should also enhance cooperation between the competent authorities of Member States and the Commission, in</p>

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	<p>particular cooperation and increased synergies between various national authorities, including national enforcement bodies, as well as cooperation between Member States, the Commission and third countries, including by providing digital solutions to improve information sharing among national authorities and with relevant stakeholders. It should allow to develop, produce and disseminate high-quality, comparable, timely and reliable European statistics. There is a need to implement cohesive digital solutions that facilitate and simplify doing business in the Union and with third countries and seize opportunities offered by the Single Market and Customs Union for citizens, consumers, investors and businesses, while respecting the Union’s eliminate wider objectives. Union coordinated platforms ensure cooperation among Member State’s authorities reducing fragmentation and duplication of efforts. Digital implementation tools reduce administrative burdens and create transparency. Different tools are designed to create synergies that facilitate and simplify doing business in the Union and in their international trade operations, enhancing day-to-day efficiency for businesses, fostering greater economic integration and</p>

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	<p>drive innovation throughout the Union. <u>This requires stable and predictable financing over the years in order to ensure achieving the Single Market objectives.</u></p> <p>PT (Comments): “...offering digital tools and solutions.” – we find that there is room to better specify which digital tools the programme refers to.</p>
<p>(15) European statistics are essential, as they underpin the design, monitoring and evaluation of all Union policies and empower all members of society to make informed decisions and to actively participate in the democratic process. Relevant and comparable official European statistics should be produced and disseminated to provide valuable insights and address knowledge gaps, allowing citizens, consumers, investors and businesses to benefit fully from the Single Market. In view of its horizontal character, the legal framework for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics established by Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament</p>	<p>AT (Drafting Suggestions): ..., allowing citizens, researchers, consumers, investors and businesses to benefit fully from the Single Market....</p> <p>AT (Comments): AT: We like to include the scientific community here to be addressed</p> <p>EE (Comments):</p>

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<p>and of the Council¹⁹ is subject to specific requirements, and in particular those laid down in that Regulation, with regard to respect for statistical principles, as well as the functioning of the European Statistical System and its governance, including the role and tasks assigned to the European Statistical System Committee and to the Commission (Eurostat), and the establishment and implementation of the programming of the statistical activities.</p>	<p>We strongly support the specific reference to the key role of European statistics and to Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 as the legal framework for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics.</p> <p>ES (Comments):</p> <p>We would like to express our concerns about including the European Statistical Programme (ESP) as an annex to the Single Market Programme, as this could jeopardise statistical work and make it more difficult to address the specificities established in statistical legislation. The flexibility to move financial allocations between programmes does not necessarily benefit the European Statistical System (ESS) and could even lead to ESP funds being used for other policies. The ESP is the main instrument for producing European statistics and, according to Article 13 of Regulation 223, must define the main fields, objectives and priorities,</p>

¹⁹ 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, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2009/223/oj>).

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	<p>balancing information needs with available resources at both EU and national levels. Therefore, the draft annex of the Programming Framework for European Statistics should clearly detail the actions under the six objectives. Considering that the ESS has already agreed on these objectives in its “common position on the future and strategic priorities of European statistics,” the draft annex should incorporate all actions included in that position paper.</p> <p>In addition, the issue of the resources is one of the main elements guaranteeing statistical professional independence. As mentioned in Recital 7 of 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 “<i>the adequacy of resources attributed on an annual or a multiannual basis and available to meet statistical needs is a necessary condition for ensuring the professional independence of statistical authorities and the high quality of statistical data</i>”. In addition, article 13 of Regulation 223/2009 states that “<i>The European statistical programme shall lay down priorities</i></p>

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	<p><i>concerning the needs for information for the purpose of carrying out the activities of the Community. <u>Those needs shall be weighed against the resources needed at Community and national level to provide the required statistics, and also against the response burden and the respondent's associated costs</u></i></p> <p>Therefore, if the specific objective (statistical need) is just to “produce statistics” and the resources are not allocated but shared with all the other policies, professional independence of Eurostat and the National Statistical Authorities is clearly compromised, and the requirements of article 13 are not fulfilled .</p> <p>FI (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>(15) European statistics are essential, as they underpin the design, monitoring and evaluation of all Union policies and empower all members of society to make informed decisions and to actively participate in the democratic process. Relevant and comparable official European statistics should be produced and disseminated to provide</p>

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	<p>valuable insights and address knowledge gaps, allowing citizens, consumers, investors and businesses to benefit fully from the Single Market. In view of its horizontal character, the legal framework for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics established by Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council²⁰ is subject to specific requirements, and in particular those laid down in that Regulation, with regard to respect for professional independence and other statistical principles, as well as the functioning of the European Statistical System and its governance, including the role and tasks assigned to the European Statistical System Committee and to the Commission (Eurostat), and the establishment and implementation of the programming of the statistical activities.</p> <p>FI (Comments):</p>

²⁰ 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, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2009/223/oj>).

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	<p>Proposal to add ‘professional independence’. That principle is enacted in Article 2(1)(a) of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics. The Recital (6) of the current SMP-regulation mentions “<i>Professional independence is a necessary prerequisite for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics</i>”. We propose to mention that principle separately, as it is fundamental for the sake of objectivity and credibility of European statistics.</p> <p>HU (Comments): We propose including an explicit reference to the key role of European statistics and to Regulation 223/2009 as the legal framework for the development, production, and dissemination of European statistics.</p> <p>IT (Comments): We strongly support the specific reference to the key role of European statistics and to Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 as the legal framework for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics.</p>
	PL

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	<p>(Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>(15a) Given increased needs at the Union’s external borders, a minimum share of the Programme’s budget should be guaranteed for customs-related actions. The Commission should ensure that the purchasing power of allocations to customs-related actions is maintained over the duration of the Programme.</p> <p>PL (Comments):</p> <p>Proposal to add a new recital, e.g. 15a. It is necessary to introduce a guarantee of a minimum share of the programme budget for the customs component, as well as a mechanism to ensure the preservation of the purchasing power of funds throughout the duration of the programme. Given the growing challenges (migration pressure, new security threats, changes in international trade) and rising inflation, the real value of funds allocated to customs activities may be eroded.</p>
<p>(16) The programme should ensure that the interests of consumers, including the end users of financial services, are represented at the Union</p>	

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<p>level so that developments in the Single Market also respond to their needs and foster investor trust in the Single Market.</p>	
<p>(17) The programme aims to foster consumer and investor trust in the Single Market and the Customs Union by ensuring a high-level of consumer protection, including the protection of passengers, product safety and consumer empowerment, thereby enabling consumers to fully benefit from the Single Market and to contribute to a competitive, innovative, and dynamic Single Market. The programme should safeguard consumers’ safety and rights as well as their legal and economic interests through concrete and effective measures which support, supplement and monitor the policy implemented by the Member States. Moreover, consumers should be empowered and encouraged to make sustainable and informed choices. It is necessary to ensure that consumer protection, rights and product safety requirements are effectively implemented, uniformly enforced, and consistently upheld across the Union, thereby contributing to the creation of a level-playing field for consumers, investors and businesses. Consumer organisations at both national and Union-level play a crucial role in promoting the interests of consumers, representing the interests of consumers in policy making, providing independent advice, raising awareness, and supporting consumers, in particular in-court and out-of-court in dispute resolution and in helping them understand and exercise their rights effectively. The programme should strengthen the role and capacity of consumer organisations and European Consumer Centres to enable them to offer</p>	<p>PT (Comments): Regarding the SMCP objectives it is also important to further clarify how this Programme will secure the objectives laid out in the Single Market Strategy, particularly concerning businesses’ support (including SMEs) to expand and trade across borders; innovation and digitalization; consumer trust and protection; and last, but by no means least, ensuring fair competition and a level playing field across all Member States.</p>

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<p>tailored guidance and advice to individual consumers. Furthermore, the programme should support cooperation between national competent authorities, including those entrusted with the enforcement of consumer law and operating in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2017/2394 and those carrying out enforcement tasks with regard to passenger rights in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2021/782, Regulation (EU) No 181/2011, Regulation (EU) No 1177/2010, Regulation (EC) No 261/2004 and Regulation (EC) No 1107/2006. Capacity building measures are required to adapt investigation techniques and enforcement tools to the technological developments, such as the use of artificial intelligence. Measures are also necessary to strengthen the capacity of, and cooperation between market surveillance authorities responsible for monitoring product safety, notably through the Union's Safety Gate Rapid Alert System for dangerous products operating in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2023/988 of the European Parliament and of the Council²¹ and the Information and Communication System for Market Surveillance (ICSMS) under Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 of the European Parliament and of the Council²².</p>	

²¹ Regulation (EU) 2023/988 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 May 2023 on general product safety, amending Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Directive (EU) 2020/1828 of the European Parliament and the Council, and repealing Directive 2001/95/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Directive 87/357/EEC (OJ L 135, 23.5.2023, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/988/oj>).

²² Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on market surveillance and compliance of products and amending Directive 2004/42/EC and Regulations (EC) No 765/2008 and (EU) No 305/2011.

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<p>(18) Activities in market surveillance are instrumental in meeting the objectives of Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 of the European Parliament and of the Council²³ and other Union legal acts requiring the Commission to recognise accreditation bodies and support networks. Such activities should improve the cooperation between Member States and support the harmonisation of ways of working and e-commerce surveillance. Market surveillance activities contribute to protecting competitiveness of Union businesses, consumer safety and facilitate cross-border collaboration and sharing of expertise. Market surveillance ensures that non-food products on the Union market do not endanger Union consumers and workers. It also ensures the protection of other public interests such as environmental protection and climate action, security and fairness in trade. Market surveillance has an important role to play in helping the EU delivering its Green Deal agenda, for example by ensuring that prohibitions and restrictions related to sustainability are properly implemented on imported products. The governance of the Single Market could be improved to address structural problems in the area of standardisation, conformity assessment and market surveillance. The Single Market Strategy proposes to take effective action to increase product compliance by tapping into synergies with capacities of the EU</p>	<p>DE (Drafting Suggestions): (18) Activities in market surveillance are instrumental in meeting the objectives of Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 of the European Parliament and of the Council and other Union legal acts requiring the Commission to recognise accreditation bodies and support networks. Such activities should improve the cooperation between Member States and support the harmonisation of ways of working and e-commerce surveillance. Market surveillance activities contribute to protecting competitiveness of Union businesses, consumer safety and facilitate cross-border collaboration and sharing of expertise. Market surveillance ensures that non-food products on the Union market do not endanger Union consumers and workers. It also ensures the protection of other public interests such as</p>

²³ Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on market surveillance and compliance of products and amending Directive 2004/42/EC and Regulations (EC) No 765/2008 and (EU) No 305/2011 (OJ L 169, 25.6.2019, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2019/1020/oj>).

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<p>and national customs and market surveillance authorities and potentially establishing an EU Market Surveillance Authority.</p>	<p>environmental protection and climate action, security and fairness in trade. Market surveillance has an important role to play in helping the EU delivering its Green Deal agenda, for example by ensuring that prohibitions and restrictions related to sustainability are properly implemented on imported products. The governance of the Single Market could be improved to address structural problems in the area of standardisation, conformity assessment and market surveillance. The Single Market Strategy proposes to take effective action to increase product compliance by tapping into synergies with capacities of the EU and national customs and market surveillance authorities, <u>while respecting their respective competences</u>, and potentially establishing an EU Market Surveillance Authority.</p> <p>DE (Comments): DE points out that these measures should not expand the current responsibilities of customs authorities.</p> <p>IE (Drafting Suggestions):</p>

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	<p>... Market surveillance has an important role to play in helping the EU in delivering its Green Deal agenda, for example by ensuring that prohibitions and restrictions related to sustainability are properly implemented on imported products.</p> <p>IE (Comments): Minor addition (missing word)</p>
<p>(19) European standards play a pivotal role in fostering harmonisation across the Union and supporting key policy objectives. It is essential to ensure Union interests are represented in international standardisation landscape. Harmonisation of standards and digital regulation can address the fragmentation in Union rulemaking and enforcement as a barrier to a well-functioning Single Market. The programme should deliver stronger coordination mechanisms, harmonised regulatory standards, and enhanced Union-level oversight.</p>	<p>NL (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>(19) European standards play a pivotal role in fostering harmonisation across the Union and supporting key policy objectives. It is essential to ensure Union interests are represented in international standardisation landscape. Harmonisation of standards and digital regulation can address the fragmentation in Union rulemaking and enforcement as a barrier to a well-functioning Single Market. The programme should deliver stronger coordination mechanisms, harmonised regulatory standards, and</p>

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	<p>enhanced Union-level oversight. <u>The Programme should promote synergies with Horizon Europe, which aims to promote research and innovation. This should concern in particular complementarity with the actions regarding metrology.</u></p> <p>SE (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>European standards <u>that are used as a voluntary tool to fulfil legislative requirements are a cost-efficient way in creating a well-functioning internal market, supporting key policy objectives and strengthen our companies' global competitiveness.</u> play a pivotal role in fostering harmonisation across the Union and supporting key policy objectives. It is essential to ensure Union interests are represented in international standardisation landscape. Harmonisation of standards and digital regulation can address the fragmentation in Union rulemaking and enforcement as a barrier to a well-functioning Single Market. The programme <u>should further strengthen market driven standardisation, safeguard the New Legislative Framework, and facilitate the use of global standards.</u> deliver stronger coordination mechanisms, harmonised regulatory standards, and enhanced Union-level oversight.</p> <p>SE (Comments):</p>

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	It is crucial that the standardisation remains market driven. By emphasizing cost-efficiency and global competitiveness, the new wording better reflects the strategic value of standards. It also ensures that the role of industry-led standardisation remains central to the EU's internal market policy.
<p>(20) The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) includes a system of rules ensuring that competition is not distorted in the internal market and provides that the Union has exclusive competence in establishing competition rules. The programme should contribute to the Union's competition policy and, in particular, tackle the significant implications for competition and the functioning of the Single Market resulting from the clean, just, competitive and digital transition of the economy and business environment. Using the right technology and skills to monitor markets, collect, process and analyse information more effectively is crucial for strengthening and speeding up the enforcement of competition rules. Those technologies should modernise competition policy and help to enhance the analysis and assessment of market developments. It is also essential that the programme supports networks, reinforces cooperation with national authorities and courts, strengthens international cooperation, and ensures an outreach to a wider group of stakeholders in communicating and explaining the rights, benefits and obligations of the Union's competition policy. The programme should contribute to fair competition and a level playing field, including at global level, and empower businesses, and consumers to reap the benefits of the</p>	<p>IE (Drafting Suggestions): ... Using the right technology and skills to monitor markets, and to collect, process and analyse information more effectively is crucial for strengthening and speeding up the enforcement of competition rules.</p> <p>IE (Comments): Minor addition (missing word)</p> <p>NL (Drafting Suggestions): (20) The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) includes a system of rules ensuring that competition is not distorted in the internal Single Market and provides that the Union has exclusive</p>

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<p>Single Market. Overall, that should also contribute to achieving the significant macroeconomic impacts of effective Union competition enforcement.</p>	<p>competence in establishing competition rules. The programme should contribute to the Union’s competition policy and, in particular, tackle the significant implications for competition and the functioning of the Single Market resulting from the clean, just, competitive and digital transition of the economy and business environment. Using the right technology and skills to monitor markets, collect, process and analyse information more effectively is crucial for strengthening and speeding up the enforcement of competition rules. Those technologies should modernise competition policy and help to enhance the analysis and assessment of market developments. It is also essential that the programme supports networks, reinforces cooperation with national authorities and courts, strengthens international cooperation, and ensures an outreach to a wider group of stakeholders in communicating and explaining the rights, benefits and obligations of the Union’s competition policy. The programme should contribute to fair competition and a level playing field, including at global level, and empower businesses, and consumers to reap the benefits of the Single Market. Overall, that should also contribute to achieving the</p>

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	significant macroeconomic impacts of effective Union competition enforcement.
<p>(21) The programme should support the development and implementation of high-quality European and international corporate financial and non-financial reporting standards and a well-functioning common reporting framework which are essential for the internal market, for the effective functioning of the capital markets and for the realisation of the integrated market for financial services in the context of the Savings and Investments Union.</p>	<p>NL (Drafting Suggestions): (21) The programme should support the development and implementation of high-quality European and international corporate financial and non-financial reporting standards and a well-functioning common reporting framework which are essential for the Single internal Mmarket, for the effective functioning of the capital markets and for the realisation of the integrated market for financial services in the context of the Savings and Investments Union.</p>
<p>(22) The development of the Union regulatory framework in the areas of company law and corporate governance, and contract law, is essential to make businesses more efficient and competitive, while providing protection for stakeholders affected by company operations, and to respond to emerging policy challenges. The support to appropriate</p>	<p>FI (Drafting Suggestions):</p>

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<p>evaluation, implementation (including digital development) and enforcement of the relevant <i>acquis</i>, which inform and assist stakeholders, facilitate secure information exchange and ensure legal certainty with regard to the companies in the Single Market. The upcoming European Innovation Act and 28th²⁴ regime for companies will directly contribute to the Union competitiveness. A clear and well-adapted legal framework for the data economy and innovation is necessary including digitalisation and sharing between companies and administrations using the European Business Wallet, the Single Digital Gateway or other digital means for placing products in the Single Market such as the Digital Product Passport. It would enhance legal certainty with regard to contractual and extra contractual obligations, in particular with regard to liability, security, ethics and privacy in the context of advanced and emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence and quantum technologies.</p>	<p>(22) The development of the Union regulatory framework in the areas of company law and corporate governance, and contract law, is essential to make businesses more efficient and competitive, while providing protection for stakeholders affected by company operations, and to respond to emerging policy challenges.</p> <p>[---]</p> <p>IE (Drafting Suggestions): The development of the Union regulatory framework in the areas of company law and corporate governance, and contract law, is essential to make businesses more efficient and competitive, while providing protection for stakeholders affected by company operations, and in to responding to emerging policy challenges.</p> <p>... The upcoming European Innovation Act and 28th regime for companies will directly contribute to the Union's competitiveness.</p>

²⁴ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, 'A Competitiveness Compass for the EU, COM(2025) 30 final.

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	<p>IE (Comments): Minor changes (correct English)</p> <p>PT (Comments): As regards the part “...or other digital means for placing products in the single market such as the Digital Product Passport.”, it is important to clarify that SMEs will be able to apply for SMCP funding and that their specificities will be taken into account.</p>
<p>(23) The Customs Union remains the foundation of the Union and a fundamental enabler and guardian of the competitive Single Market and other Union political priorities, including European economic security. The Customs Union is instrumental in implementing the Union’s commercial policy, in protecting the financial and economic interests of the Union and its Member States as well as ensuring safety and security within the Union. In response to the need to address the challenges, including the necessity to facilitate legitimate international trade, the Customs Union and the related economic operators, as well as the national customs authorities face, in light of the evolution of their role and of the business models in which they operate, on 17 May 2023, the</p>	<p>DE (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>(23) The Customs Union remains the foundation of the Union and a fundamental enabler and guardian of the competitive Single Market and other Union political priorities, including European economic security. The Customs Union is instrumental in implementing the Union’s commercial policy, in protecting the financial and economic interests of</p>

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<p>Commission put forward a proposal²⁵ for the most ambitious and comprehensive reform of the Customs Union since its establishment in 1968. A more cost-efficient and effective cooperation framework governing the Customs Union is to be established, based on a new partnership among customs authorities and between customs and businesses, and by establishing the EU Customs Authority which should develop and manage the EU Customs Data Hub.</p>	<p>the Union and its Member States as well as and contributes to ensuring safety and security within the Union. In response to the need to address the challenges, including the necessity to facilitate legitimate international trade, the Customs Union and the related economic operators, as well as the national customs authorities face, in light of the evolution of their role and of the business models in which they operate, on 17 May 2023, the Commission put forward a proposal for the most ambitious and comprehensive reform of the Customs Union since its establishment in 1968. A more cost-efficient and effective cooperation framework governing the Customs Union is to be established, based on a new partnership among customs authorities and between customs and businesses, and by establishing the EU Customs Authority which should develop and manage the EU Customs Data Hub.</p> <p>DE (Comments):</p>

²⁵ Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Union Customs Code and the European Union Customs Authority, and repealing Regulation (EU) No 952/2013, COM(2023) 258 final.

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	<p>Wording taken from the Union Customs Code (UCC) reform.</p> <p>SK (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>For the second sentence, we propose to add: <i>“The programme must actively support the fight against fraud that threatens the Union’s financial and economic interests and undermines the fair functioning of the Single Market. This includes strengthening cooperation among customs authorities, law enforcement bodies (including OLAF and Europol), and national VAT control authorities, as well as ensuring the effective sharing of data.”</i></p>
<p>(24) Union tax policy plays a key role in the seamless functioning of the competitive internal market. It supports consistent tax practices across Member States, fostering a level playing field and minimising barriers to cross-border trade. Union tax policy does not only combat fragmentation and discrimination but also safeguards the financial interests of the Union and its Member States, promoting economic growth and encouraging investment within a competitive framework. Tax policy also contributes to the EU’s climate and environmental objectives. Fighting tax fraud, tax evasion and tax avoidance through enhanced cooperation and exchange of</p>	<p>BE (Comments):</p> <p>BE: given the potential overlap between the policy area taxation and the policy area “anti-fraud measures”, we would like to receive further clarification on what exactly would be covered under the Fiscalis part of the programme. In particular, there are certain collaborative activities in</p>

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<p>information is crucial for safeguarding those interests, alignment with the Union's wider objectives and maintaining the trust of citizens and businesses in the integrity of the internal market. An efficient functioning of the Single Market also requires simplification of tax systems and digitalisation of public administrations to improve transparency and consistency, thereby promoting a competitive economic environment across Member States. Acknowledging the impact of digitalisation on public administrations, including tax authorities, Union tax policy should leverage those digital opportunities to ensure fair taxation and efficient tax collection while offering a leaner and more efficient framework that reduces compliance burdens.</p>	<p>the current Fiscalis programme that are more targeted to fraud (like the Eurofisc network, TNA, etc.). Are these covered by the anti-fraud part of the programme or the taxation part of the programme?</p> <p>NL (Drafting Suggestions): (24) Union tax policy plays a key role in the seamless functioning of the competitive internal Single Mmarket. It supports consistent tax practices across Member States, fostering a level playing field and minimising barriers to cross-border trade. Union tax policy does not only combat fragmentation and discrimination but also safeguards the financial interests of the Union and its Member States, promoting economic growth and encouraging investment within a competitive framework. Tax policy also contributes to the Union's EU's climate and environmental wider objectives. Fighting tax fraud, tax evasion and tax avoidance through enhanced cooperation and exchange of information is crucial for safeguarding those interests, alignment with the Union's wider objectives and maintaining the trust of citizens and businesses in the</p>

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	<p>integrity of the internal Single Market. An efficient functioning of the Single Market also requires simplification of tax systems and digitalisation of public administrations to improve transparency and consistency, thereby promoting a competitive economic environment across Member States. Acknowledging the impact of digitalisation on public administrations, including tax authorities, Union tax policy should leverage those digital opportunities to ensure fair taxation and efficient tax collection while offering a leaner and more efficient framework that reduces compliance burdens.</p> <p>NL (Comments): Alignment with recital 14.</p>
<p>(25) In line with the established and future legal commitments at Union level, it is crucial to continue developing and operating Union components of digital solutions in the customs and taxation fields. Those common components are essential for establishing a modern and efficient Customs Union and tax systems across the Union, and for enhancing the Union's competitiveness at global level.</p>	<p>IE (Drafting Suggestions): In line with the established and future legal commitments at Union level, it is crucial to continue developing and operating Union components of</p>

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	<p>digital solutions in the customs and taxation fields. Those common components are essential for establishing a modern and efficient Customs Union and tax systems across the Union, and for enhancing the Union’s competitiveness at the global level.</p> <p>IE (Comments): Minor addition (missing word)</p>
<p>(26) The programme should enable the continuation of the Customs programme including customs control equipment support interventions deployed in the 2021-2027 period by the Customs Control Equipment Instrument, and the Fiscalis programme and their predecessors. In that respect, the programme should enable the continuation of supporting the work of the customs and tax authorities not only by ensuring a solid digital customs and tax environment but also by reinforcing expert networks, the sharing of know-how and good practices, as well as by complementing the national efforts for training customs and tax officials and professionals with Union level solutions. In that sense, the programme should support the continued collaboration and cooperation between the national customs authorities as well as between national tax authorities and their cooperation with the Commission and with other national authorities, and their digital, administrative, human and</p>	<p>AT (Comments): AT: In respect of recital 26, we would like to draw the attention to the fact that taxation plays a vital role in the functioning of the single market, which is also touched upon in recital 24, and raised in various other occasions by the EC. The current Fiscalis Programme plays a vital role in this respect.</p> <p>We have previously outlined that in case the Fiscalis Programme would be included in the SMCP, we are of the opinion that the Fiscalis activities</p>

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<p>operational capacity building (development and operation of electronic systems and digital solutions and tools, equipment, infrastructure, training, innovation, studies, evaluations, etc.). The importance of ensuring adequate and equivalent results of customs controls, – amongst other aspects – calls for the availability and optimal use of relevant and state-of-the-art customs control equipment, which should be facilitated by the programme, in particular in case of crisis situations and in the countries neighbouring the Union’s external borders. Joint procurement should be encouraged as much as possible to achieve further efficiencies and economies of scale. The programme should also enable the transition to a renewed Customs Union²⁶.</p>	<p>should be continued in an autonomous manner. Therefore, we would encourage to rephrase recital 26 in a way that a new own recital is dedicated to taxation and Fiscalis aspects.</p> <p>BE (Comments): BE: It is stated that “<i>The programme will also integrate the 2021-2027 CCEI30 type targeted interventions to be implemented by the new EU Customs Authority, primarily to support the enlargement countries and address crisis situations.</i>” In this respect, we would like to understand how “crisis situations” are defined, and what type of situations would be covered by this reference.</p> <p>BE: As far as the CCEI is concerned, Belgium considers that it is important that support should remain available for Member States,</p>

²⁶ On the basis of the agreement to be reached by the European Parliament and the Council on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Union Customs Code and the European Union Customs Authority, and repealing Regulation (EU) No 952/2013 (COM/2023/258 final).

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	<p>irrespective of crisis situations. This restriction should be removed from the proposal.</p> <p>CZ (Comments):</p> <p>Recital (26) refers, among other things, to the area of customs control equipment, where the Commission specified in its written replies that the CCEI instrument will be primarily intended to provide financial support to Member States facing a crisis situation and to candidate countries. Member States will therefore lose the existing instrument for building, maintaining or upgrading their technical capacities. Although the Commission mentions the role of the future EU Customs Agency and joint procurement in this context, we believe that, given the constant technological progress, the possibility of using this instrument for the needs of Member States should be maintained, regardless of crisis situations. CZ supports in this regard the proposal raised by PL to add a separate Art. 8a (Customs control equipment) with a slight amendment which we find redundant:</p> <p><i>Actions supporting the purchase, maintenance and upgrade of customs control equipment shall be available to Members States, in particular those managing the Union's external borders. Participation of associated third countries may be provided for in the work programmes in accordance with Article 7.</i></p>

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	<p>DE (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>(26) The programme should enable the continuation of the Customs programme including customs control equipment support interventions deployed in the 2021-2027 period by the Customs Control Equipment Instrument, and the Fiscalis programme and their predecessors. In that respect, the programme should enable the continuation of supporting the work of the customs and tax authorities not only by ensuring a solid digital customs and tax environment but also by reinforcing expert networks, the sharing of know-how and good practices, as well as by complementing the national efforts for training customs and tax officials and professionals with Union level solutions. In that sense, the programme should support the continued collaboration and cooperation between the national customs authorities as well as between national tax authorities and their cooperation with the Commission and with other national authorities, and their digital, administrative, human and operational capacity building (development and operation of electronic systems and digital solutions and tools, equipment, infrastructure,</p>

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	<p>training, innovation, studies, evaluations, etc.). The importance of ensuring adequate and equivalent results of customs controls, – amongst other aspects – calls for the availability and optimal use of relevant and state-of-the-art customs control equipment, which should be facilitated by the programme <u>for Member States, candidate countries and potential candidate countries, in particular also</u> in case of crisis situations and in the countries neighbouring the Union’s external borders. Joint procurement should be encouraged as much as possible to achieve further efficiencies and economies of scale. The programme should also enable the transition to a renewed Customs Union.</p> <p>DE (Comments): DE emphasizes that all member states should remain eligible to access CCEI funding in the future, independently of any crisis scenarios. With regard to the dynamic geopolitical situation and the growing challenges arising from it for protecting the interests of the entire EU, a continuous funding option through the CCEI financial instrument will contribute to quality assurance and enhancement in this context.</p>

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	<p>ES (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>The importance of ensuring adequate and equivalent results of customs controls, – amongst other aspects – calls for the availability and optimal use of relevant and state-of-the-art customs control equipment, which should be facilitated by the programme to the Member States and, in particular, in case of crisis situations and in the countries neighbouring the Union’s external borders. (...)</p> <p>ES (Comments):</p> <p>ES proposes deleting the phrase “in particular those managing the Union’s external border”, considering that all Member States have an external border. It seems that, according to Recital 26, the COM’s intention is to support this funding to neighbouring or newly acceding countries, mainly related to the land border, but it should not be limited to one type of border.</p> <p>FI (Drafting Suggestions):</p>

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	<p>We suggest adding and deleting text in the third to last sentence as follows:</p> <p>”The importance of ensuring adequate and equivalent results of customs controls in the Member States, – amongst other aspects – calls for the availability and optimal use of relevant and state-of-the-art customs control equipment, which should be facilitated by the programme, in particular in case of crisis situations and in the enlargement countries neighbouring the Union’s external borders.”</p> <p>FI (Comments):</p> <p>We consider that it is necessary to mention the member states explicitly in this text.</p> <p>At the same time, we think that it is also necessary to specify that the regulation, alongside the member states, concerns clearly the enlargement countries instead of the ambiguous “countries neighbouring the Union’s external borders” that can be seen to include countries like Belarus.</p> <p>Moreover, the Legislative financial and digital statement of the proposal states: “supporting the acquisition of the customs control equipment in</p>

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	<p>the enlargement countries (and for addressing crisis situations)”. This text is clear about the target being the enlargement countries, so we think that the regulation should be too.</p> <p>FR (Drafting Suggestions):</p>

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	<p>The importance of ensuring adequate and equivalent results of customs controls, – amongst other aspects – calls for the availability and optimal use of relevant and state-of-the-art customs control equipment, protected from any data security breach due to the possible interference of third country suppliers, which should be facilitated by the programme, in particular in case of crisis situations and in the countries neighbouring the Union’s external borders. Joint procurement should be encouraged as much as possible to achieve further efficiencies and economies of scale. The programme should also enable the transition to a renewed Customs Union.</p> <p>FR (Comments):</p>

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	<p>It is Highly desirable to take into account the security issues in the public procurement process in view to purchase customs control equipment as some third countries providers may capture sensitive data that can lead to jeopardize customs controls.</p> <p>We reiterate our concerns about the reorientation of the customs control equipment for the benefit of Union's neighbouring countries, while the financing needs remain major within the Union's customs services.</p> <p>HU (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>The programme should enable the continuation of the Customs programme including customs control equipment support interventions deployed in the</p>

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	<p>2021-2027 period by the Customs Control Equipment Instrument, and the Fiscalis programme and their predecessors. In that respect, the programme should enable the continuation of supporting the work of the customs and tax authorities not only by ensuring a solid digital customs and tax environment but also by reinforcing expert networks, the sharing of know-how and good practices, as well as by complementing the national efforts for training customs and tax officials and professionals with Union level solutions. In that sense, the programme should support the continued collaboration and cooperation between the national customs authorities as well as between national tax authorities and their cooperation with the Commission and with other national authorities, and their digital, administrative, human and operational capacity building (development and operation of electronic systems and digital solutions and tools, equipment, infrastructure, training, innovation, studies, evaluations, etc.). The importance of ensuring adequate and equivalent results of customs controls, – amongst other aspects – calls for the availability and optimal use of relevant and state-of-the-art customs control equipment, which should be facilitated by the programme, in particular in case of crisis situations and in the countries neighbouring the Union’s external borders. Joint procurement should be encouraged as much as possible to achieve further efficiencies and economies of scale. The programme should also enable the transition to a renewed Customs Union²⁷. To ensure continuity, predictability and transparency in the financing of customs control</p>

²⁷ On the basis of the agreement to be reached by the European Parliament and the Council on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Union Customs Code and the European Union Customs Authority, and repealing Regulation (EU) No 952/2013 (COM/2023/258 final).

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	<p>equipment, the programme should provide a dedicated and multiannual financial envelope within the customs component, covering purchase, maintenance, upgrade and replacement of customs control equipment and ensuring that funding allocation follows objective and transparent criteria such as trade flows, risk levels and external border exposure.</p> <p>HU (Comments):</p> <p>The amendment strengthens the operational clarity of Recital (26) by explicitly referring to a dedicated and multiannual financial framework for customs control equipment. It ensures that support for such equipment remains predictable, transparent and needs-based, reflecting differences in Member States’ customs responsibilities and border exposure. This improves planning certainty and reinforces the efficiency and resilience of customs controls across the Union.</p> <p>IE (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>... The importance of ensuring adequate and equivalent results of customs controls; – amongst other aspects – calls for the availability and optimal use of relevant and state-of-the-art customs control equipment, which should be facilitated by the programme, in particular in case of</p>

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	<p>crisis situations and in the countries neighbouring the Union’s external borders.</p> <p>IE (Comments): Deletion of unnecessary comma</p> <p>NL (Drafting Suggestions): (26) The programme should enable the continuation of the Customs programme including customs control equipment support interventions deployed in the 2021-2027 period by the Customs Control Equipment Instrument, and the Fiscalis programme and their predecessors. <u>This requires stable and predictable financing over the years in order to ensure its sustainability.</u> In that respect, †The programme should enable the continuation of supporting the work of the customs and tax authorities not only by ensuring a solid digital customs and tax environment but also by reinforcing expert networks, the sharing of know-how and good practices, as well as by complementing the national efforts for training customs and tax officials and professionals with Union</p>

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	<p>level solutions. In that sense, the programme should support the continued collaboration and cooperation between the national customs authorities as well as between national tax authorities and their cooperation with the Commission and with other national authorities, and their digital, administrative, human and operational capacity building (development and operation of electronic systems and digital solutions and tools, equipment, infrastructure, training, innovation, studies, evaluations, etc.). The importance of ensuring adequate and equivalent results of customs controls, – amongst other aspects – calls for the availability and optimal use of relevant and state-of-the-art customs control equipment, which should be facilitated by the programme, in particular in case of crisis situations and in the countries neighbouring the Union’s external borders. Joint procurement should be encouraged as much as possible to achieve further efficiencies and economies of scale.</p>

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	<p>The programme should also enable the transition to a renewed Customs Union²⁸.</p> <p>SE (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>(26) The programme should enable the continuation of the Customs programme including customs control equipment support interventions deployed in the 2021-2027 period by the Customs Control Equipment Instrument, and the Fiscalis programme and their predecessors. In that respect, the programme should enable the continuation of supporting the work of the customs and tax authorities not only by ensuring a solid digital customs and tax environment but also by reinforcing expert networks, the sharing of know-how and good practices, as well as by complementing the national efforts for training customs and tax officials and professionals with Union level solutions. In that sense, the programme should support the continued collaboration and cooperation between the national customs authorities as well as between national tax authorities and their cooperation with the Commission and with other national authorities, and their digital, administrative, human and operational capacity building (development and operation of electronic systems and digital solutions and tools, equipment, infrastructure, training, innovation, studies, evaluations, etc.). The importance of</p>

²⁸ On the basis of the agreement to be reached by the European Parliament and the Council on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Union Customs Code and the European Union Customs Authority, and repealing Regulation (EU) No 952/2013 (COM/2023/258 final).

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	<p>ensuring adequate and equivalent results of customs controls, – amongst other aspects – calls for the availability and optimal use of relevant and state-of-the-art customs control equipment, which should be facilitated by the programme <u>for Member states, candidate countries and potential candidate countries in particular also</u> in case of crisis situations and in the countries neighbouring the Union’s external borders. Joint procurement should be encouraged as much as possible to achieve further efficiencies and economies of scale. The programme should also enable the transition to a renewed Customs Union²⁹.</p> <p>SE (Comments): All member states should remain eligible to access CCEI funding in the future, independently of any crisis scenarios. With regard to the dynamic geopolitical situation and the growing challenges arising from it for protecting the interests of the entire EU, a continuous funding option through the CCEI financial instrument will contribute to quality assurance and enhancement in this context.</p> <p>SK (Drafting Suggestions):</p>

²⁹ On the basis of the agreement to be reached by the European Parliament and the Council on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Union Customs Code and the European Union Customs Authority, and repealing Regulation (EU) No 952/2013 (COM/2023/258 final).

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	<p>The programme should enable the continuation of the Customs programme including customs control equipment support interventions deployed in the 2021-2027 period by the Customs Control Equipment Instrument, and the Fiscalis programme and their predecessors. In that respect, the programme should enable the continuation of supporting the work of the customs and tax authorities not only by ensuring a solid digital customs and tax environment but also by reinforcing expert networks, the sharing of know-how and good practices, as well as by complementing the national efforts for training customs and tax officials and professionals with Union level solutions. In that sense, the programme should support the continued collaboration and cooperation between the national customs authorities as well as between national tax authorities and their cooperation with the Commission and with other national authorities, and their digital, administrative, human and operational capacity building (development and operation of electronic systems and digital solutions and tools, equipment, infrastructure, training, innovation, studies, evaluations, etc.). The importance of</p>

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	<p>ensuring adequate and equivalent results of customs controls, – amongst other aspects – calls for the availability and optimal use of relevant and state-of-the-art customs control equipment, which should be facilitated by the programme, in particular in case of crisis situations and in the countries neighbouring the Union’s external borders. Joint procurement should be encouraged as much as possible to achieve further efficiencies and economies of scale. The programme should also enable the transition to a renewed Customs Union</p> <p>SK (Comments): SK requests to delete the following text” “in particular in case of crisis situations and in the countries neighbouring the Union’s external borders”.</p> <p>The restriction to use CCEI instrument only for crisis situations is a red line for SK. The proper technical equipment up-dated and modernised is inevitable for customs to be able to provide necessary level of security of the EU and its citizens.</p>

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<p>(27) The programme should also contribute to ensuring that EU customs control systems are equipped and interoperable to facilitate the smooth movement of military goods and equipment, in the light of the growing importance of military mobility. To this end, support could be provided for the digitalisation and coordination of the customs procedures, including the enhancement of civil-military customs cooperation.</p>	
	<p>PL (Drafting Suggestions): (27a) The Programme should continue supporting the purchase, maintenance and upgrade of customs control equipment by Member States, in particular those operating the Union’s external borders, without limiting such support to candidate or potential candidate countries.</p> <p>PL (Comments): Proposal to add a new recital, e.g. 27a.</p>

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	<p>The current CCEI instrument supports the purchase and maintenance of control equipment by Member States. The COM proposal refers in this regard to enlargement countries, which raises doubts as to whether the Member States will continue to be beneficiaries.</p> <p>For EU border countries, the possibility of using EU funds for control equipment is crucial in order to meet border protection requirements and ensure the proper functioning of the customs union.</p> <p>Therefore, it should be clearly specified that support for customs equipment remains available to all Member States, in particular those securing the external borders.</p>
<p>(28) In accordance with Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509, the work programmes and the call documents are the appropriate place to set out more technical implementation details for the budget across the set of policies supported by the programme, including specific eligibility and award criteria depending on the instrument of budget implementation, whether grant or procurement, and the specific policy objectives pursued. In accordance with Article 136 of the Financial Regulation, security requirements should be applied. Restrictions to high-risk suppliers should apply according to the relevant applicable provisions.</p>	<p>NL (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>(28) In accordance with Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509, the work programmes and the call documents are the appropriate place to set out more technical implementation details for the budget across the set of policies supported by the programme, including specific eligibility and award criteria depending on the instrument of budget implementation,</p>

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	<p>whether grant or procurement, and the specific policy objectives pursued.</p> <p>In accordance with Article 136 of the Financial Regulation, security requirements should be applied. Restrictions to high-risk suppliers should apply according to the relevant applicable provisions. <u>In order to ensure uniform conditions for the implementation of this Regulation, implementing powers should be conferred on the Commission. Those powers should be exercised in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council. The examination procedure should be used for the adoption of the work programmes.</u></p>
	<p>PL (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>(28a) In order to ensure democratic legitimacy, transparency and the effective involvement of Member States in the governance of the Programme, the adoption of work programmes should be subject to the examination procedure in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 182/2011.</p> <p>PL (Comments):</p>

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	<p>Proposal to add a new recital, e.g. 28a, concerning the provision of comitology in this regulation. The present sectoral programmes (Customs/Fiscalis) are implemented with the active involvement of the Member States through the relevant committees. In this draft regulation, there are no provisions foreseeing the participation of a committee, and decisions regarding work programmes are left solely to the Commission. This significantly weakens the influence of the Member States on priorities and the allocation of financial resources, and Poland strongly opposes to this.</p>
<p>(29) Europe must protect its security interest against suppliers which could represent a persistent security risk due to the potential interference from third countries as well as their security, notably cybersecurity. It is therefore necessary to reduce the risk of persisting dependency on high-risk suppliers in the internal market, including in the ICT supply chain, as they could have potentially serious negative impacts on security for users and companies across the Union and the Union’s critical infrastructure in terms of the integrity of data and services as well as the availability of service. This restriction should be based on a proportionate risk assessment and associated mitigation measures as defined in the Union policies and laws.</p>	<p>NL (Drafting Suggestions): (29) Europe <u>The Union</u> must protect its security interest against suppliers which could represent a persistent security risk due to the potential interference from third countries as well as their security, notably cybersecurity. It is therefore necessary to reduce the risk of persisting dependency on high-risk suppliers in the internal <u>Single M</u>market, including in the ICT supply chain, as they could have</p>

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	<p>potentially serious negative impacts on security for users and companies across the Union and the Union’s critical infrastructure in terms of the integrity of data and services as well as the availability of service. This restriction should be based on a proportionate risk assessment and associated mitigation measures as defined in the Union policies and laws.</p>
<p>(30) Union legislation setting out rules for Union funds under shared management and for pre-accession assistance regarding the programming period for the years 2014 to 2020 and onwards provides for an obligation on Member States, candidate countries and potential candidate countries to report irregularities and fraud affecting the financial interests of the Union. Based on that legislation and on related implementing regulations, the Commission is obliged to maintain the Irregularity Management System (IMS) as a secure electronic communications tool, which also supports the management and analysis of irregularities.</p>	
<p>(31) Article 325 TFEU requires the Union and the Member States to counter fraud, corruption and any other illegal activities affecting the financial interests of the Union. The Union should support activities in</p>	<p>FI (Comments): As regards Anti-Fraud measures:</p>

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<p>those fields. In accordance with Council Regulation (EC) No 515/97³⁰ and Council Decision 2009/917/JHA³¹ the Union is to support mutual assistance between the administrative authorities of the Member States and cooperation between the latter and the Commission, to ensure the correct application of the law on customs and agricultural matters. That support covers not only anti-fraud activities in relation to customs fraud but also in relation to illicit trade in the fields of safety and security, health and the protection of the environment and is provided to a number of operational activities. Those include the Anti-Fraud Information System (AFIS), an information technology platform which consists of a set of applications operated under a common information system, managed by the Commission. That common information system comprising AFIS and IMS requires stable and predictable financing over the years in order to ensure its sustainability, which should be made available under the programme, given the Commission’s legal obligations in that respect and the importance of the system for the protection of the Unions and the Member States economic and financial interests.</p>	<p>What measures, more specifically, are included in the Anti-Fraud measures?</p> <p>Which information systems will be financed by the Commission in the future from the programme? (Currently AFIS and IMS are funded from the Anti-Fraud programme.)</p> <p>Based on the impact assessment, funding for the anti-Fraud measures would be approximately doubled. What is the reasoning for such an increase in funding?</p> <p>PT (Drafting Suggestions):</p>

³⁰ [Council Regulation \(EC\) No 515/97 of 13 March 1997 on mutual assistance between the administrative authorities of the Member States and cooperation between the latter and the Commission to ensure the correct application of the law on customs and agricultural matters](http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/1997/515/oj) (OJ L 82, 22/03/1997, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/1997/515/oj>).

³¹ Council Decision 2009/917/JHA of 30 November 2009 on the use of information technology for customs purposes (OJ L 323, 10.12.2009, p. 23, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2009/917/oj>).

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	<p>“...for the protection of the Unions, the Member States economic and financial interests and an effective level playing field for European businesses.”</p> <p>SK (Comments): In the context of protecting the financial interests of the Union, we recommend considering the addition to Article 4 of an obligation to ensure stable and predictable financing of the Irregularity Management System (IMS) and the Anti-Fraud Information System (AFIS) as essential information technology tools of the Union.</p>
	<p>PT (Comments): We propose to include a new recital with a wording similar to recital 73 of Regulation Regulation 2021/690, explaining that the Programme should contribute to the overall support addressing specific needs of outermost regions and their integration in the internal market. We also find that such a recital should be added prior to any reference to eventual support to third countries under this new Programme</p>

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<p>(32) Third countries which are members of the European Economic Area ('EEA') may participate in the programme in the framework of the cooperation established under the Agreement on the EEA³², which provides for the association to the programmes on the basis of a decision adopted under that Agreement. Third countries may also participate on the basis of other legal instruments. Third countries should be required to grant the necessary rights and access required for the authorising officer responsible, OLAF and the Court of Auditors to comprehensively exercise their respective competences.</p>	
<p>(33) In line with the Commission's commitment to ensure the coherence and simplification of funding programmes, set out in its Communication of 11 February 2025 on 'The road to the next multiannual financial framework'³³, resources should be shared with other Union funding instruments if the actions envisaged under the programme pursue objectives that are common to various funding instruments, excluding double financing. Actions under the programme should ensure coherence in the use of the Union's resources supporting tax policy and tax authorities.</p>	<p>PT (Comments): Further clarification is needed regarding the sharing of resources with other Union funding instruments.</p>

³² OJ L 1, 3.1.1994, p. 3, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_internation/1994/1/oj.

³³ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic And Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: 'The road to the next multiannual financial framework' (COM(2025) 46 final).

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<p>(34) Since the objectives of this Regulation, namely to enhance and deepen the well-functioning of a competitive Single Market and a strong Customs Union, and to protect the financial and economic interests, security and the safety of the Union and its Member States, cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States alone but can rather, by reason of legal obligation, scale and effects of the action, be better achieved at Union level, the Union may adopt measures, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity as set out in Article 5 of the Treaty on European Union. In accordance with the principle of proportionality as set out in that Article, this Regulation does not go beyond what is necessary in order to achieve those objectives.</p>	<p>NL (Drafting Suggestions): (34) Since the objectives of this Regulation, namely to enhance and deepen strengthen the well-functioning of a competitive Single Market and a strong Customs Union, and to ensure protect the financial and economic interests, security and the safety of the Union and its Member States, cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States alone but can rather, by reason of legal obligation, scale and effects of the action, be better achieved at Union level, the Union may adopt measures, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity as set out in Article 5 of the Treaty on European Union. In accordance with the principle of proportionality as set out in that Article, this Regulation does not go beyond what is necessary in order to achieve those objectives</p>
<p>(35) The draft part of the programme regarding the framework for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics has</p>	

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<p>been submitted for prior examination to the European Statistical System Committee in accordance with Article 13(4) Regulation (EC) No 223/2009.</p>	
	<p>FI (Drafting Suggestions): Recital 35a) This Regulation sets out the co-financing rate in order to provide the necessary predictability for the Member States.</p> <p>FI (Comments): See our comments on Article 4: We propose to add a new paragraph 1(b) to Article 4 on co-financing rate.</p>
<p>(36) This Regulation replaces the programmes established by Regulations (EU) 2021/444, (EU) 2021/690, (EU) 2021/785, (EU) 2021/847 and (EU) 2021/1077. Those Regulations should therefore be repealed.</p>	
<p>(37) To ensure the continuation of fulfilment of actions related to Union legal obligations and other actions or modification of the actions carried out under those Regulations, until their closure, transitional arrangements should be laid down,</p>	

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HAVE ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:	
<i>Article 1</i> <i>Subject matter</i>	
<p>This Regulation establishes the Single Market and Customs Programme (the ‘programme’) and lays down the objectives of the programme, its budget [for the period from 1 January 2028 to 31 December 2034], the forms of Union funding and the rules for providing such funding.</p>	<p>AT (Drafting Suggestions): This Regulation establishes the Single Market and Customs Programme (the ‘programme’) and lays down the objectives of the programme, its budget [for the period from 1 January 2028 to 31 December 2034], the forms of Union funding and the rules for providing such funding, <u>and the system of governance of the Programme.</u></p> <p>AT (Comments): AT comment:</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EC to explain why “the system of governance of the Programme” should <u>not</u> be mentioned here. • Under the next Multiannual Financial Framework for the period 2028-2034 (MFF 2028-2024), MFF sectoral programmes should continue to provide for their own system of governance in their enacting terms for reasons of legal certainty and to provide guardrails for the spirit of loyal cooperation between EC and Member States. • SMCP should, in its enacting terms, provide for its own system of governance. • SMCP should, already in its Article 1 on its subject matter, state that it provides for its own system of governance. <p>AT justification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulation (EU) 2021/690 served as one of the predecessor programs to SMCP. • In its Article 1 (Subject Matter), Regulation (EU) 2021/690 expressly stated that it lays down, inter alia, the system for its own governance. <p>DE</p>

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Commission proposal bracketed provisions	Drafting Suggestions and Comments
	<p>(Comments):</p> <p>Both the budget and the programme itself should run for a limited period of time.</p> <p>ES</p> <p>(Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>This Regulation establishes the Single Market and Customs Programme (the ‘programme’) and lays down the objectives of the programme, its budget [for the period from 1 January 2028 to 31 December 2034], the forms of Union funding and the rules for providing such funding.</p> <p>This Regulation establishes also the European Statistical Programme within the meaning of Article 13 of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 for the period 2028 to 2034, laying down the main field, the objectives of the actions envisage, the forms of Union funding and the rules for providing such funding, and the system of governance of the the European Statistical Programme.</p> <p>ES</p> <p>(Comments):</p>

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Commission proposal bracketed provisions	Drafting Suggestions and Comments
	<p>: Pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on European statistics, a multiannual European statistical programme (ESP) should be established, providing a framework for funding Union actions, this scope shall be at least clearly established if there is not a separate legal act for the ESP. In accordance with article 338 TFEU European statistics are those necessary for the performance of the activities of the Union. Therefore, the production of Union statistics is not a policy but a tool. This is why it is ruled in PART SEVEN (GENERAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS) of the Treaty and not in PART THREE (UNION POLICIES AND INTERNAL ACTIONS).</p> <p>IT (Drafting Suggestions): This Regulation establishes the Single Market, and Customs and European statistics Programme (the ‘programme’) and lays down the objectives of the programme, its budget [for the period from 1 January 2028 to 31 December 2034], the forms of Union funding and the rules for providing such funding.</p>

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Commission proposal bracketed provisions	Drafting Suggestions and Comments
	<p>IT (Comments):</p> <p>This proposal reflects the proposed amendments and comments to the title.</p> <p>As outlined in Article 13 of Regulation (CE) 223/2009, the ESP defines the main fields and objectives of statistical actions and establishes priorities based on information needs. These needs must be weighed against the resources available at both the Community and national level to provide the required statistics. This should be clearly reflected in the subject matter, also bearing in mind that in accordance with article 338 TFEU European statistics are those necessary for the performance of the activities of the Union.</p> <p>NL (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>This Regulation establishes the Single Market and Customs Programme (the ‘programme’) and <u>the programming and financing framework for European statistics within the meaning of Article 13 of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009.</u></p>

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	<p><u>This Regulation also</u> lays down the objectives of the programme, its budget [for the period from 1 January 2028 to 31 December 2034], the forms of Union funding and the rules for providing such funding.</p> <p>NL (Comments): Pursuant to Article 13 of Regulation (EC) 223/2009, the European Statistical Programme (ESP) defines the main fields and objectives of statistical actions and establishes priorities based on information needs. These needs must be weighed against the resources available at both the Community and national level to provide the required statistics. This should be clearly reflected in the subject matter, also bearing in mind that in accordance with article 338 TFEU European statistics are those necessary for the performance of the activities of the Union.</p> <p>PL (Drafting Suggestions): This Regulation establishes the Single Market and Customs Programme (the ‘programme’) and lays down the objectives of the programme, its</p>

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	<p>budget [for the period from 1 January 2028 to 31 December 2034], the forms of Union funding and the rules for providing such funding.</p> <p>This Regulation establishes also the European Statistical Programme within the meaning of Article 13 of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 for the period 2028 to 2034, laying down the main fields, the objectives of the actions envisaged, the forms of Union funding and the rules for providing such funding.</p> <p>PL (Comments):</p> <p>PL: In accordance with Article 13 of Regulation (EC) 223/2009, the ESP provides the framework for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics, setting out the main fields and objectives of statistical actions and establishes priorities based on information needs. These needs must be weighed against the resources available at both the Community and national level to provide the required statistics.</p>

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	<p>Bering in mind the above we are of the opinion that the reference to the ESP should be clearly reflected in the subject matter if there is no a separate legal act for the ESP.</p> <p>PT (Drafting Suggestions): This Regulation establishes the Single Market and Customs Programme (the ‘programme’) and lays down the objectives of the programme, its budget [for the period from 1 January 2028 to 31 December 2034], the forms of Union funding and the rules for providing such funding.</p> <p><u>This Regulation establishes also, in the Annex, the European Statistical Programme as foreseen in Article 13 of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 for the period 2028 to 2034.</u></p>
	<p>CZ (Drafting Suggestions): 2. This Regulation establishes also the European Statistical Programme within the meaning of Article 13 of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 for the period 2028 to 2034, laying down the main field, the objectives of the actions envisage, the forms of Union funding and the rules for providing such funding, and the system of governance of the the European Statistical Programme.</p>

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Commission proposal bracketed provisions	Drafting Suggestions and Comments
	<p>CZ (Comments):</p> <p>Pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics, a multiannual European statistical programme (ESP) should be established, providing a framework for funding Union actions, this scope shall be at least clearly established if there is not a separate legal act for the ESP. In accordance with article 338 TFEU European statistics are those necessary for the performance of the activities of the Union. Therefore, the production of Union statistics is not a policy but a tool. This is why it is ruled in PART SEVEN (GENERAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS) of the Treaty and not in PART THREE (UNION POLICIES AND INTERNAL ACTIONS).</p> <p>EE (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>This Regulation establishes also the European Statistical Programme within the meaning of Article 13 of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 for the period 2028 to 2034, laying down the main fields, the objectives of the actions envisaged, the forms of Union funding and the rules for providing such funding.</p> <p>EE (Comments):</p> <p>As outlined in Article 13 of Regulation (CE) 223/2009, the ESP defines the main fields and objectives of statistical actions and establishes</p>

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	<p>priorities based on information needs. These needs must be weighed against the resources available at both the Community and national level to provide the required statistics. This should be clearly reflected in the subject matter, also bearing in mind that in accordance with article 338 TFEU European statistics are those necessary for the performance of the activities of the Union.</p> <p>FI (Drafting Suggestions): <u>This Regulation also establishes European statistical programme in accordance with Article 13 of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009.</u></p> <p>FI (Comments): As the Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 specifically and explicitly requires to establish European statistical programme, we propose to add it here.</p> <p>LT (Drafting Suggestions): <u>This Regulation establishes also the European Statistical Programme within the meaning of Article 13 of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 for</u></p>

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	<p><u>the period 2028 to 2034, laying down the main fields, the objectives of the actions envisaged, the forms of Union funding and the rules for providing such funding.</u></p> <p>LT (Comments):</p> <p>As outlined in Article 13 of Regulation (CE) 223/2009, the ESP defines the main fields and objectives of statistical actions and establishes priorities based on information needs. These needs must be weighed against the resources available at both the Community and national level to provide the required statistics. This should be clearly reflected in the subject matter, also bearing in mind that in accordance with article 338 TFEU European statistics are those necessary for the performance of the activities of the Union.</p>

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<p><i>Article 2</i> Definitions</p>	<p>IT (Comments): The definitions are in line with those specified in Regulation (EU) 1020/2019 and the text does not highlight any elements that conflict with sector regulations on market surveillance.</p>
<p>For the purposes of this Regulation, the following definitions apply:</p>	
<p>(1) ‘legal entity’ means a natural person, or a legal person created and recognised as such under Union, national or international law, which has legal personality and the capacity to act in its own name, exercise rights and be subject to obligations, or an entity which does not have legal personality as referred to in Article 200 (2)(c) of the Financial Regulation;</p>	<p>LT (Comments): The reference to the Financial Regulation is missing a footnote. For clarity, it is recommended to cite the full title and reference number, such as “Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union”</p>

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<p>(2) ‘customs authorities’ means customs authorities as defined in Article 5, point (1), of Regulation (EU) No 952/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council³⁴ or the equivalent bodies in the associated countries;</p>	<p>CZ (Comments): It is to be noted that a new Union Customs Code is under negotiations within the triilogue. The final text of the Regulation should be, in our view, aligned with the new legislation.</p> <p>LT (Comments): It is highly likely that the new Union Customs Code will be adopted before this Regulation (On the basis of the agreement to be reached by the European Parliament and the Council on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Union Customs Code and the European Union Customs Authority, and repealing Regulation (EU) No 952/2013 (COM/2023/258 final). The draft Article 5(1)(1) of that proposal also defines the concept of “customs authorities.” It is therefore suggested to update the reference accordingly once the new Union Customs Code is adopted.</p>

³⁴ Regulation (EU) No 952/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 October 2013 laying down the Union Customs Code (OJ L 269, 10.10.2013, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2013/952/oj>).

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<p>(3) ‘mission of customs authorities’ means the mission of customs authorities as referred to in Article 3 of Regulation (EU) No 952/2013;</p>	<p>CZ (Comments): See comment above under point (2).</p> <p>LT (Comments): Similar comment. The ‘mission of customs authorities’ is newly defined in the previously indicated draft Regulation (Article 2). It is therefore suggested to provide a reference to the new Regulation once it is adopted.</p>
<p>(4) ‘tax’ or ‘taxation’ means matters, including design, administration, enforcement and compliance, relating to the following taxes and duties:</p>	

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(a) value added tax as provided for in Council Directive 2006/112/EC ³⁵ ;	
(b) excise duties on alcohol as provided for in Council Directive 92/83/EEC ³⁶ ;	
(c) excise duties on tobacco products as provided for in Council Directive 2011/64/EU ³⁷ ;	
(d) taxes on energy products and electricity as provided for in Council Directive 2003/96/EC ³⁸ ;	

³⁵ Council Directive 2006/112/EC of 28 November 2006 on the common system of value added tax (OJ L 347, 11.12.2006, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2006/112/oj>).

³⁶ Council Directive 92/83/EEC of 19 October 1992 on the harmonization of the structures of excise duties on alcohol and alcoholic beverages (OJ L 316, 31.10.1992, p. 21, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/1992/83/oj>).

³⁷ Council Directive 2011/64/EU of 21 June 2011 on the structure and rates of excise duty applied to manufactured tobacco (OJ L 176, 5.7.2011, p. 24, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2011/64/oj>), to be repealed and replaced by a Council Directive on the structure and rates of excise duty applied to manufactured tobacco and tobacco related products, if the Commission's proposal (COM(2025)580 final of 16 July 2025) is adopted.

³⁸ Council Directive 2003/96/EC of 27 October 2003 restructuring the Community framework for the taxation of energy products and electricity (OJ L 283, 31.10.2003, p. 51, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2003/96/oj>).

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<p>(e) other taxes and duties of any kind levied by or on behalf of a Member State or its territorial or administrative subdivisions, including the local authorities, or on behalf of the Union, insofar as they are relevant for the internal market and for administrative cooperation between Member States;</p>	<p>NL (Drafting Suggestions): (e) other taxes and duties of any kind levied by or on behalf of a Member State or its territorial or administrative subdivisions, including the local authorities, or on behalf of the Union, insofar as they are relevant for the internal Single market and for administrative cooperation between Member States;</p>
<p>(5) ‘tax authorities’ means public authorities and other bodies which are responsible for taxation or tax-related activities;</p>	
<p>(6) ‘Union-level digital solution’ means a digital concept, system, tool, database, datahub, application, platform, interoperable IT infrastructure, or similar solution, including both hardware and software aspects;</p>	<p>PT (Comments):</p>

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	<p>Further clarification is needed regarding which tools or systems are included here (e.g. IMERA Platform, IPCEI platform) – eventually in the corresponding recital.</p> <p>SE (Drafting Suggestions): ‘Union-level digital solution’ means a digital concept, system, tool, database, datahub, application, platform, interoperable IT infrastructure, or similar solution, including both hardware and software aspects, <u>developed at Union level and available for the Member States;</u></p> <p>SE (Comments): The definition of “Union-level digital solution” should in some way include a description of what it is that makes the digital solution “Union-level”. The wording suggests that it does not include “national-level” digital solutions. See also the comment to Article 3(2)(b).</p>
(7) ‘standard’ means	

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(a) a standard as defined in Article 2, point (1), of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council ³⁹ ;	IE (Comments): It is important to recall that Regulation No 1025/2012 is currently the subject of revision- this programme needs to be aligned with this revision
(b) an ‘international accounting standard’ as defined in Regulation (EU) No 1606/2002 of the European Parliament and the Council ⁴⁰ ;	

³⁹ Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on European standardisation, amending Council Directives 89/686/EEC and 93/15/EEC and Directives 94/9/EC, 94/25/EC, 95/16/EC, 97/23/EC, 98/34/EC, 2004/22/EC, 2007/23/EC, 2009/23/EC and 2009/105/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Council Decision 87/95/EEC and Decision No 1673/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 316, 14.11.2012, p. 12, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2012/1025/oj>).

⁴⁰ Regulation (EC) No 1606/2002 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 19 July 2002 on the application of international accounting standards (OJ L 243, 11/09/2002, pp. 1-4, ELI: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2002/1606/oj/eng>).

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<p>(a) a ‘non-financial reporting standard’ which provides stakeholders with information about a company’s environmental, social, and governance performance⁴¹;</p>	<p>IE (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>(c) a ‘non-financial reporting standard’ which provides stakeholders with information about a company’s environmental, social, and governance performance</p> <p>IE (Comments): Typo (change (a) to (c))</p> <p>NL (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>(a) (b) a ‘non-financial reporting standard’ which provides stakeholders with information about a company’s environmental, social, and governance performance⁴²;</p>

⁴¹ For example, standards adopted in accordance with Directive (EU) 2022/2464 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2022 amending Regulation (EU) No 537/2014, Directive 2004/109/EC, Directive 2006/43/EC and Directive 2013/34/EU, as regards corporate sustainability reporting (OJ L 322, 16.12.2022, pp. 15–80, ELI: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32022L2464>).

⁴² For example, standards adopted in accordance with Directive (EU) 2022/2464 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2022 amending Regulation (EU) No 537/2014, Directive 2004/109/EC, Directive 2006/43/EC and Directive 2013/34/EU, as regards corporate sustainability reporting (OJ L 322, 16.12.2022, pp. 15–80, ELI: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32022L2464>).

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(d) an ‘international auditing standard’ as defined in Directive 2006/43/EC of the European Parliament and the Council ⁴³ ;	
(8) ‘market surveillance’ means the activities carried out and measures taken by market surveillance authorities to ensure that products comply with the requirements set out in the applicable Union harmonisation legislation and to ensure protection of the public interest covered by that legislation;	<p>CZ (Comments): CZ would like to point out that Article 2 point 8 defines market surveillance authorities in accordance with the Regulation (EU) 2019/1020, but not relevant authorities responsible for the enforcement of consumer protection laws according to the Regulation (EU) 2017/2394. In our opinion, it would be appropriate to treat both categories of supervisory authorities uniformly.</p> <p>LT (Drafting Suggestions): ‘market surveillance’ means <u>market surveillance as defined in Article 3, point (3) of Regulation (EU) 2019/1020</u> the activities carried out and</p>

⁴³ Directive 2006/43/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2006 on statutory audits of annual accounts and consolidated accounts, amending Council Directives 78/660/EEC and 83/349/EEC and repealing Council Directive 84/253/EEC (Text with EEA relevance) *OJ L 157, 9.6.2006, pp. 87–107* <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2006/43/oj>

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	<p>measures taken by market surveillance authorities to ensure that products comply with the requirements set out in the applicable Union harmonisation legislation and to ensure protection of the public interest covered by that legislation;</p> <p>LT (Comments): It is unclear why a separate definition is provided here instead of referencing to Article 3(3) of Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 on market surveillance, similar to the following definition in this article.</p> <p>NL (Drafting Suggestions): (8) ‘market surveillance’ means <u>market surveillance as defined in Article 3, point (3) of Regulation (EU) 2019/1020;</u> the activities carried out and measures taken by market surveillance authorities to ensure that products comply with the requirements set out in the applicable Union harmonisation legislation and to ensure protection of the public interest covered by that legislation;</p> <p>NL</p>

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	<p>(Comments): Align text with text other definitions.</p>
<p>(9) ‘market surveillance authority’ means market surveillance authority as defined in Article 3, point (1), of Regulation (EU) 2019/1020;</p>	<p>CZ (Comments): See comment above (art 2 par. 8)</p> <p>IE (Drafting Suggestions): (9) ‘market surveillance authority’ means market surveillance authority as defined in Article 3, point (4), of Regulation (EU) 2019/1020;</p> <p>IE (Comments): Article 3, point (1) of Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 should read Article 3, point (4) (point 1 refers to ‘Making available on the market’)</p> <p>LT (Drafting Suggestions):</p>

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	<p>‘market surveillance authority’ means market surveillance authority as defined in Article 3, point (14), of Regulation (EU) 2019/1020;</p> <p>LT (Comments): This is an incorrect reference; the correct citation is Article 3(4) of Regulation (EU) 2019/1020.</p> <p>NL (Drafting Suggestions): (9) ‘market surveillance authority’ means market surveillance authority as defined in Article 3, point (1) (4), of Regulation (EU) 2019/1020;</p> <p>NL (Comments): Correct reference.</p> <p>SE (Drafting Suggestions): (9) ‘market surveillance authority’ means market surveillance authority as defined in Article 3, point (1) (4), of Regulation (EU) 2019/1020;</p>

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	SE (Comments): The definition of “market surveillance authority” is in Article 3 (4) of regulation (EU) 2019/1020.
(10) ‘European statistics’ means statistics developed, produced and disseminated in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 223/2009.	
(11) ‘programming framework for European statistics’ means the European statistical programme referred to in Article 13 of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009.	CZ (Drafting Suggestions): (11) ‘programming framework for European statistics’ means the European statistical programme referred to in Article 13 of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009. CZ (Comments): There is no need to change the name of the European Statistical Programme that is established by the Regulation (EC) No 223/2009. This will only create a confusion. EE (Drafting Suggestions):

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	<p>(11) — ‘programming framework for European statistics’ means the European statistical programme referred to in Article 13 of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009.</p> <p>EE (Comments):</p> <p>Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 established the European Statistical Programme, a name that is now well-recognised and widely used by stakeholders and users alike. The current name should be thus maintained to ensure legal certainty, clarity, and consistency for all users of European statistics.</p> <p>ES (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>(11) ‘programming framework for European statistics’ means the European statistical programme referred to in Article 13 of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009.</p> <p>ES (Comments):</p>

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	<p>Regulation 223/2009 established the European Statistical Programme and we don't see the need or the aim of changing the name. It just can create confusion to users.</p> <p>FI (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>(11) — 'programming framework for European statistics' means the European statistical programme referred to in Article 13 of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009.</p> <p>FI (Comments):</p> <p>We propose to delete this definition as we find it unnecessary. In accordance with Article 13 of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics, a European statistical programme shall be established. That term is widely used, and we think that it should not be replaced but retained in order to ensure legal certainty and clarity.</p> <p>IT (Drafting Suggestions):</p>

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	<p>(11) ‘programming framework for European statistics’ <u>European Statistical Programme</u>” means the European statistical programme referred to in Article 13 of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009.</p> <p>IT (Comments): Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 established the European Statistical Programme, a name that is now well-recognised and widely used by stakeholders and users alike. The current name should be thus maintained to ensure legal certainty, clarity, and consistency for all users of European statistics.</p> <p>LT (Drafting Suggestions): ‘programming framework for European statistics’ means the European statistical programme referred to in Article 13 of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009. <u>‘European Statistical Programme’ as defined in Article 13 of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009.</u></p> <p>LT</p>

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	<p>(Comments): Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 established the European Statistical Programme. The current name should be thus maintained to ensure legal certainty, clarity, and consistency for all users of European statistics.</p> <p>PL</p> <p>(Drafting Suggestions): (11) — ‘programming framework for European statistics’ means the European statistical programme referred to in Article 13 of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009.</p> <p>PL</p> <p>(Comments): PL: Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 established the European Statistical Programme, a name that is well-recognised and widely used by stakeholders and users. This name should be thus maintained to ensure legal certainty, clarity, and consistency. We are of the opinion that the proposed modification of Art. 1 properly addresses this issue.</p> <p>PT</p> <p>(Drafting Suggestions):</p>

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	<p>11) — ‘programming framework for European statistics’ means the European statistical programme referred to in Article 13 of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009.</p> <p>PT (Comments): PT prefers to maintain the correct designation as established in Article 13 of 223/2009: “European Statistical Programme”.</p>

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<p><i>Article 3</i> Programme objectives</p>	<p>SE (Comments):</p> <p>The sub-objectives are, with the approach chosen by the COM, no longer divided into policy areas. This means that activities in the different policy areas are found in several sub-objectives. This approach entails a risk to be unclear and to complicate the distribution of funds between and within the sub-objectives. It also makes the transparency and possibility of influencing for MS less, in addition to the fact that committees do not seem to be linked to the work programmes.</p> <p>SI (Comments):</p> <p>Slovenia supports the specific objectives outlined in the proposal and offers the following comments on key policy areas:</p> <p>Company law</p> <p>We strongly support the continued financing for the development of EU company law and the strengthening of digital infrastructure. The Business Registers Interconnection System (BRIS) is a core component that facilitates transparency and cross-border access to company data, and its continued financial support is essential. We particularly endorse the focus on implementing the "once-only" principle through BRIS, as this significantly reduces the administrative burden on businesses.</p>
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	<p>Furthermore, we welcome the continued support for the implementation of the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) and the development of European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS), which are vital for ensuring the comparability and reliability of sustainability reporting across the Union.</p> <p>Market surveillance, product safety and standardisation</p> <p>Slovenia strongly supports the objective of strengthening market surveillance to ensure a high level of product safety and compliance across the Union. The effective enforcement of Union law is crucial, particularly in addressing the challenges posed by the growth of e-commerce, which necessitates robust and coordinated actions to protect consumers from unsafe and non-compliant goods. The programme must therefore continue to finance activities that reinforce the integrity of the Single Market and guarantee that only safe products are available to citizens.</p> <p>To achieve these objectives, Slovenia welcomes the programme's emphasis on digital tools and platforms, such as the Information and Communication System for Market Surveillance (ICSMS) and Safety Gate, which are</p>

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	<p>critical for facilitating effective cross-border cooperation between national authorities. We also support the financing of joint surveillance actions, which enhance harmonisation and efficiency. Harmonised European standards are a cornerstone of the Single Market, and their development must be supported. Furthermore, we stress the importance of leveraging synergies between market surveillance and customs authorities to strengthen controls at the EU's external borders.</p> <p>Consumer protection and assistance to citizens and businesses</p> <p>Slovenia strongly supports the programme's objectives to foster consumer and investor trust in the Single Market and the Customs Union by ensuring a high level of consumer protection. A cornerstone of this effort is the empowerment of consumers, citizens, and businesses. We advocate for continued investment in providing clear, accurate, and accessible information that enables them to make informed and sustainable choices, thereby enhancing their digital and financial literacy. The programme must robustly safeguard consumers' safety, as well as their legal and economic interests, through concrete and effective measures that support,</p>

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	<p>supplement, and monitor the policies implemented by Member States. This includes protecting the rights of passengers and the end-users of financial services.</p> <p>To ensure these rights are not just theoretical, it is crucial to guarantee access to effective redress and problem-solving mechanisms. Therefore, Slovenia supports the strengthening of key networks such as the Consumer Protection Cooperation (CPC) Network for cross-border enforcement, SOLVIT for resolving issues arising from the misapplication of EU law, and the bodies for Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). We also see a clear need for capacity-building for these national authorities and bodies, including regular training and the exchange of best practices, to help them address new challenges, particularly those arising in the digital environment. We also endorse the continuation of the Your Europe Advice service, as it provides practical and accessible guidance to citizens and businesses navigating the complexities of the Single Market. This advisory function complements digital tools and contributes to transparency and trust in EU systems.</p>

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	<p>Digitalisation and administrative simplification</p> <p>Slovenia strongly supports the programme's focus on digitalisation as a means to reduce administrative burdens and increase transparency for citizens, consumers, and businesses. However, based on past experiences, we urge a cautious and pragmatic approach. The establishment of new digital tools and the interconnection of existing systems must be accompanied by strong coordination and clear implementation guidelines from the Commission. The ultimate goal must be tangible simplification for the end-user, not just technical data exchange between authorities. Too often, technical interoperability is achieved without a corresponding reduction in the administrative requirements for citizens and businesses, who may still be required to submit the same information manually. The programme must ensure that digital solutions lead to a genuine reduction of administrative burdens. Furthermore, we believe the proposal underemphasises the need for continuous and structured engagement with all relevant stakeholders, including the public and private sectors, in the co-design and implementation of these digital solutions. Successful</p>

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	<p>digitalisation depends not only on technical implementation but also on user-centric design and broad acceptance.</p> <p>Competition policy</p> <p>We strongly endorse the programme's objectives related to competition policy. The modernisation of enforcement through advanced digital tools, including AI, is crucial for monitoring markets and analysing data effectively. Slovenia supports measures that foster cooperation between the Commission and national competition authorities, facilitate secure information exchange, and enhance the professional capacity of enforcement bodies. These actions are fundamental to ensuring fair competition and a level playing field within the Single Market.</p> <p>Crisis Management</p> <p>Slovenia supports the SMCP's role in facilitating the implementation of the Internal Market Emergency and Resilience Act (IMERA). We agree that the programme should enable the development of the necessary digital tools and strengthen the administrative capacities of Member States to</p>

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	<p>ensure a rapid and coordinated response to future crises, thereby safeguarding the integrity of the Single Market.</p> <p>Customs</p> <p>Slovenia strongly supports the continuation of the Customs programme within the SMCP, recognising its critical role in protecting the Union's external borders, ensuring the safety and security of goods, and facilitating legitimate trade. It is of utmost importance that the programme provides stable, predictable, and sufficient funding for the operation and modernisation of the numerous trans-European customs IT systems. These digital infrastructures are the backbone of the Customs Union. We view the SMCP as the key financial enabler for the ambitious Customs Reform, including the development of the EU Customs Data Hub and the establishment of the future EU Customs Authority. Furthermore, the integration of the Customs Control Equipment Instrument (CCEI) must be backed by adequate financial resources to ensure that all Member States can acquire and maintain state-of-the-art equipment. This is essential for guaranteeing an equivalent level of control across the entire external border</p>

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	<p>and preventing the creation of weak points. We also support the programme's focus on enhancing human competency and fostering closer collaboration and sharing of best practices among national customs authorities.</p> <p>Taxation</p> <p>Similarly, Slovenia supports the continuation of the Fiscalis programme's objectives, particularly in enhancing administrative cooperation between tax authorities to combat tax fraud, evasion, and avoidance. The funding for the development and maintenance of the common digital IT systems that facilitate this cooperation is essential and must be secured. However, we must strongly insist that all activities under this pillar fully respect the principle of national sovereignty in the area of taxation. While cooperation is crucial, taxation policy, especially direct taxation, remains a national competence. The programme's initiatives should be aimed at providing tools for better cooperation, not at imposing a harmonised "EU tax policy." Therefore, it is crucial that the annual and multiannual work programmes clearly define the scope and objectives of all tax-related actions to ensure</p>

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	they support Member State tax administrations without encroaching upon their national competences and policy-making rights.
<p>1. The general objective of the programme is to enhance and deepen the functioning of the Single Market and the Customs Union, to protect safety, security, and the financial and economic interests of the Union and its Member States, with a design fostering flexibility, simplification and synergies and supporting the Union's horizontal policy mainstreaming priorities.</p>	<p>AT (Drafting Suggestions): The general objective of the programme is to enhance and deepen the functioning of the Single Market and the Customs Union, <u>to ensure a high level of consumer protection</u>, to protect safety, security, and the financial and economic interests of the Union and its Member States, with a design fostering flexibility, simplification and synergies and supporting the Union's horizontal policy mainstreaming priorities.</p> <p>AT (Comments): AT: It is suggested that, as in the predecessor programme, <u>all</u> sub-areas of the Single Market and Customs Programme are listed here. With regard to consumer protection, the wording used in the previous programme</p>

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	<p>(“ensuring a high level of consumer protection”) would be appropriate here (see Article 3(1)(a) of Regulation (EU) 2021/690).</p> <p>CZ (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>1. The general objective of the programme is to enhance and deepen the functioning of the Single Market and the Customs Union, to protect safety, security, and the financial and economic interests of the Union and its Member States, with a design fostering flexibility, simplification and synergies and supporting the Union’s horizontal policy mainstreaming priorities <u>and to develop, produce and disseminate high-quality European statistics</u>.</p> <p>CZ (Comments):</p> <p>See our comment on Article 1.</p> <p>DE (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>1. The general objective of the programme is to enhance and deepen the functioning of the Single Market and the Customs Union, to protect safety, security, and the financial and economic interests of the Union and</p>

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	<p>its Member States <u>as well as to support the customs authorities to fulfil their mission,</u> with a design fostering flexibility, simplification and synergies and supporting the Union’s horizontal policy mainstreaming priorities <u>and to develop, produce and disseminate high-quality European statistics.</u></p> <p>DE (Comments):</p> <p>Regarding the wording on customs: coherence is needed with the wording of Article 2 n UCC in the Council’s position.</p> <p>The objective of having high quality European Statistics should also be underlined in paragraph 1.</p> <p>EE (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>1. The general objective of the programme is to enhance and deepen the functioning of the Single Market and the Customs Union, to protect safety, security, and the financial and economic interests of the Union and its Member States, with a design fostering flexibility, simplification and</p>

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	<p>synergies and supporting the Union’s horizontal policy mainstreaming priorities and to develop, produce and disseminate high-quality European statistics.</p> <p>EE (Comments): In accordance with Regulation (EC) No 223/2009, the European Statistical programme provides the framework for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics, the main fields and the objectives of the actions envisaged.</p> <p>ES (Drafting Suggestions): The general objective of the programme is to enhance and deepen the functioning of the Single Market and the Customs Union, empowering citizens, consumers and businesses and reinforcing enforcement to protect safety, security, and the financial and economic interests of the Union and its Member States, with a design fostering flexibility, simplification and synergies and supporting the Union’s horizontal policy</p>

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	<p>mainstreaming priorities and to develop, produce and disseminate high-quality European statistics.</p> <p>FR (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>The general objective of the programme is to enhance and deepen the functioning of the Single Market and the Customs Union, to protect safety, security, and the financial and economic interests of the Union and its Member States, as well as to support concerned administrations and entities to fulfil their assigned tasks with a design fostering flexibility, simplification and synergies and supporting the Union’s horizontal policy mainstreaming priorities</p> <p>FR (Comments):</p> <p>It should be noted that the main objectives of CCEI, Customs and Fiscalis programmes is to support these administrations in the preparation and uniform implementation of customs legislation and policy as well as customs and fiscal cooperation and administrative capacity building, including human competency and the development and operation of European electronic systems.</p> <p>IT (Drafting Suggestions):</p>

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	<p>1. The general objective of the programme is to enhance and deepen the functioning of the Single Market and the Customs Union, to protect safety, security, and the financial and economic interests of the Union and its Member States, with a design fostering flexibility, simplification and synergies and supporting the Union’s horizontal policy mainstreaming priorities <u>and to develop, produce and disseminate high-quality European statistics.</u></p> <p>IT (Comments): In accordance with Regulation (EC) No 223/2009, the European Statistical programme provides the framework for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics, the main fields and the objectives of the actions envisaged.</p> <p>LT (Drafting Suggestions): The general objective of the programme is to enhance and deepen the functioning of the Single Market and the Customs Union, to protect safety, security, and the financial and economic interests of the Union and</p>

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	<p>its Member States, with a design fostering flexibility, simplification and synergies and supporting the Union’s horizontal policy mainstreaming priorities <u>and to develop, produce and disseminate high-quality European statistics.</u></p> <p>LT (Comments):</p> <p>In accordance with Regulation (EC) No 223/2009, the European Statistical programme provides the framework for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics, the main fields and the objectives of the actions envisaged.</p> <p>NL (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>1. The general objectives of the programme <u>are the following: is (a) to improve the functioning of the Single Market, and especially to protect and empower citizens, consumers and businesses by enforcing Union law, facilitating market access, and setting standards, as well as by enhancing cooperation between the competent authorities of</u></p>

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	<p><u>Member States and between the competent authorities of Member States and the Commission and the decentralised Union agencies;</u></p> <p><u>(b) to enhance and deepen strengthen the functioning of the Single Market and the Customs Union, to protect ensure safety, security, and the financial and economic interests of the Union and its Member States, with a design fostering flexibility, simplification and synergies and supporting the Union’s horizontal policy mainstreaming priorities and to develop, produce and disseminate high-quality European statistics;</u></p> <p><u>(c) to improve evidence-based and digital-ready policymaking, and the use of digital implementation tools, as well as mutualisation of public data.</u></p> <p>PL (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>1. The general objectives of the programme is are the following: <u>(a)</u> to enhance and deepen the functioning of the Single Market and the Customs Union, to protect safety, security, and the financial and</p>

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	<p>economic interests of the Union and its Member States, with a design fostering flexibility, simplification and synergies and supporting the Union’s horizontal policy mainstreaming priorities;</p> <p><u>(b) to develop, produce and disseminate European statistics which underpin the design, monitoring and evaluation of all Union policies and help citizens, policymakers, authorities, businesses, academia and the media to make informed decisions and to actively participate in the democratic process.</u></p> <p>PL (Comments): statistics should also be included among the general objectives, and not only among the specific ones.</p> <p>PT (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>1. The general objective of the programme is to enhance and deepen the functioning of the Single Market and the Customs Union, to protect safety, security, and the financial and economic interests of the Union and its Member States, with a design fostering flexibility, simplification and</p>

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	synergies and supporting the Union’s horizontal policy mainstreaming priorities. and to develop, produce and disseminate high-quality European statistics.
2. The programme has the following specific objectives:	AT (Comments): AT comment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For which of the specific objectives enumerated in Article 3(2) SMCP does EC <u>not</u> propose the respective Work Programme to be adopted by means of implementing act? Why? • In the implementation of which of the specific objectives enumerated in Article 3(2) SMCP does EC propose <u>not</u> to be assisted by a comitology committee? Why? • AT understands that the current SME strand and Food and Feed strand are covered by other proposals for the new MFF. • Even so, is AT right in its understanding that the SMCP still covers the current Consumer strand?

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is AT right in its understanding, that SMCP now covers Consumer strand in several specific objectives, e.g. Article 3(2) letters a and d and Article 3(3), as opposed to one specific objective under SMP? In this case, EC to explain how practicable it regards this fragmentation of hitherto clear specific objectives for MS involvement in the control of its implementing powers via Work Programmes. <p>AT justification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulation (EU) 2021/690 served as one of the predecessor programs to SMCP. • In Article 16 Regulation (EU) 2021/690 on Implementation of the [SMP] Programme, SMP stipulated that Work programmes implementing some of its specific objectives referred to in its [SMP] Article 3 shall be adopted by the EC by means of implementing acts, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ strengthening the competitiveness and sustainability of SMEs ○ promoting the interests of consumers and ensuring a high level of consumer protection and product safety

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ contributing to a high level of health and safety for humans, animals and plants in plant, animal, food and feed areas. <p>EL (Comments): We believe that programme objectives should be further specified, in order to sufficiently frame the scope and context of the work programmes, and ensure legal clarity and predictability.</p>
<p>(a) to empower citizens, consumers, investors, economic operators and businesses by providing information, guidance and advice enabling them to make informed decisions and to fully access the opportunities of the Single Market for goods, people, services and capital, to improve related digital and financial literacy, to ensure access to redress mechanisms, by supporting representative organisations in their participative role; to improve the understanding of the Single Market and its challenges by supporting data collection and acquisition activities, analyses and tools;</p>	<p>ES (Drafting Suggestions): to empower citizens, consumers, investors, economic operators and businesses by providing information, education guidance and advice enabling them to make informed decisions to contribute to sustainable production and consumption and to fully access the opportunities of the Single Market for goods, people, services and capital, to improve related digital and financial literacy, to ensure access to redress mechanisms, by supporting representative organisations in their participative role; to</p>

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	<p>improve the understanding of the Single Market and its challenges by supporting data collection and acquisition activities, analyses and tools;</p> <p>ES (Comments):</p> <p>ES believe it would be appropriate to align the wording of Article 3.2(a) with section 1.5.3 on lessons learned and to include the term “education.” The current text only refers to providing information, guidance and advice, without clearly addressing the concept of education, which is broader and would better enable the use of funds for training and educational activities at school level (as already reflected in the current programme’s Consumer Protection objective: “empower, educate and assist consumers to make sustainable and informed choices”). ES also suggest adding a reference to sustainable consumption, as sustainability or sustainable prosperity are key concepts in the European Commission’s 2024–2029 Political Guidelines and in the upcoming European Consumer Agenda 2030. This addition would ensure full alignment with those priorities, extending the current programme’s Food Safety objective—</p>

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	<p>which already supports sustainable food production and consumption—to other goods and services</p> <p>IT (Comments): We believe it is essential to raise consumer awareness through specific and targeted information campaigns, in order to ensure the active cooperation of EU citizens themselves in protecting the security of the single market.</p> <p>LT (Drafting Suggestions): <u>To make the internal market more effective, especially by facilitating the prevention and removal of unjustified obstacles and barriers in the internal market</u>; to empower citizens, consumers, investors, economic operators and businesses by providing information, guidance and advice enabling them to make informed decisions and to fully access the opportunities of the Single Market for goods, people, services and capital, to improve related digital and financial literacy, to ensure access to redress mechanisms, by supporting representative organisations in their participative role; to improve the understanding of the Single Market</p>

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	<p>and its challenges by supporting data collection and acquisition activities, analyses and tools;</p> <p>LT (Comments): In our view, the text should place greater emphasis on the prevention and removal of barriers within the Single Market.</p> <p>NL (Drafting Suggestions): (a) to empower citizens, consumers, investors, and economic operators and businesses by providing information, guidance and advice enabling them to make informed decisions and to fully access the opportunities of the Single Market for goods, people, services and capital;</p> <p><u>(aa) to promote the interests of consumers and ensuring a high level of consumer protection and product safety, to support stronger enforcement of consumer law,</u> to improve related digital and financial literacy, <u>protection, and participation,</u> to ensure access to redress</p>

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	<p>mechanisms, by supporting representative organisations in their participative role;</p> <p><u>(ab) to facilitate the prevention and removal of discriminatory, unjustified or disproportionate Single Market barriers, to support the development, implementation and enforcement of Union law in the areas of the Single Market for goods and services,</u> to improve the understanding of the Single Market and its challenges by supporting data collection, <u>research on the functioning of the Single Market</u> and acquisition activities, analyses and tools;</p> <p>SE (Drafting Suggestions): to empower citizens, consumers, investors, economic operators and businesses by providing information, guidance and advice enabling them to make informed decisions and to fully access the opportunities of the Single Market for goods, people, services and capital, <u>to facilitate the prevention and removal of discriminatory, unjustified or disproportionate obstacles,</u> to improve related digital and financial literacy, to ensure access to redress mechanisms, by supporting representative organisations in their participative role; to improve the</p>

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	<p>understanding of the Single Market and its challenges by supporting data collection and acquisition activities, analyses and tools;</p> <p>SE (Comments): SE considers the proposed wording regarding the Single Market in Article 3 is vague and unclear. SE considers it vital that Article 3 refer to the prevention and removal of barriers and enforcement. Given the geopolitical reality where removal of unjustifies barriers on the Single Market is key to EU:s competitiveness, and as emphasised in the Single Market Strategy, resources need to be directed to delivery on the promotion of free movement.</p>
	<p>SK (Comments): We welcome the focus of the SMCP on capacity building of national authorities. However, more focus should be done on cooperation between customs and market surveillance authorities which we consider as a prerequisite for addressing the challenges of e-commerce. We consider as essential and inevitable to address the e-commerce issues among programme objectives, especially the implications on customs supervision.</p>

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<p>(b) to foster cooperation among Member States national authorities, and between Member States national authorities, the Commission and other Union bodies in all programme areas, including the preparedness and economic security of the Single Market, and response to crises; to design, deploy, implement, run, maintain and support the common components of Union-level digital solutions and support the connection to them; to boost the operational, technical, and administrative capacities of national authorities, including customs and tax authorities;</p>	<p>AT (Comments): <i>“to foster cooperation [...] in all programme areas, including the preparedness and economic security of the Single Market, and response to crises[...]</i>”:</p> <p>AT: EC to explain, why it did <u>not</u> consider e.g. C131800 Internal Market Emergency and Resilience Committee in DG Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs - GROW to be more affiliated in the implementation of this specific SMCP objective?</p> <p>ES (Drafting Suggestions): to foster cooperation among Member States national authorities, and between Member States national authorities, the Commission and other Union bodies in all programme areas, including the preparedness and economic security of the Single Market, and response to crises; to design, deploy, implement, run, maintain and support the common components of Union-level digital solutions and support the connection to them; to boost</p>

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	<p>the operational, technical, and administrative capacities of national authorities, including market surveillance , customs and tax authorities;</p> <p>IT (Comments):</p> <p>Digital cooperation between supervisory authorities, the European Commission, and customs authorities is essential. Currently, this cooperation is spread across various communication platforms that are not yet interoperable with each other, resulting in the dispersion of data and information on controls carried out to protect the single market. In this context, it would be useful to understand the elements that will make up the EU DATA HUB of the customs authorities and how this system will be interconnected with the CERTEX platform, the ICSMS information and communication system and the Safety Gate. Furthermore, it would be important to understand the timing and methods of implementation of such platforms, given that the interoperability of market surveillance platforms has been planned for several years.</p> <p>Finally, it would be important to receive clarification on the role and actions available to the so-called “European Union Market Surveillance Authority,” as well as which aspects will be removed from the priority role currently held by the European Commission and what relationship it will have with a possible Central Customs Authority.</p> <p>SE</p>

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	<p>(Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>to foster cooperation among Member States national authorities, and between Member States national authorities, the Commission and other Union bodies in all programme areas, including the preparedness and economic security of the Single Market, and response to crises; to design, deploy, implement, run, maintain and support the common components of Union-level digital solutions and support the connection to them; to efficiently promote boost the operational, technical, and administrative capacities of national authorities, including customs and tax authorities;</p> <p>SE</p> <p>(Comments):</p> <p>In Article 2(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/444 there is a definition of common components. There is no such definition in this proposed Regulation. Our understanding of the concept of “Union-level digital solutions” is that all of it is a common component. If that is the case it would be superfluous to use the term “common components”.</p> <p>SK</p> <p>(Comments):</p> <p>We would propose to add a wording “ to modernize and expand AFIS and IMS systems” In our view, increasing volumes of data and new types</p>

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	<p>of fraud require further development of digital solutions in the area of protection of the Union’s financial interests – AFIS, IMS</p> <p>We recommend to specify the term 'common components of digital solutions' and clarify more precisely what is included in 'support for connectivity'. What are the European Commission’s plans for developing digital solutions in protecting the Union’s financial interests (AFIS, IMS)? Does the Commission plan to expand the functionality of IMS and AFIS with new tools to enable more effective data exchange? Given the increasing volumes of data and emerging types of fraud, we suggest including a commitment by the Commission in the program to modernize and expand these systems. Does the Commission plan to adopt a roadmap for their modernization? “</p>
<p>(c) to facilitate harmonised standard-setting and reinforce the development of European and international standards, to ensure the effective design, uniform interpretation and implementation as well as the enforcement of Union law and monitoring of market fragmentation risks, also in relation with the verification of the conformity with the EU acquis by acceding countries, candidate countries and potential candidates;</p>	<p>AT (Drafting Suggestions): (c) to facilitate harmonised standard-setting and reinforce the development of European and international standards, to ensure the</p>

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	<p>effective design, uniform interpretation and implementation as well as the enforcement of Union law, <u>which involves, in particular, providing for appropriate Member State involvement via comitology according to Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 as a necessary correlative,</u> and monitoring of market fragmentation risks, also in relation with the verification of the conformity with the EU acquis by acceding countries, candidate countries and potential candidates;</p> <p>AT (Comments): <i>“to facilitate [...] uniform [...] implementation as well as the enforcement of Union law”:</i></p> <p>AT comment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SMCP states the “uniform implementation of Union law” as one of its specific objectives. • EC implementing powers should be clearly marked in the SMCP legislative text.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MS should control EC exercise of EC implementing powers via comitology procedures. This includes EC implementing power to adopt work programmes under the future MFF, where EC cannot prove an existing Comitology Committee is <u>not</u> useful. <p>AT justification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AT interprets Article 291(2) TFEU in a way that it wisely presupposes a connection between “uniform implementation of EU law” and “comitology”. <p>Article 291(2) TFEU states: “Where uniform conditions for implementing legally binding Union acts are needed, those acts shall confer implementing powers on the Commission, or, in duly justified specific cases [...] on the Council”.</p> <p>IE (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>(c) to facilitate harmonised standard-setting and reinforce the development of European and international standards, to ensure the effective design, including through the participation of all relevant</p>

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	<p>stakeholders, uniform interpretation and implementation as well as the enforcement of Union law and monitoring of market fragmentation risks, also in relation with the verification of the conformity with the EU acquis by acceding countries, candidate countries and potential candidates;</p> <p>IE (Comments): Addition of text in red to maintain the principle within Regulation 1025/2012 of inclusiveness and consensus driven standardisation (this point is also reflected in article 3 (c) of the Single Market Programme</p> <p>NL (Drafting Suggestions): (c) to facilitate harmonised standard-setting and reinforce the development of European and international standards, <u>to enable the participation of all relevant stakeholders in setting up standards</u>, to ensure the effective design, uniform interpretation and implementation as well as the enforcement of Union law and monitoring of market fragmentation risks, also in relation with the verification of the</p>

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	<p>conformity with the EU acquis by acceding countries, candidate countries and potential candidates;</p> <p>PT (Comments):</p> <p>Note 1: Please add a reference to the need to “align harmonization and standardization with strategic industrial priorities (AI, clean energy, green technologies)”.</p> <p>(note 2: despite the fact that the SME pillar of the current Programme migrates to the Competitiveness Fund, there should still be room to refer to the specificities of SMEs in harmonization and standardization, for these to be safeguarded in this kind of action.</p> <p>SE (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>to facilitate market driven harmonised standard-setting and reinforce the development of European and international standards, to ensure the effective design, uniform interpretation and implementation as well as the enforcement of Union law and monitoring of market fragmentation risks, also in relation with the verification of the conformity with the EU acquis by acceding countries, candidate countries and potential candidates;</p> <p>SE</p>

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	<p>(Comments):</p> <p>It is crucial that the standardisation remains market driven. It ensures that the role of industry-led standardisation remains central to the EU's internal market policy.</p>
<p>(d) to support the Customs Union and customs authorities working together and acting as one in achieving their mission and contributing to Europe's economic security, to ensure an effective market surveillance and a high level of consumer protection, product conformity and safety;</p>	<p>AT</p> <p>(Comments):</p> <p><i>“ensure an effective market surveillance”:</i></p> <p>AT:</p> <p>EC to explain, why it did <u>not</u> consider e.g. C52400 Committee on market surveillance and compliance of products in DG Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs - GROW to be more affiliated in the implementation of this specific SMCP objective?</p> <p>CZ</p> <p>(Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>(d) to support the Customs Union and customs authorities working together and acting as one in achieving their mission and contributing to Europe's economic security, to ensure an effective market surveillance and a high level of consumer protection, product conformity and safety;</p>

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	<p>CZ (Comments): In CZ, customs authorities are not responsible for ensuring market surveillance, etc. but only contribute to non-fiscal aims (in cooperation with market surveillance authorities).</p> <p>DE (Drafting Suggestions): (d) to support the Customs Union and customs authorities working together and acting as one in achieving their mission <u>by supporting the uniform implementation of customs legislation, customs cooperation, administrative and IT capacity building, including human competency and training, as well as the development and operation of European electronic systems and innovation in the area of customs policy and the purchase, maintenance, upgrade of equipment - notably customs control equipment</u> - and <u>thereby</u> contributing to Europe's economic security,</p> <p>(dd) to <u>ensure</u> an effective market surveillance and a high level of consumer protection, product conformity and safety;</p> <p>DE</p>

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	<p>(Comments):</p> <p>With regard to the Commission’s response to “9. Questions on customs,” the specific objective in Article 3 (2) (d) includes a twofold objective and merely addresses two key points. Therefore, DE proposes to separate letter (d) into two letters.</p> <p>Additionally, in some MS, the customs authorities are not responsible for market surveillance. This should be taken into account in this article. In Germany, customs authorities are involved only in the monitoring of sectoral regulations (prohibitions and restrictions) in the cross-border movement of goods from third countries.</p> <p>If a separate letter for market surveillance and consumer protection is introduced, the word “ensure” can remain. Otherwise, it needs to be deleted.</p> <p>ES</p> <p>(Drafting Suggestions):</p>

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	<p>to support the Customs Union enforcement authorities and customs authorities, working together and acting as one in achieving their mission and contributing to Europe’s economic security, to ensure an effective market surveillance and a high level of consumer protection, product conformity and safety;</p> <p>ES (Comments): Regarding objective 3.2(d) of Article 3 of the Regulation, ES note that it only refers to product safety, limiting the support to customs authorities and the Customs Union. ES believe that, unless the market surveillance authorities are explicitly mentioned, this paragraph omits an essential element. In the current programme, the objective “Support competent enforcement authorities and consumer organisations” already includes them. If this is not reflected under another objective in the new proposal, ES consider it relevant that objective 3.2(d) also covers coordination and cooperation between customs and market surveillance authorities, since</p>

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	<p>both contribute to ensuring a high level of consumer protection, product conformity and safety.</p> <p>FI (Drafting Suggestions): We propose to delete from this point OR to be moved to be a point on its own: “to ensure an effective market surveillance and a high level of consumer protection, product conformity and safety;”</p> <p>FI (Comments): “to ensure an effective market surveillance and a high level of consumer protection, product conformity and safety;” are tasks of the market surveillance authorities, not customs authorities.</p>

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	<p>In regulation 952/2013 art. 3 does not mention these tasks as part of customs authorities' mission. Neither are these tasks in the definition of customs authorities in reg. 952/2013 art. 5.</p> <p>Furthermore, these tasks are not mentioned in this proposal (see recitals 23 and 26).</p> <p>HU (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>(d) to support the Customs Union and customs authorities working together and acting as one in achieving their mission and contributing to Europe's economic security, to ensure an effective market surveillance and a high level of consumer protection, product conformity and safety, including through the purchase, maintenance, upgrade and replacement of customs control equipment under a dedicated, predictable and transparent funding mechanism;</p> <p>HU (Comments):</p> <p>The amendment clarifies that support for customs authorities includes actions related to the purchase, maintenance and upgrade of customs control equipment, under a dedicated and predictable funding framework. This ensures that the Programme provides stable and transparent financial support for the tools necessary to perform effective customs controls,</p>

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	<p>thereby reinforcing the operational capacity and security of the Customs Union.</p> <p>NL (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>(d) to support the Customs Union and customs authorities <u>cooperation working together and acting as one</u> in achieving their mission and contributing to the Union's Europe's economic security, <u>to support the coordination and cooperation between market surveillance authorities and other relevant Member States authorities,</u> to ensure an effective market surveillance and a high level of consumer protection, product conformity and safety;</p> <p>SK (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>(d) to support the Customs Union and customs authorities working together and acting as one in achieving their mission and contributing to Europe's economic security, to ensure an effective market surveillance <u>and effective customs controls enabled by customs controls equipment available to all MSs</u> and a high level of consumer protection, product conformity and safety</p>

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	<p>SK (Comments):</p> <p>We propose to add some necessary clarification in respect of customs controls and availability of customs controls equipment. Hence, after words “market surveillance” we propose to add the following text “<u>and effective customs controls enabled by customs controls equipment available to all MSs</u>”.</p>
<p>(e) to protect the Union’s and its Member States’ economic, financial and other interests from fraud, corruption and other illegal activities, including risks related to expenditure, revenue and assets, as well as reputational risks, support Member States’ operational cooperation and investigation activities; to support tax policy and implementation of Union law relating to taxation and improve the Union taxation systems and tax collection in view of enhancing Europe’s competitiveness and investments;</p>	<p>AT (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>(e) to protect the Union’s and its Member States’ economic, financial and other interests from fraud, corruption and other illegal activities, including risks related to expenditure, revenue and assets, as well as reputational risks, support Member States’ operational cooperation and investigation activities; to support tax policy and implementation of Union law relating to taxation and improve the Union taxation systems</p>

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	<p>and tax collection in view of enhancing Europe's competitiveness and investments;</p> <p>(f [new]) to support tax authorities and taxation in order to enhance the functioning of the internal market, to foster the competitiveness of the Union and fair competition in the Union, to protect the financial and economic interests of the Union and its Member States, including protecting those interests from tax fraud, tax evasion and tax avoidance, and to improve tax collection; to support tax policy and the implementation of Union law relating to taxation, to foster cooperation between tax authorities, including exchange of tax information, and to support administrative capacity building including as regards human competency and the development and operation of European electronic systems;</p> <p>AT (Comments): AT: We wanted to highlight that taxation plays a vital role for the functioning of the single market and that the current Fiscalis Programme runs important tax IT Systems. Furthermore, Fiscalis is crucial for</p>

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	<p>enhancing the collaboration between Member States and their tax authorities. Therefore, we believe that the last part of lit e should be deleted and an <u>own lit should be dedicated to taxation/</u> the current Fiscalis Programme. For our drafting suggestion, we used the current Art 3 Fiscalis-Regulation (Reg. 2021/847).</p> <p>NL (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>e) to protect the Union’s and its Member States’ economic, financial and other interests from fraud, corruption and other illegal activities, including risks related to expenditure, revenue and assets, as well as reputational risks, support Member States’ operational cooperation and investigation activities; to support tax policy and implementation of Union law relating to taxation and improve the Union taxation systems and tax collection in view of enhancing Europe’s competitiveness and investments;</p> <p>NL (Comments):</p> <p>Unnecessary addition, compared to the other points.</p>

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	<p>SK (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>We propose to amend point (e) as follows: To protect the economic, financial and other interests of the Union and its Member States against fraud, corruption and other illegal activities, including risks related to expenditure, revenue and assets, as well as reputational risks; to support the prevention of fraud and proactive monitoring through analytical tools and digital systems; to ensure international and inter-state cooperation in the investigation of cross-border fraud and tax evasion; to strengthen training and capacity-building of Member States' authorities in detecting and preventing fraud; to implement effective sanctioning mechanisms against entities that breach rules and harm the financial interests of the Union; to promote transparency and data sharing between Union and Member State institutions; to support operational cooperation and investigations of Member States; to support tax policy and the implementation of Union law on taxation, and to improve the Union's taxation systems and tax collection in order to enhance Europe's competitiveness and investment.</p>

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	<p>SK (Comments):</p> <p>How does the European Commission, within the framework of the programme, plan to strengthen the motivation of Member States to share sensitive information on fraud and irregularities?</p> <p>An effective fight against fraud requires intensive data exchange and mutual trust between national and European authorities. In practice, however, there are still barriers to sharing sensitive data.</p>
<p>(f) to improve evidence-based and digital-ready policymaking, and the use of digital implementation tools, as well as mutualisation of public data, to support the specific objectives set out in points (a) to (e);</p>	<p>IT (Comments):</p> <p>The expression “mutualisation of public data” is not clear. It should be clarified in order to verify its compatibility with provisions governing access to and exchange of particular categories of data that may be relevant in the context of the protection of the EU's financial interests (e.g., judicial data, police data, data relating to administrative controls, etc.).</p> <p>As to “digitalization”, we note that the <i>Fiscalis</i> program provides funding for the maintenance and updating of numerous IT systems. While the</p>

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	<p>proposal identifies certain systems already in operation and others planned for implementation (see page 106, section <i>Legislative, financial and digital statement</i>), the list appears to be indicative rather than exhaustive. Moreover, no precise information is provided on the actual costs of each digital project.</p> <p>In the absence of clear financial quantification, it is not possible to verify the sustainability of expenditure in a context of national budget consolidation. The Commission must therefore provide a detailed analytical framework, project by project, with estimates for both existing and planned systems. Costs should be identified at the planning stage and carefully monitored during implementation.</p> <p>NL (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>(f) — to improve evidence-based and digital-ready policymaking, and the use of digital implementation tools, as well as mutualisation of public data, to support the specific objectives set out in points (a) to (e);</p> <p>NL (Comments):</p> <p>Moved to Article 3.1.</p>

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	<p>SK (Comments): We recommend adding at the end of the text a focus on the prevention, detection, and investigation of fraud, including support for artificial intelligence and analytical tools, interoperability and effective data exchange across Member States, and mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of these measures.</p>
<p>(g) to provide relevant and comparable official European statistics as set out in the Annex.</p>	<p>AT (Drafting Suggestions): g) to provide official European statistics of high quality covering all dimensions laid down in Article 12 of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009</p> <p>AT (Comments): AT: Relevance and comparability are only two criteria. Article 12 of 223 clearly defines quality</p> <p>CZ</p>

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	<p>(Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>(g) to provide relevant and comparable official European statistics as set out in the Annex <u>in line with the quality criteria laid down in article 12 of Regulation 223/2009 to support the monitoring of the EU policies, setting up the statistical priorities in accordance with user needs in a cost-effective manner without unnecessary duplication of effort.</u></p> <p>CZ</p> <p>(Comments):</p> <p>In accordance with Regulation (EC) No 223/2009, the European Statistical programme should provide the framework for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics, the main fields and the objectives of the actions envisaged. It should lay down priorities concerning the needs for information for the purpose of carrying out the activities of the Union. Those needs should be weighed against the resources needed at Union and national level to provide the required statistics, and also against the response burden and the respondents' associated costs, paying particular attention to cost-effectiveness. The specific objectives of the statistical programme cannot be just to produce statistics (this is already foreseen in the Treaty and in Regulation 223/2009).</p> <p>DE</p> <p>(Drafting Suggestions):</p>

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	<p>(g) to provide relevant and comparable official European statistics as set out in the Annex and to develop, produce, disseminate and communicate high-quality European statistics in line with the quality criteria laid down in Article 12 (1) of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009, in a timely, impartial and cost-efficient manner, through a strengthened European Statistical System, referred to in Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009, and enhanced partnerships within that system and with all relevant external parties, using multiple data sources, advanced data analytics methods, smart systems and digital technologies such as Artificial Intelligence.</p> <p>DE (Comments): The specific objective for Official Statistics should be formulated similar to the current Single Market Programme (Annex II).</p> <p>EE (Drafting Suggestions): to provide relevant and comparable official European statistics as set out in the Annex in line with the quality criteria laid down in article 12 of Regulation 223/2009 to support the monitoring of the EU policies,</p>

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	<p>setting up the statistical priorities in accordance with user needs in a cost-effective manner without unnecessary duplication of effort. This includes the use of multiple data sources, advanced data analytics methods, smart systems, and digital technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence for the production of European Statistics to improve efficiency and quality and reduce burden. It also aims at strengthening the partnership within the ESS and beyond in order to further enhance its productivity and to maintain its leading role in official statistics worldwide.</p> <p>EE (Comments):</p> <p>In accordance with Regulation (EC) No 223/2009, the European Statistical programme should provide the framework for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics, the main fields and the objectives of the actions envisaged. It should lay down priorities concerning the needs for information for the purpose of carrying out the activities of the Union. Those needs should be weighed against the resources needed at Union and national level to provide the required statistics, and also against the response burden and the respondents' associated costs, paying particular attention to cost-effectiveness. The specific objectives of the statistical programme cannot be just to produce statistics (this is already foreseen in the Treaty and in Regulation 223/2009)</p> <p>ES</p>

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	<p>(Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>to provide relevant and comparable official European statistics as set out in the Annex in line with the quality criteria laid down in article 12 of Regulation 223/2009 to support the monitoring of the EU policies, setting up the statistical priorities in accordance with user needs in a cost-effective manner without unnecessary duplication of effort. This includes the use of multiple data sources, advanced data analytics methods, smart systems, and digital technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence for the production of European Statistics to improve efficiency and quality and reduce burden. It also aims at strengthening the partnership within the ESS and beyond in order to further enhance its productivity and to maintain its leading role in official statistics worldwide.</p> <p>ES</p> <p>(Comments):</p> <p>In accordance with Regulation (EC) No 223/2009, the European Statistical programme should provide the framework for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics, the main fields and</p>

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	<p>the objectives of the actions envisaged. It should lay down priorities concerning the needs for information for the purpose of carrying out the activities of the Union. Those needs should be weighed against the resources needed at Union and national level to provide the required statistics, and against the response burden and the respondents' associated costs, paying particular attention to cost-effectiveness. The specific objectives of the statistical programme cannot be just to produce statistics (this is already foreseen in the Treaty and in Regulation 223/2009).</p> <p>FI (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>(g) to provide <u>develop, produce, disseminate and communicate</u> relevant and comparable official European statistics as set out in the Annex <u>of this Regulation in line with the quality criteria laid down in Article 12 of Regulation No 223/2009 and having regard to international statistical standards to support monitoring of all EU policies.</u></p> <p>FI (Comments):</p>

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	<p>Proposal to elaborate ‘produce’ somewhat more in line with the objective in Article 3(2)(f) of the current SMP, because it seems too narrow. Official European statistics should preferably also be comparable at global level in order for meaningful comparisons between EU and rest of the world (e.g UN statistical Commission sets global statistical standards), and hence we propose to include this aspect. Moreover, proposal to mention support to all EU policies, which is wider than just SMCP.</p> <p>LT (Drafting Suggestions): to provide relevant and comparable official European statistics as set out in the Annex <u>in line with the quality criteria laid down in article 12 of Regulation 223/2009 to support the monitoring of the EU policies, setting up the statistical priorities in accordance with user needs in a cost-effective manner without unnecessary duplication of effort. This includes the use of multiple data sources, advanced data analytics methods, smart systems, and digital technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence for the production of European Statistics to improve</u></p>

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	<p><u>efficiency and quality and reduce burden. It also aims at strengthening the partnership within the ESS and beyond in order to further enhance its productivity and to maintain its leading role in official statistics worldwide.</u></p> <p>LT (Comments):</p> <p>In accordance with Regulation (EC) No 223/2009, the European Statistical programme should provide the framework for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics, the main fields and the objectives of the actions envisaged. It should lay down priorities concerning the needs for information for the purpose of carrying out the activities of the Union. Those needs should be weighed against the resources needed at Union and national level to provide the required statistics, and also against the response burden and the respondents' associated costs, paying particular attention to cost-effectiveness. The specific objectives of the statistical programme cannot be just to produce statistics (this is already foreseen in the Treaty and in Regulation 223/2009)</p>

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	<p>NL (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>(g) to provide relevant and comparable official European statistics as set out in the Annex, <u>in line with the quality criteria laid down in Article 12 of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 to support monitoring of EU policies, setting up statistical priorities in accordance with user needs in a cost-effective manner without unnecessary duplication of effort. This includes the use of multiple data sources, advanced data analytics methods, smart systems, and digital technologies, such as artificial intelligence for the production of European statistics to improve efficiency and quality and reduce costs and administrative burden.</u></p> <p>NL (Comments):</p> <p>In accordance with Regulation (EC) No 223/2009, the European Statistical programme should provide the framework for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics, the main fields and the objectives of the actions envisaged. It should lay down priorities</p>

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	<p>concerning the needs for information for the purpose of carrying out the activities of the Union. Those needs should be weighed against the resources needed at Union and national level to provide the required statistics, and also against the response burden and the respondents' associated costs, paying particular attention to cost-effectiveness.</p> <p>PL (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>(g) to provide relevant and comparable official European statistics as set out in the Annex <u><i>in line with the quality criteria laid down in article 12 of Regulation 223/2009, setting up the statistical priorities in accordance with user needs in a cost-effective manner without unnecessary duplication of effort. This includes the use of multiple data sources, advanced data analytics methods, smart systems, and digital technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence for the production of European Statistics to improve efficiency and quality and reduce burden. It also aims at strengthening the partnership within the ESS and beyond in order to further enhance its productivity and to maintain its leading role in official statistics worldwide</i></u></p>

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	<p>PL (Comments):</p> <p>In accordance with Regulation (EC) No 223/2009, the European Statistical programme should provide the framework for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics, the main fields and the objectives of the actions envisaged. It should lay down priorities concerning the needs for information for the purpose of carrying out the activities of the Union. Those needs should be weighed against the resources needed at Union and national level to provide the required statistics, and also against the response burden and the respondents' associated costs, paying particular attention to cost-effectiveness.</p> <p>PT (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>(g) to provide relevant, timely, and comparable and cost-efficient official European statistics, <u>in the framework of the European Statistical Programme</u> set out in the Annex, <u>which underpin the monitoring and evaluation of the EU policies and contribute to well-informed decision-making by society at large while strengthening the partnership within</u></p>

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	<u>the ESS and beyond in order to further enhance its productivity and to maintain its leading role in official statistics worldwide.</u>
<p>3. The programme shall support the implementation of Union-level legal obligations relating to Single Market resilience and implementation tools, market surveillance, product conformity, standards, public procurement, intellectual property rights, competition policy, financial services policy, anti-money laundering, Union restrictive measures, company and corporate governance law, consumer policy, European statistics, customs legislation, taxation, and anti-fraud, as well as other actions pursuing the general and specific objectives referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2.</p>	<p>AT (Comments): <i>The programme shall support the implementation of Union-level legal obligations relating to [...], market surveillance, product conformity, standards, [...]:</i></p> <p>AT: EC to explain, why it did <u>not</u> consider e.g. C41700 Committee on Standards in DG Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs - GROW to be more affiliated in the implementation of this specific SMCP objective?</p> <p>FI (Drafting Suggestions): 3. The programme shall support the implementation of Union-level legal obligations relating to Single Market resilience and implementation</p>

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	tools, market surveillance, product conformity, standards, public procurement, intellectual property rights, competition policy, financial services policy, anti-money laundering, Union restrictive measures, company and corporate governance law, consumer policy, European statistics, customs legislation, taxation, and anti-fraud, as well as other actions pursuing the general and specific objectives referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2.

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<p>[Article 4 Budget</p>	<p>CZ (Comments):</p> <p>Article 4 indicates a total budget of EUR 6.238 billion. In the interest of predictability and transparency, CZ thinks that the individual amounts for each part of the programme should be included in the Regulation itself, as is the case with the current Single Market Programme. In accordance with this request CZ supports redrafting of this Article in appropriate manner. CZ would also support adding a mechanism for budgetary commitments to individual areas/objectives of the SMCP and to set up clear rules for transfers between individual areas/objectives.</p> <p>Furthermore, in terms European statistics, we believe, that article 4 is contradictory to article 13 of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 that states that <i>“The European statistical programme shall lay down priorities concerning the needs for information for the purpose of carrying out the activities of the Community. Those needs shall be weighed against the resources needed at Community and national level to provide the required statistics, and also against the response burden and the respondent's associated costs.”</i> If there is not a specific budget for statistics it is impossible to weigh resources and information needs. The Council, in our view, cannot adopt an ESP without specific financial allocations.</p> <p>ES (Comments):</p> <p>Even if the budget is not going to be discussed at the first meeting, ES consider article 4 is against article 13 of Regulation 223/2009 that states that <i>“The European statistical programme shall lay down priorities concerning the needs for information for the purpose of carrying out the</i></p>
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	<p>activities of the Community. Those needs shall be weighed against the resources needed at Community and national level to provide the required statistics, and against the response burden and the respondent's associated costs.” If there is not a specific budget it is impossible to weigh resources and information needs. The Council cannot adopt an ESP without specific financial allocations. Therefore, at least for statistics, the budget shall be allocated and should be higher than the current one.</p> <p>In addition, the issue of the resources is one of the main elements guaranteeing statistical professional independence. As mentioned in Recital 7 of 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 “<i>the adequacy of resources attributed on an annual or a multiannual basis and available to meet statistical needs is a necessary condition for ensuring the professional independence of statistical authorities and the high quality of statistical data</i>”. In addition, article 13 of Regulation 223/2009 states that “<i>The European statistical programme shall lay down priorities</i></p>

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	<p><i>concerning the needs for information for the purpose of carrying out the activities of the Community. <u>Those needs shall be weighed against the resources needed at Community and national level to provide the required statistics, and also against the response burden and the respondent's associated costs</u></i></p> <p>Therefore, if the specific objective (statistical need) is just to “produce statistics” and the resources are not allocated but shared with all the other policies, professional independence of Eurostat and the National Statistical Authorities is clearly compromised, and the requirements of article 13 are not fulfilled.</p> <p>LT <u>(Comments):</u></p> <p>In our view, the clearer breakdown in the text of the budget across the areas (customs, statistics, anti-fraud, etc.) might be beneficial. Article 4 of the draft regulation does not indicate how funding will be distributed by objective or area. While the accompanying document (12486/25) outlines</p>

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	<p>needed appropriations, the text of the regulation itself creates uncertainty for Member States in regard to the allocation of funds.</p> <p>On statistics:</p> <p>It should be noted that Article 13 of Regulation (EC) 223/2009 states: “The European statistical programme shall lay down priorities concerning the needs for information for the purpose of carrying out the activities of the Community. Those needs shall be weighed against the resources needed at Community and national level to provide the required statistics, and also against the response burden and the respondent's associated costs.” What measures will be taken to ensure that the funds currently allocated are not subject to excessive reallocation? In the field of statistics, it is essential to guarantee that users’ needs are effectively met.</p> <p>PL (Comments):</p> <p>We acknowledge the limitations of EU legal provisions regarding the rules for transferring funds within the EU budget. However, it is</p>

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	<p>important to clarify these at the level of the internal structure of the SMCP program, including the rules for transfers between its components.</p> <p>SI (Comments):</p> <p>Slovenia notes that the SMCP proposes a single overall financial envelope without specific allocations by objective or sub-programme, aiming for enhanced flexibility. While flexibility is a reasonable goal, it must be balanced with predictability and stability, especially for areas with ongoing legal obligations and long-term IT development needs. We are concerned that the lack of clearly earmarked budgets for crucial pillars like Customs, Fiscalis, Anti-Fraud, and Statistics could jeopardise the continuity of essential activities. The proposed flexibility must not lead to a reduction in funding for these core areas in favour of new or emerging priorities. We urge the establishment of clear rules and transparent procedures for any reallocation of funds between the programme's components, with appropriate consultation of Member States. A clear breakdown of the indicative budget within the Regulation</p>

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	would provide greater assurance for the stable and predictable financing of individual programme parts.
	PT (Comments): PT considers essential that the use of the envelope allocated to this Programme be further clarified.
1. The indicative financial envelope for the implementation of the programme for the period <i>from 1 January 2028 to 31 December 2034</i> is set at EUR 6 238 112 000 in current prices.	FI (Drafting Suggestions): <u>The [indicative] amount for xx is EUR xx, yy is EUR yy etc.</u> FI (Comments): The Article 4 of the proposal includes a budgetary framework for the whole programme. The current Single Market Programme, on the other hand, also has indicative budgets for the different sub-programmes or pillars in the Article on Budget. We prefer that at least indicative amounts are included in the regulation. We would appreciate reasons for this change and its possible implications for the predictability and stability of budgets of different pillars during the programming period. We thank the Commission for providing the document with the budget allocations (WK 13475/2025 INIT of 13 October). However, the budget

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	<p>allocation must be included in the text of the Regulation, at least an indicative allocation.</p> <p>PT (Comments): Considering the references to both the Programme's flexibility and the simplification of financing, additional clarification is requested regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What rules will apply to the purchase of customs control equipment? - What procedures will such purchase/procurement (applications) be subject to? <p>SK (Comments): The draft regulation specifies only the total budget of EUR 6.238 billion, without any breakdown by individual areas covered by the SMCP.</p> <p>How will the Commission ensure that support for the protection of the EU's financial interests and the fight against fraud is not weakened? Under the UAFP 2021–2027, funding was detailed by objectives, which made it possible to clearly track the allocated resources. The current proposal lacks such a structure. We therefore propose to amend</p>

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	Article 4 to include an indicative breakdown of the budget by individual areas and to establish a separate envelope for the protection of the EU's financial interests and the fight against fraud
	FI (Drafting Suggestions): <u>Article 1 b) The co-financing rate shall not exceed [xx] % of the eligible costs.</u> FI (Comments): It is necessary to set a cofinancing rate for the programme in the Regulation.
2. Budgetary commitments for activities extending over more than one financial year may be broken down over several years into annual instalments.	SK (Comments): AFIS and IMS are key systems for information exchange and the reporting of irregularities. These platforms require long-term and predictable funding; otherwise, there is a risk of their weakening. How will the Commission ensure stable and predictable funding for the AFIS

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	<p>and IMS systems? AFIS and IMS are among the EU’s essential IT tools for combating fraud, fulfilling the obligations under Article 325 TFEU, and serving as the main instruments for data exchange and irregularity reporting. We propose that Article 4 include an obligation to ensure stable funding for IMS and AFIS as fundamental IT tools of the Union.</p>
<p>3. Appropriations may be entered in the Union budget beyond 2034 to cover the expenses necessary and to enable the management of actions not completed by the end of the programme.</p>	<p>SK (Comments): The draft regulation does not set out rules on stable and predictable funding for the individual parts of the programme. This raises questions, particularly regarding the Customs Union and the fight against fraud. How will the Commission ensure that each part of the programme receives sufficient and predictable funding throughout the entire programming period? We propose amending Article 4 to include a mechanism linking the budget to the individual pillars of the programme and to establish clear rules for budget transfers</p>

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<p>4. The financial envelope referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article and the amounts of additional resources referred to in Article 5 may also be used for technical and administrative assistance for the implementation of the programme, such as preparatory, monitoring, control, audit and evaluation activities, corporate information technology systems and platforms, information, communication and visibility activities, including corporate communication on the political priorities of the Union, and all other technical and administrative assistance or staff-related expenses incurred by the Commission for the management of the programme.]</p>	<p>EE (Comments): It should be noted that Article 13 of Regulation 223/2009 states that “The European statistical programme shall lay down priorities concerning the needs for information for the purpose of carrying out the activities of the Community. Those needs shall be weighed against the resources needed at Community and national level to provide the required statistics, and also against the response burden and the respondent's associated costs. How can it be ensured that the budget allocated to statistics is sufficient to meet evolving information needs and keep pace with innovation?</p> <p>IT (Comments): Article 13 of Regulation 223/2009 states that “The European statistical programme shall lay down priorities concerning the needs for information for the purpose of carrying out the activities of the Community. Those needs shall be weighed against the resources needed at Community and</p>

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	national level to provide the required statistics, and also against the response burden and the respondent's associated costs. How can it be ensured that the budget allocated to statistics is sufficient to meet evolving information needs and keep pace with innovation?
<p><i>Article 5</i> <i>Additional resources</i></p>	
<p>1. Member States, Union institutions, bodies and agencies, third countries, international organisations, international financial institutions, or other third parties, may make additional financial or non-financial contributions to the programme. Additional financial contributions shall constitute external assigned revenue within the meaning of Article 21(2), points (a), (d), or (e) or Article 21(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509.</p>	<p>FR (Comments): The possibility for Member States to provide additional resources must not be used to circumvent the ceilings of the multiannual financial framework by requesting additional contributions from Member States during the programming period.</p>

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	<p>The French authorities consider that, given their importance, assigned revenues should be better taken into account in the annual budgetary procedure. More consolidated information should be provided to the budgetary authority.</p>
<p>2. Resources allocated to Member States under shared management may, at their request, be made available to the programme. The Commission shall implement those resources directly or indirectly in accordance with Article 62(1), point (a) or (c), of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509. They shall be additional to the amount referred to in Article 4(1) of this Regulation. Those resources shall be used for the benefit of the Member State concerned. Where the Commission has not entered into a legal commitment under direct or indirect management for additional amounts thus made available to the programme, the corresponding uncommitted amounts may, at the request of the Member State concerned, be transferred back to one or more respective source programmes or their successors.</p>	<p>DE (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>2. Resources allocated to Member States under shared management may, at their request, be made available to the programme. The Commission shall implement those resources directly or indirectly in accordance with Article 62(1), point (a) or (c), of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509. They shall be additional to the amount referred to in Article 4(1) of this Regulation. Those resources shall be used for the benefit of the Member State concerned. Where the Commission has not entered into a legal commitment under direct or indirect management for additional amounts thus made available to the programme, the corresponding uncommitted amounts may, at the request of the Member</p>

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	<p>State concerned, be transferred back to one or more respective source programmes or their successors.</p> <p>IT (Comments):</p> <p>We understand that it is entirely up to the Member States to decide in detail to which “source programs or their successors” and in what amounts, resources transferred from shared management should be re-allocated to the Member States by the Commission. Please clarify.</p> <p>We understand that re-allocation will happen as a grant awarded without a call for proposals. Is that correct? Please clarify.</p>
<p><i>Article 6</i> <i>Alternative, combined and cumulative funding</i></p>	
<p>1. The programme shall be implemented in synergy with other Union programmes. An action that has received a Union contribution from another programme may also receive a contribution under this programme. The rules of the relevant Union programme shall apply to the corresponding contribution, or a single set of rules may be applied to all</p>	<p>DE (Drafting Suggestions):</p>

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<p>contributions and a single legal commitment may be concluded. If the Union contribution is based on eligible cost, the cumulative support from the Union budget shall not exceed the total eligible costs of the action and may be calculated on a pro-rata basis in accordance with the documents setting out the conditions for support.</p>	<p>1. The programme shall be implemented in synergy with other Union programmes. An action that has received a Union contribution from another programme may also receive a contribution under this programme. The rules of the relevant Union programme shall apply to the corresponding contribution, or a single set of rules may be applied to all contributions and a single legal commitment may be concluded. If the Union contribution is based on eligible cost, the cumulative support from the Union budget shall not exceed the total eligible costs of the action and may be calculated on a pro-rata basis in accordance with the documents setting out the conditions for support. <u>For actions implementing the specific objective referred to in Article 3(2)(f) of this Regulation, the Programme may finance up to 95 % of the eligible costs of actions supporting collaborative networks as referred to in Article 15 of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009.</u></p> <p>DE (Comments):</p>

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	<p>Concerning the European Statistical Programme a provision similar to Article 12 para 6 of the current Single Market Programme should be added.</p> <p>IT (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>1. The programme shall should be implemented in synergy with other Union programmes <u>as a general principle</u>. An action that has received a Union contribution from another programme may also receive a contribution under this programme <u>if they pursue common objectives</u>. The rules of the relevant Union programme shall apply to the corresponding contribution, or a single set of rules may be applied to all contributions and a single legal commitment may be concluded. If the Union contribution is based on eligible cost, the cumulative support from the Union budget shall not exceed the total eligible costs of the action and may be calculated on a pro-rata basis in accordance with the documents setting out the conditions for support.</p> <p>IT (Comments):</p>

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Commission proposal bracketed provisions	Drafting Suggestions and Comments
	<p>It is deemed more appropriate to replace “shall” with “should”. The mix of funds from different programmes should be decided on a case-by-case basis and be transparent.</p> <p>NL (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>1. The programme shall be implemented in synergy with other Union programmes. An action that has received a Union contribution from another programme may also receive a contribution under this programme, <u>provided that the contributions do not cover the same costs</u>. The rules of the relevant Union programme shall apply to the corresponding contribution, or a single set of rules may be applied to all contributions and a single legal commitment may be concluded. If the Union contribution is based on eligible cost, the cumulative support from the Union budget shall not exceed the total eligible costs of the action and may be calculated on a pro-rata basis in accordance with the documents setting out the conditions for support.</p>

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	<p>PL (Comments): We would appreciate further explanation of this provision, particularly bearing in mind the need for financial stability for the ESP.</p> <p>PT (Comments): The term “synergy” allows a very wide level of interpretations. We request further clarifications.</p> <p>SE (Drafting Suggestions): 1. The programme shall be implemented in synergy with other Union programmes. An action that has received a Union contribution from another programme may also receive a contribution under this programme. The rules of the relevant Union programme shall apply to the corresponding contribution, or a single set of rules may be applied to all contributions and a single legal commitment may be concluded. If the Union contribution is based on eligible cost, the cumulative support from the Union budget shall not exceed [XX] percent of the total eligible costs of the action and may be calculated on a pro-rata basis in accordance with the documents setting out the conditions for support.</p> <p>SE</p>

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	<p>(Comments):</p> <p>Co-financing is an important principal to secure efficient implementation and the total support should therefore not exceed [XX] percent of the total eligible costs.</p>
<p>2. Award procedures under the programme may be jointly conducted under direct or indirect management with Member States, Union institutions, bodies and agencies, third countries, international organisations, international financial institutions, or other third parties ('partners to the joint award procedure'), provided the protection of the financial interests of the Union is ensured. Such procedures shall be subject to a single set of rules and lead to the conclusion of single legal commitments. For that purpose, the partners to the joint award procedure may make resources available to the programme in accordance with Article 5 of this Regulation, or the partners may be entrusted with the implementation of the award procedure, where applicable in accordance with Article 62(1), point (c), of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509. , In joint award procedures, representatives of the partners to the joint award procedure may also be members of the evaluation committee referred to in Article 153(3) of Regulation (EU, EURATOM) 2024/2509..</p>	<p>IE</p> <p>(Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>↪ In joint award procedures, representatives of the partners to the joint award procedure may also be members of the evaluation committee referred to in Article 153(3) of Regulation (EU, EURATOM) 2024/2509.↪</p> <p>IE</p> <p>(Comments):</p> <p>Deletion of comma at start and additional full stop at end of sentence</p> <p>NL</p> <p>(Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>2. Award procedures under the programme may be jointly conducted under direct or indirect management with Member States, Union institutions, bodies and agencies, third countries, international</p>

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	<p>organisations, international financial institutions, or other third parties ('partners to the joint award procedure'), provided the protection of the financial interests of the Union is ensured. Such procedures shall be subject to a single set of rules and lead to the conclusion of single legal commitments. For that purpose, the partners to the joint award procedure may make resources available to the programme in accordance with Article 5 of this Regulation, or the partners may be entrusted with the implementation of the award procedure, where applicable in accordance with Article 62(1), point (c), of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509. ¶ In joint award procedures, representatives of the partners to the joint award procedure may also be members of the evaluation committee referred to in Article 153(3) of Regulation (EU, EURATOM) 2024/2509.¶</p>

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<p><i>Article 7</i> <i>Third countries associated to the programme</i></p>	<p>EL (Comments): We stress the need for adequate safeguards as regards the participation of third country entities</p> <p>HU (Comments): The uniform, innovative and high-level development of the Customs Union and external customs borders without appropriate and continuous financial support would be extremely challenging. In our view, CCEI type interventions should remain available to Member States for the purposes of maintenance and amortisation-based replacement of customs control equipment. Innovative solutions are often essential to ensure up-to-date customs controls, but due to their high cost, external financial resources are also necessary. Equipment purchased during previous cycles of the programme also require maintenance, so these costs should also be taken into consideration.</p> <p>PT (Comments): We consider the participation of the candidate and neighbouring countries to be beneficial from the outset. We emphasize, however, that clear criteria should be identified to assess security benefits and risks, especially when the program involves cybersecurity and sensitive data (customs, anti-fraud, taxation).</p>
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<p>1. The programme may be opened to the participation of the following third countries through full or partial association, in accordance with the objectives laid down in Article 3 and in accordance with the relevant international agreements or any decisions adopted under the framework of those agreements and applicable to:</p>	<p>FR (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>1. The programme may be opened to the participation of the following third countries through full or partial association, in accordance with the objectives laid down in Article 3, and in accordance with the relevant international agreements or any decisions adopted under the framework of those agreements and applicable to:</p> <p>FR (Comments):</p> <p>The association of third countries to the programme, provided for in this Article must be considered with caution and with priority given to the strengthening of member state capacities. While opening up to certain third partners may be of strategic interest, care must be taken to ensure that this participation does not compromise the protection of the Union's financial and security interests, nor the priority objective of strengthening, first and foremost, the capacities, competitiveness and resilience of European actors.</p>

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	<p>HU (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>1. The programme may be opened to the participation of the following third countries through full or partial association, in accordance with the objectives laid down in Article 3 and in accordance with the relevant international agreements or any decisions adopted under the framework of those agreements and applicable to:</p>
<p>(a) members of the European Free Trade Association which are members of the European Economic Area, as well as Andorra, Monaco and San Marino;</p>	<p>FR (Comments):</p> <p>It should be noted that no one of these countries are part of the current CCEI, Customs and Fiscalis programmes</p> <p>HU (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>(a) members of the European Free Trade Association which are members of the European Economic Area, as well as Andorra, Monaco and San Marino;</p>

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(b) acceding countries, candidate countries and potential candidates;	HU (Drafting Suggestions): (b) acceding countries, candidate countries and potential candidates;
(c) European Neighbourhood Policy countries;	HU (Drafting Suggestions): (c) European Neighbourhood Policy countries;
(d) other third countries, including those neighbouring the EU's outermost regions.	HU (Drafting Suggestions): (d) other third countries, including those neighbouring the EU's outermost regions.
	HU (Drafting Suggestions): In addition, Customs Control Equipment Instrument interventions shall remain available to Member States for the purposes of

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	<p>maintenance and amortisation-based replacement of customs control equipment, ensuring a proportionate share of support corresponding to their customs control responsibilities and needs, in order to guarantee the continuous and effective functioning of the Customs Union and its external borders.</p> <p>HU (Comments):</p> <p>This amendment ensures that CCEI-type support remains available to Member States, not only for crisis situations or enlargement countries. It guarantees a fair and proportionate share of funding based on customs control needs, ensuring continuity of operations and equitable treatment for Member States with significant external border responsibilities.</p>
<p>2. The association agreements for participation in the programme shall:</p>	
<p>(a) ensure a fair balance as regards the contributions and benefits of the third country participating in the programme;</p>	
<p>(b) lay down the conditions of participation in the programme, including the calculation of financial contributions, consisting of an operational contribution and a participation fee, to a programme and its general administrative costs;</p>	

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(c) not confer on the third country any decision-making power in the programme;	
(d) guarantee the rights of the Union to ensure sound financial management and to protect its financial interests;	
(e) where relevant, ensure the protection of security, defence and public order interests of the Union and its Member States.	EL (Comments): Scrutiny reservation as regards the use of the phrase “ <i>where relevant</i> ”: need for further clarifications. We generally support that the protection of security, defence and public order interests of the Union and its Member States is unconditional.
For the purposes of the first paragraph, point (d), the third country shall grant the necessary rights and access required under Regulations (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 and (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013, and guarantee that	

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enforcement decisions imposing a pecuniary obligation on the basis of Article 299 TFEU, as well as judgements and orders of the Court of Justice of the European Union, are enforceable.	

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<p>Article 8 <i>Implementation and forms of Union funding</i></p>	<p>CZ (Comments): In line with the comment under recital (26) concerning the customs control equipment, CZ supports in this regard the proposal raised by PL to add a separate Art. 8a (Customs control equipment) with a slight amendment which we find redundant: <i>Actions supporting the purchase, maintenance and upgrade of customs control equipment shall be available to Members States, in particular those managing the Union's external borders. Participation of associated third countries may be provided for in the work programmes in accordance with Article 7.</i></p> <p>DE (Comments): The principle of excellence needs to be added as a central award criterion. However, specificities of programme elements need to be taken into account.</p> <p>PL (Comments): The SMCP program only provides for direct management (by the EC) and indirect management. Why is shared management with Member States not included?</p>
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Commission proposal bracketed provisions	Drafting Suggestions and Comments
<p>1. The programme shall be implemented in accordance with Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509, under direct management or indirect management with the entities referred to in Article 62(1), point (c), of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509.</p>	<p>PT (Comments): It will be necessary to clarify, eventually in a recital, how supervision of (especially indirect) management will be carried out.</p>
<p>2. Union funding may be provided in any form in accordance with Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509, in particular grants, procurement, non-financial donations, and remuneration and reimbursements to experts as referred to in Articles 242 and 243 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509.</p>	
<p>3. Where Union funding is provided in the form of a grant, funding shall be provided as financing not linked to costs or, where necessary, under simplified cost options, in accordance with Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509. Funding may be provided in the form of actual eligible cost reimbursement only where the objectives of an action cannot be achieved otherwise or where this form is necessary to enable other sources of funding, including financing from Member States. .</p>	<p>NL (Drafting Suggestions): 3. Where Union funding is provided in the form of a grant, funding shall be provided as financing not linked to costs or, where necessary, under simplified cost options, in accordance with Regulation (EU,</p>

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	<p>Euratom) 2024/2509. Funding may be provided in the form of actual eligible cost reimbursement only where the objectives of an action cannot be achieved otherwise or where this form is necessary to enable other sources of funding, including financing from Member States.-</p> <p>SE (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>3. Where Union funding is provided in the form of a grant, funding shall be provided as financing not linked to costs or, where necessary, under simplified cost options, in accordance with Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509. Funding may be provided in the form of actual eligible cost reimbursement up to [XX] percent only where the objectives of an action cannot be achieved otherwise or where this form is necessary to enable other additional sources of funding. including financing from Member States, as referred to in article 5.1.</p> <p>SE (Comments):</p> <p>Co-financing is an important principal to secure efficient implementation and the total support should therefore not exceed [XX] percent of the total eligible costs. “Additional sources” are defined in article 5.1 and there is therefore no need for examples.</p>
	<p>ES (Drafting Suggestions):</p>

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Commission proposal bracketed provisions	Drafting Suggestions and Comments
	<p>8A Actions supporting the purchase, maintenance and upgrade of customs control equipment shall be available to Members States. Participation of associated third countries may be provided for in the work programmes in accordance with Article 7.</p> <p>LT (Drafting Suggestions): Article 8a <u>Customs control equipment</u> <u>Actions supporting the purchase, maintenance and upgrade of customs control equipment shall be available to Members States, in particular to those managing the Union’s external borders.</u></p> <p>LT (Comments): We support the proposal of PL delegation to include Article 8a specifically on Customs control equipment, as proposed in the Working Party meeting on 17 October.</p> <p>PL (Drafting Suggestions):</p>

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Commission proposal bracketed provisions	Drafting Suggestions and Comments
	<p>Article 8a</p> <p>Customs control equipment</p> <p>Actions supporting the purchase, maintenance and upgrade of customs control equipment shall be available to Member States, in particular those operating the Union’s external borders. Participation of associated third countries may be provided for in the work programmes in accordance with Article 7.</p> <p>PL</p> <p>(Comments):</p> <p>Proposal to add a new Article 8b – Customs control equipment.</p> <p>The introduction of a separate article on equipment and clarification that the equipment support concerns Member States. In our opinion, adding a distinct article will ensure that Member States remain the main beneficiaries and are not replaced by candidate countries. Additionally, we propose maintaining flexibility here for the participation of associated third countries.</p>

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Article 9
Eligibility

AT

(Comments):

AT: We believe that the wording of Art 9 and Art 10 SMCP lacks clarity, especially when reading the two articles in conjunction. Therefore, we believe that both articles should be rephrased to better understand their meaning.

EL

(Comments):

Eligibility needs to cover also eligible actions and not only eligible entities. We note that relevant references are included in recital 12. The answer of the COM that eligible actions will be elaborated in the work programmes emphasizes stronger the need for enhanced participation of MS in the governance of SMCP – see also comment in article. 11.

PL

(Comments):

The article is missing a provision regarding eligibility for the "Internal Market" which is intended to finance digital tools, the digital transformation of economic operators, and ensuring the safety and compliance of goods. It seems that the provisions of the article should be

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	<p>supplemented with eligibility in relation to these parts of the SMCP program.</p> <p>SK (Comments): In the area of the fight against fraud, do customs, police and judicial authorities, other public authorities which can contribute to achieving one of the objectives referred to in Article 3 as well as non-profit organisations, remain eligible beneficiaries? We propose to further clarify the list of entities eligible for funding in the draft regulation.</p>
<p>1. Eligibility criteria shall be set to support achievement of the objectives laid down in Article 3 of this Regulation, in accordance with Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 and shall apply to all award procedures under the programme.</p>	<p>FI (Comments): Does the proposal (and/or the proposal for budget expenditure tracking and performance framework and other horizontal rules for the Union programmes and activities) cover the participation and reimbursement of</p>

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	<p>external experts such as for example the private sector participants to the Trade Contact Group?</p> <p>PT (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>1. Eligibility criteria shall be set to support achievement of the objectives laid down in Article 3 of this Regulation, in accordance with Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 and shall apply to all award procedures under the programme. <u>They shall also be set in a manner that addresses disparities in technical, operational and administrative capacities of Member States.</u></p> <p>PT (Comments):</p> <p>The Regulation should mention that it is designed to address disparities in technical, operational and administrative capacities of Member States, including through cooperation and integration, in order to ensure a level playing field in the Single Market. This is consistent with the Impact Assessment, which explains that this concern is a problem driver</p>

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Commission proposal bracketed provisions	Drafting Suggestions and Comments
	justifying this proposal for a new Programme – which should be more effective in addressing it than current programs.
<p>2. In award procedures under direct or indirect management, one or more of the following legal entities may be eligible to receive Union funding:</p>	<p>FI (Comments): The measures and financial rules of the programme should be defined clearly in the Regulation.</p>
<p>(a) entities established in a Member State;</p>	<p>LT (Drafting Suggestions): <u>Legal</u> entities established in a Member State;</p> <p>LT (Comments): Why to definition "entity" is used in Article 9 if the <i>Article 2</i> (1) describes "<u>legal entity</u>" - means a natural person, or a legal person created and recognised as such under Union, national or international law, which has</p>

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	legal personality and the capacity to act in its own name, exercise rights and be subject to obligations, or an entity which does not have legal personality as referred to in.....".
(b) entities established in an associated third country;	LT (Drafting Suggestions): <u>Legal</u> entities established in an associated third country; LT (Comments): Reasoning similar to above.
(c) international organisations;	
(d) other entities established in non-associated third countries, as listed in the work programme, where the funding of such entities is	IE (Drafting Suggestions):

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<p>essential for implementing the action and contributes to the objectives laid down in Article.</p>	<p>(d) other entities established in non-associated third countries, as listed in the work programme, where the funding of such entities is essential for implementing the action and contributes to the objectives laid down in Article 3.</p> <p>IE (Comments): Presume the article referenced at the end of 9(2)(d) is Article 3</p> <p>LT (Drafting Suggestions): other legal entities established in non-associated third countries, as listed in the work programme, where the funding of such legal entities is essential for implementing the action and contributes to the objectives laid down in Article 3.</p> <p>LT (Comments): Number of the Article [3] is missing.</p> <p>NL (Drafting Suggestions):</p>

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	<p>(d) other entities established in non-associated third countries, as listed in the work programme, where the funding of such entities is essential for implementing the action and contributes to the objectives laid down in Article <u>3</u>.</p> <p>NL (Comments): Missing reference.</p> <p>PT (Comments): We propose to clarify, in this Article (9(d)) or in the corresponding recital, that the inclusion of non-associated third country entities takes place not only in duly justified cases, but also with full transparency.</p>
<p>3. In addition to Article 168(2) and (3) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509, the associated third countries referred to in Article 7(1) of this Regulation may, where relevant, participate in, and benefit from, any of the procurement mechanisms set out in Article 168(2) and (3) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509. Rules applicable to Member States</p>	

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shall be applied, mutatis mutandis, to participating associated third countries.	
4. In accordance with Article 136 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509, award procedures affecting security or public order, in particular concerning strategic assets and interests of the Union or its Member States, shall be restricted and eligibility restrictions shall apply to high-risk suppliers in line with EU law, for security reasons.	
5. For actions implementing actions for standardisation, the entities specified in Articles 15 and 16 of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012 shall be eligible.	
6. For actions supporting consumer protection and/or relating to the European Consumer Centres Network, the following bodies shall be eligible:	
(a) a non-profit body designated by a Member State or a third country referred to in Article 7 selected through a transparent procedure;	

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(b) a public body.	
	<p>ES (Drafting Suggestions): 9.6.bis Article 10.a (new) Evaluation of proposals and award criteria 1. Were Union funding is provided in the form of a grant, the work of the evaluation committees shall be based on the general principles applicable to grants laid down in Article 191 of Regulation 2024/2509 and in particular, on the principles of equal treatment and transparency, as well as on the principle of non-discrimination. 2. The evaluation committees shall evaluate proposals on the basis of award criteria, such as the relevance of the proposed actions in view of the objectives pursued, quality of the proposed actions, impact, including economic, social and environmental impact, budget and cost-effectiveness.</p>

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	<p>ES (Comments): <i>ES Comments: This is part of the current SMP art. 10.a and we consider it enhances transparency.</i></p>
<p>7. The work programme referred to in Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 may further specify the eligibility criteria set out in this Regulation or set additional eligibility criteria for specific actions.</p>	<p>DE (Comments): Eligibility criteria must be defined in the Regulation itself. This must not be reserved for the work programmes.</p> <p>EL (Comments): The issue of MS participation in the governance of the Programme is also relevant here: decisions on specifying / setting additional eligibility criteria need to be taken with the participation of MS – see also comment in article. 11.</p> <p>FI (Comments): How will it be ensured that eligibility is sufficiently defined in line with article 9(7)?</p>

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	PL (Comments): What additional eligibility criteria can be established and who will be responsible for establishing them? What specific actions would be taken on the basis of additional criteria?
8. Representatives of third countries or international organisations shall not be present in deliberations on eligibility and award criteria.	

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<p><i>Article 10</i> <i>Entities eligible without a call for proposals</i></p>	<p>AT (Comments): AT: We believe that the wording of Art 9 and Art 10 SMCP lacks clarity, especially when reading the two articles in conjunction. Therefore, we believe that both articles should be rephrased to better understand their meaning. We do also not fully understand why there are articles on eligible entities in the context of the SMCP, but there is no article in relation to eligible actions, compared to Art 7 Fiscalis-Regulation for example. At least from the perspective of the current Fiscalis Programme, an article outlining the eligible activities should be added.</p> <p>FI (Comments): The measures and financial rules of the programme should be defined clearly in the Regulation.</p>

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The following entities may be awarded a grant under the programme without a call for proposals:	
(1) for actions in the area of market surveillance, the market surveillance authorities of the Member States as referred to in Article 10 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1020;	
(2) for actions in the area of accreditation, the body recognised under Article 14(1) of Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁴⁴ to carry out the activities referred to in Article 32(1) of that Regulation;	
(3) for actions supporting the development of high-quality corporate financial and non-financial reporting and auditing standards and the facilitation of their integration into Union law, EFRAG (formerly the European Financial Reporting Advisory Group), the International Financial Reporting Standards Foundation ('IFRS Foundation') and the Public Interest Oversight Board ('PIOB') or successor organisations;	

⁴⁴ Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 July 2008 setting out the requirements for accreditation and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 339/93 (OJ L 218, 13.8.2008, p. 30, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2008/765/oj>).

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<p>(4) for actions in the area of consumer protection enforcement, the authorities of the Member States, responsible for the enforcement of Union laws that protect consumers' interests, as referred to in Article 1 of Regulation (EU) 2017/2394;</p>	<p>NL (Drafting Suggestions): (4) — for actions in the area of consumer protection enforcement, the authorities of the Member States, responsible for the enforcement of Union laws that protect consumers' interests, as referred to in Article 1 of Regulation (EU) 2017/2394;</p> <p>NL (Comments): No justification given why enforcement authorities of Member States should be eligible without a call for proposals.</p>
<p>(5) for actions regarding consumers, the representation of consumers interest at the Union level, namely the Bureau Européen des Unions de Consommateurs ('BEUC') and the European Association for the Coordination of Consumer Representation in Standardisation ('ANEC'), provided they have no conflicting interests and represent, through its members, the interests of Union consumers in at least two thirds of the Member States;</p>	<p>EE (Comments):</p>

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	In our opinion also a reference to the standardisation organisations should be made. The current procedure through procurement is unnecessary and burdensome with only one qualified supplier.
(6) for actions relating to the protection of the interests of consumers and end-users of financial services and supporting their participation in financial services policy making, providing guidance in financial services as well as promoting financial literacy and a better understanding of the financial sector and the different categories of commercialised products, Finance Watch and the European Federation of Investors and Financial Services Users (Better Finance), or successor organisations, subject to the following conditions, to be assessed annually:	
(a) those entities remain non-governmental, non-profit and independent of industry, commerce or business;	
(b) they have no conflicting interests and represent through their members the interests of Union consumers and other end-users in the area of financial services;	

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(7) for actions regarding European statistics, the national statistical institutes and other national authorities referred to in Article 5(2) of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009;	
(8) for actions regarding customs or taxation, customs or tax authorities of Member States and customs or tax authorities of participating associated third countries, provided that the conditions set out in Article 7 of this Regulation are met.	<p>FR (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>(8) for actions regarding customs or taxation, the EU Customs Authority, customs or tax authorities of Member States and customs or tax authorities of participating associated third countries, provided that the conditions set out in Article 7 of this Regulation are met.</p> <p>FR (Comments):</p> <p>UCC reform text foresees the establishment of a new EU Customs Authority, competent body to develop and maintain the EU Customs Data Hub which should be funded by this programme.</p> <p>SE (Drafting Suggestions):</p>

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	<p>(8) for actions regarding customs and/or taxation, customs or tax authorities of Member States and customs and/or tax authorities of participating associated third countries, provided that the conditions set out in Article 7 of this Regulation are met.</p>
	<p>FR (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>(9) For actions implementing the specific objective ensuring the effective functioning of the internal market through standardisation processes that enable the financing of European standardisation and the participation of all relevant stakeholders in setting up European standards the entities referred to in Articles 15 and 16 of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012;</p> <p>FR (Comments):</p> <p>The entities referred to in Articles 15 and 16 of Regulation (EU) No. 1025/2012, which are already listed under point (c) of Article 10 of Regulation 2021/690, should be added.</p>

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<p>Article 11 <i>Work programme</i></p>	<p>AT (Drafting Suggestions): Work programme<u>Implementation of the Programme</u></p> <p>AT (Comments): AT comment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• AT wants the title of Article 11 changed from “Work programme” to “Implementation of the Programme”.• EC to explain why the title should <u>not</u> be changed from “Work programme” to “Implementation of the Programme”. <p>AT justification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regulation (EU) 2021/690 served as one of the predecessor programs to SMCP.• Article 16 Regulation (EU) 2021/690 is entitled “Implementation of the Programme”.• The wider title in Article 16 Regulation (EU) 2021/690 more correctly reflects that it is work programmes that serve as a means to implement a sectoral MFF programme.
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	<p>The improved wording brings the regulatory content of Article 11 SMCP-proposal and its title into desirable conformity.</p> <p>EL (Comments): The SMCP must be equipped with clear governance mechanisms, transparent decision-making procedures, and strong monitoring to avoid overlaps, ensure coherence, and guarantee alignment with the Union’s long-term strategic objectives. Flexibility needs to be counterbalanced with the enhanced participation of Member States, ensured by the use of comitology in the adoption of Work Programmes.</p> <p>ES (Drafting Suggestions): The programme shall be implemented by work programmes as referred to in Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509.</p> <p>The work programmes shall set out in detail:</p> <p>(a) the indicative amount allocated to each action and, where appropriate, the indicative total amount for all actions, as well as an indicative implementation timetable;</p>

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	<p>(b) the essential evaluation criteria for grants, in accordance with Article 10.a.</p> <p>The European Statistical Programme shall be implemented by individual statistical actions in accordance with article 14 of Regulation 223/2009. In addition, the Commission shall adopt annual work programmes which shall satisfy the requirements laid down in Article 17 of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 and which shall set out the objectives pursued by them and their expected results, in accordance with the general and specific objectives referred to in Article 3(1) and (2g) of this Regulation. Each annual work programme shall be communicated to the European Parliament for information purposes.</p> <p>ES (Comments): In accordance with Regulation 223/2009 the ESP is implemented through direct statistical actions (art.14) and the Commission shall adopt AWP as set out in article 17. This cannot be amended by this regulation.</p> <p>LT</p>

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	<p>(Comments):</p> <p>Lithuania considers that comitology procedure should be followed in preparation of work programmes as it ensures the higher engagement of MSs. Also, it would be preferable in Article 11 to provide more clarity regarding the scope and frequency of the work programmes. Additionally, the role of the Member States should be duly taken into account when determining the criteria for financing, including the eligibility and selection criteria, in order to ensure transparency and inclusiveness.</p> <p>PL</p> <p>(Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>Work programme <u>Implementation of the programme</u></p> <p>SE</p> <p>(Comments):</p> <p>SE sees a need for an explanation as to why the proposal does not contain wording similar to, for example, that in Article 11 of the Regulation establishing, as part of the Integrated Border Management Fund, the instrument for financial support for customs control equipment. Similar wording is found in other of the previous programs. As the Commission proposal is now drafted, MS will no longer be able to influence the work</p>

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	<p>programmes. SE questions the fact that MS, unlike today, is not given any influence in this regard.</p> <p>SI (Comments):</p> <p>A primary concern for Slovenia is the proposed governance model, particularly the absence of a comitology procedure for the adoption of annual and multiannual work programmes. The current proposal grants the Commission the competence to adopt work programmes without a formal implementing act involving Member States. While we acknowledge the Commission's written replies indicating that this approach is intended to be guided by the nature of the envisaged act, we believe this represents a significant departure from the established practice in predecessor programmes, such as the current Single Market Programme. This change risks diminishing the strategic role and genuine influence of Member States in shaping the programme's priorities and implementation.</p> <p>For the successful implementation of the programme, it is essential to establish an appropriate financial architecture and a robust governance</p>

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	<p>mechanism that ensures transparent allocation of funds, comprehensive programme monitoring including coordination of activities, progress tracking and compliance with annual and multiannual work programmes, reliable evaluation of achieved results, clearly defined governance principles with transparent decision-making on financing and fund allocation, active involvement of Member States in the preparation and adoption of work programmes, and equal access for all potential beneficiaries. This is vital not only for setting the strategic direction but also for ensuring that the allocation of the programme's substantial resources aligns with its shared objectives. Equally concerning is the lack of a detailed monitoring and evaluation framework within the Regulation itself. The current proposal does not define the key performance indicators (KPIs) necessary to measure the programme's success and ensure accountability.</p>

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	<p>ES (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>Ø Article 11a Committee procedure</p> <p>1. The Commission shall be assisted by a committee. That committee shall be a committee within the meaning of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011.</p> <p>2. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 shall apply</p>
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	<p>Article 11b</p> <p>Monitoring, reporting and evaluation</p> <p>1. Indicators to report on the progress of the Programme towards the achievement of the specific objectives laid down in Article 3(2) are set out in Annex XX.</p> <p>2. The performance reporting system shall ensure that data for monitoring the implementation and the results of the Programme are collected efficiently, effectively and in a timely manner.</p> <p>3. Evaluations shall be carried out in a timely manner so that they can be used in the decision-making process.</p> <p>4. The interim evaluation of the Programme shall be performed by four years after the start of the implementation of the Programme. The Commission shall draw up an interim evaluation report to assess the performance of the Programme, including aspects such as effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, relevance, synergies within the Programme and Union added value.</p>

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	<p>5. At the end of the implementation of the Programme and in any event four years after the end of the period specified in Article 1 the Commission shall draw up a final evaluation report to assess the performance of the Programme, including aspects such as effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, relevance, synergies within the Programme and Union added value.</p> <p>6. The Commission shall submit the interim and final evaluation reports, along with its conclusions and recommendations to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions and make them publicly available. Where appropriate, the reports shall be accompanied by proposals for follow-up actions.</p> <p>7. In accordance with Article 13(5) of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009, the Commission shall consult the European Statistical System Committee for those parts of the interim and final evaluation reports that pertain to actions implementing the specific objective referred to</p>

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	<p>in Article 3(2)(g) of this Regulation, prior to their adoption and submission to the European Parliament and the Council.</p> <p>ES (Comments):</p> <p>The financial regulation doesn't preclude that the programmes should be adopted with or without comitology, being a political decision depending on the nature of the envisaged act, considering the objectives, content and context of the legislative act.</p> <p>Taking into account that comitology was established in art. 18 of Fiscalis Regulation, art. 17 of the Customs Programme Regulation and art. 21 of the Internal Market Programme, and the nature of the activities hasn't changed, and taking into account that the SMCP Regulation gives more flexibility to the setting up of priorities and activities in the Work Programme, a comitology procedure should be established in the Regulation in order to guarantee the participation and involvement of Member States.</p>

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	<p>All EU programmes shall be monitored and evaluated; ES would require more clarifications on the horizontal regulation on this issue in the next MFF. In any case, for European Statistics this is compulsory in accordance with article 13. as it is already foreseen in the current SMP.</p>
<p>The programme shall be implemented bywork programmes as referred to in Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509.</p>	<p>AT (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The programme shall be implemented by work programmes as referred to in Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509. 2. <u>Work programmes implementing the specific objective referred to in [insert reference to letter or letters of Article 3(2) SMCP-proposal detailing a specific objective which is particularly conducive to MS-involvement, e.g. promoting the interests of consumers and ensuring a high level of consumer protection and product safety] shall be adopted by the Commission by means of implementing acts. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the</u>

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	<p><u>examination procedure referred to in [insert Para in Article to-be-added on Committee procedure detailing the respective comitology procedure].</u></p> <p><u>3. Work programmes implementing the specific objective referred to in [insert reference to another letter of Article 3(2) SMCP-proposal detailing a specific objective which is particularly conducive to MS-involvement] shall be adopted by the Commission by means of implementing acts. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in [insert Para in Article to-be-added on Committee procedure detailing the respective comitology procedure].</u></p> <p>AT (Comments): AT comment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Numbering of Paras necessitated by the insertion into Article 11 of a new Para 2.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EC to explain which specific objective is <u>not</u> particularly conducive to having its Working Programme adopted by means of implementing acts? Why? • AT suggests inserting a new Para 2 detailing the specific objective(s) of SMCP proposal which are particularly conducive to having their Work Programme adopted by Commission by means of implementing acts (IAs). • As a conferral of implementing powers is to be controlled via comitology, this Para should also already refer to an Article on the respective comitology procedure to be added below. <p>AT justification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulation (EU) 2021/690 (SMP) served as one of the predecessor programs to SMCP. <p>SMP stipulated that work programmes implementing some of the specific objectives under the SMP were to be adopted by the EC by means of implementing acts in accordance with a comitology procedure (compare Articles 3(2) in connection with 16(2)-(5) Regulation (EU) 2021/690).</p>

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Commission proposal bracketed provisions	Drafting Suggestions and Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We should not easily change an accepted law. <p>BE (Comments): BE: Member States should be sufficiently involved in the development of the work programmes. BE welcomes the addition by the Danish presidency in §17 of negobox on the role of Member States in the examination procedure.</p> <p>CZ (Comments): CZ strongly supports the intention to include the second paragraph regarding the stronger involvement of the Members States into the process of adoption of the working programmes and inclusion of the comitology procedures accordingly.</p> <p>Furthermore, CZ is aware of the ongoing work on the Regulation 2025/XXX of the EP and the Council establishing a budget expenditure tracking and performances framework and other horizontal rules for the Union programmes. We would like to avoid any duplication in terms of legislative regulation in this area, however, considering the extent of the above proposal we would like to ask the Commission to specify concrete rules and key indicators which would relate to this Programme. This would help us to analyse whether the monitoring, reporting and</p>

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	<p>evaluation area is sufficiently covered by the horizontal draft regulation or whether it would be necessary to have a specific provision directly in the draft Regulation on SMCP.</p> <p>DE (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>1. The programme shall be implemented by work programmes as referred to in Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509. <u>The work programmes shall implement the specific objectives set out in Article 3 and shall be adopted by the Commission by means of implementing acts. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure as referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011.</u></p> <p><u>2. Actions set out in the Annex to this Regulation implementing the specific objective referred to in Article 3(2)(g) of this Regulation shall be implemented in accordance with Articles 13, 14 and 17 of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009, including initiatives regarding the review of priorities, and through close and coordinated cooperation within the European Statistical System.</u></p>

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	<p><u>[NEW Article]</u></p> <p><u>In accordance with Article 13(5) of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009, the Commission shall consult the European Statistical System Committee for those parts of the interim and final evaluation reports that pertain to actions implementing the specific objective referred to in Article 3(2)(g) of this Regulation, prior to their adoption and submission to the European Parliament and the Council. The Commission shall consult the European Statistical Advisory Committee for the part of the final evaluation report that pertains to actions implementing the specific objective referred to in Article 3(2)(g) of this Regulation, prior to its adoption and submission to the European Parliament and the Council.</u></p> <p>DE (Comments): MS should have the possibility to decide on the annual work programmes, especially in light of merging different programmes as is foreseen in the Commission proposal. DE supports the demands by other</p>

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	<p>MS to maintain comitology and specifically the examination procedure.</p> <p>Furthermore, we also need to take into account the horizontal discussions on governance in the AHWP MFF and we therefore refer to the overarching discussion on the MFF negotiation box: we consider the consistent use of the examination procedure in comitology to be sensible, but the comitology procedure alone is not sufficient for a stronger role of the Council in the governance of the MFF.</p> <p>In accordance with Regulation 223/2009 the ESP is implemented through direct statistical actions (Article14) and also the Commission shall adopt AWP as set out in Article 17. This cannot be amended by this regulation.</p> <p>EE (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>The programme shall be implemented bywork programmes as referred to in Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509.</p> <p>The European Statistical Programme shall be implemented by individual statistical actions in accordance with article 14 of Regulation 223/2009. In addition, the Commission shall adopt annual work programmes which shall satisfy the requirements laid down in Article 17 of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 and which shall set out the</p>

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	<p>objectives pursued by them and their expected results, in accordance with the general and specific objectives referred to in Article 3(1) and (2g) of this Regulation. Each annual work programme shall be communicated to the European Parliament for information purposes.</p> <p>EE (Comments):</p> <p>It is not clear to us why the comitology procedure for preparing work programs and allocating resources has been eliminated. The Financial Regulation does not exclude the comitology procedure but states that it must be specified in the basic act (Article 110).</p> <p>We would also point out that this choice is not justified in any way in the impact assessment, which makes no mention of it at all.</p> <p>EE suggests that Article 11 should further include explicit provisions on monitoring, reporting and evaluation, establishing indicators to monitor the Programme's progress towards achieving the specific objectives set out in Article 3(2).</p> <p>In accordance with Regulation 223/2009, the European Statistical Programme shall be implemented through direct statistical actions as</p>

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	<p>mentioned in Article 14, and the Commission shall adopt the Annual Working Programmes as provided in Article 17.</p> <p>In accordance with Article 13(5) of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009, the Commission should consult the European Statistical System Committee on those parts of the interim and final evaluation reports which relate to actions implementing the specific objective concerning European statistics. EE additionally proposes the inclusion of a provision stipulating that an interim evaluation of the Programme be carried out four years after the start of its implementation. Both the interim and final evaluation reports should include proposals for follow-up actions.</p> <p>FI (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p><u>1.</u> The programme shall be implemented by work programmes as referred to in Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509.</p> <p><u>2.</u> <u>In order to ensure the implementation of the Programme, the Commission shall adopt implementing acts to establish multiannual</u></p>

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	<p><u>work programmes. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 11a(2).</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <u>Article 11a</u></p> <p><u>Committee procedure</u></p> <p><u>1. The Commission shall be assisted by a committee. That committee shall be a committee within the meaning of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011.</u></p> <p><u>2. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 shall apply.</u></p> <p>FI (Comments): How will the work programmes be prepared and adopted under the new SMCP programme and regulation? In what ways does the new programme differ from the previous programmes, that comitology is not needed anymore?</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We propose to add a paragraph 2 to Article 11 on adopting implementing acts to establish multiannual work programmes and addition of a new Article [11a] on Committee procedure. • We see it important that the Commission shall be assisted by a committee relating to work programmes under the SMCP. <p>FR (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The programme shall be implemented by work programmes as referred to in Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509. 2. The Commission shall be assisted by a committee. That committee shall be a committee within the meaning of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011. 3. The committee may convene in configurations reflecting the different policy windows of the SMCP 4. Where the opinion of the committee is to be obtained by written procedure, that procedure shall be terminated without result when, within the time-limit for delivery of the opinion, the chair of the committee so decides <u>or a simple majority of committee members so request.</u>

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	<p>FR (Comments):</p> <p>It should be stated in the legal text which type of procedure will be used in order to adopt implementing acts, especially with regard to Customs and Fiscalis working programmes which are presently endorsed by dedicated Committees.</p> <p>The main objective of the organization of global governance is to ensure that the balances between the largest and smallest budgets are respected.</p> <p>In this context, ad hoc committees will have to build budgets in line with the objectives of Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509.</p> <p>HU (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Programme shall be implemented through work programmes, adopted by the Commission by implementing acts in accordance with this Article and Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509.2. In order to ensure the implementation of the Programme, and without prejudice to the Financial Regulation, the Commission shall

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	<p>adopt implementing acts establishing annual or multiannual work programmes. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011.</p> <p>HU (Comments):</p> <p>This amendment ensures that the adoption of work programmes under the SMCP follows the examination procedure as set out in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011. The inclusion of comitology guarantees Member State participation and oversight in the implementation of the Programme, strengthens institutional balance, and aligns the governance model with previous Union programmes such as Customs and Fiscalis. It also enhances the transparency and accountability of the work programme adoption process.</p> <p>IE (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>11 (2). The Commission shall adopt implementing acts establishing those work programmes. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure</p> <p>IE</p>

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	<p>(Comments):</p> <p>Addition of a point 2 for Article 11- IE strongly believes that the current comitology provisions that are part the existing regulations should be maintained. Co-legislator powers to confer the Commission with implementing power were confirmed by Council Legal Services at the Working Party meeting of 17th October. Article 2(2)(b) (iv) of Regulation 182/2011, which lays down the rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for the control by Member States of the Commission’s exercise of implementing powers, is also clear that any implementing provisions dealing with ‘common commercial policy’ must be done under the examination procedure.</p> <p>Ireland notes from the Commission’s written feedback that provision for Governance arrangements, including presumably monitoring arrangements (as reflected in Articles 16 and 17 and Annex IV of the Single Market Programme 2021-2027), will be discussed later in the negotiation process. Ireland would welcome the opportunity to discuss the inclusion of such arrangements in the forthcoming Presidency text.</p> <p>IT</p>

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	<p>(Comments):</p> <p>Insert comitology procedure by examination.</p> <p>LT</p> <p>(Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>The programme shall be implemented by work programmes as referred to in Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509.</p> <p><u>The European Statistical Programme shall be implemented by individual statistical actions in accordance with article 14 of Regulation 223/2009. In addition, the Commission shall adopt annual work programmes which shall satisfy the requirements laid down in Article 17 of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 and which shall set out the objectives pursued by them and their expected results, in accordance with the general and specific objectives referred to in Article 3(1) and (2g) of this Regulation. Each annual work programme shall be communicated to the European Parliament for information purposes.</u></p> <p>LT</p> <p>(Comments):</p>

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	<p>In accordance with Regulation 223/2009, the European Statistical Programme shall be implemented through direct statistical actions as mentioned in Article 14, and the Commission shall adopt the Annual Working Programmes as provided in Article 17.</p> <p>LT suggests that Article 11 should further include explicit provisions on monitoring, reporting and evaluation, establishing indicators to monitor the Programme's progress towards achieving the specific objectives set out in Article 3(2). In accordance with Article 13(5) of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009, the Commission should consult the European Statistical System Committee on those parts of the interim and final evaluation reports which relate to actions implementing the specific objective concerning European statistics. LT additionally proposes the inclusion of a provision stipulating that an interim evaluation of the Programme be carried out four years after the start of its implementation. Both the interim and final evaluation reports should include proposals for follow-up actions.</p>

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	<p>NL (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p><u>1.</u> The programme shall be implemented by work programmes as referred to in Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509.</p> <p><u>2. The work programmes shall implement the objectives set out in Article 3. Those work programmes shall set out in detail the indicative amount allocated to each objective and the evaluation criteria.</u></p> <p><u>3. Work programmes shall be adopted by the Commission by means of implementing acts. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure as referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011.</u></p> <p>NL (Comments):</p> <p>Comitology needed.</p> <p>PL</p>

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	<p>(Drafting Suggestions):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The programme shall be implemented by work programmes as referred to in Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509.2. <u>The European Statistical Programme as set out in the Annex shall be implemented in accordance with Articles 13, 14 and 17 of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009, including initiatives regarding the review of priorities, and through close and coordinated cooperation within the European Statistical System.</u>3. In order to ensure the implementation of the Programme, the Commission shall adopt implementing acts to establish multiannual work programmes. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 11b(2). <p>PL (Comments): We propose to add a new paragraph 2 and 3.</p>

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	<p>In accordance with Regulation 223/2009 the European Statistical Programme is implemented through direct statistical actions (Art 14) and an Annual Work Programme which is adopted by the Commission (Art 17), with intermediate evaluation indicated in Art. 13). Therefore, we consider it necessary to include the relevant extension to this article, with wording at least equivalent to that in the SMP.</p> <p>We propose to add a new paragraph 3 to introduce the examination procedure,</p> <p>PT (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>The programme shall be implemented by work programmes as referred to in Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509.</p> <p><u>The European Statistical Programme shall be implemented in accordance with article 14 of Regulation No 223/2009.</u></p>

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	<p>PT (Comments): Beyond the addition of the reference to the European Statistical Programme, we propose a new paragraph 2 be added to Article 11, which should indicate that the Commission shall adopt implementing acts establishing those work programmes, and with a wording that combines the one of Article 16 of Regulation (EU) 2021/690, Article 12 of Regulation (EU) 2021/444, Article 11 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1077 and Article 13 of Regulation (EU) 2021/847: this wording refers to the following article on comitology.</p> <p>SE (Drafting Suggestions): <u>1.</u> The programme shall be implemented by work programmes as referred to in Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509.</p> <p>SK (Comments): The draft does not contain any provisions on comitology regarding the work programmes. Member States are, de facto, excluded from the process of shaping the priorities and content of the work programmes. It is therefore</p>

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	<p>proposed to introduce a comitology procedure that would ensure the participation of Member States in the management and preparation of the work programmes. How will Member States' involvement in shaping the priorities and content of the work programmes be ensured in this context? Does the Commission intend to adopt multiannual work programmes, or will the system operate on an annual basis? We propose to include a comitology procedure for the approval of work programmes in Article 11 or in a separate article of the regulation.</p>
	<p>AT (Drafting Suggestions): <u>Article 11a</u> <u>Committee procedure</u></p> <p><u>1. With regard to implementing acts referred to in Article 11(2) of this Regulation, which concern the specific objectives referred to in Article 3(2) letters a and b insofar as they aim at pursuing the general objective of deepening the Single Market, the Commission shall be assisted by the Committee for the Deepening of the Single Market.</u></p>

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	<p><u>That committee shall be a committee within the meaning of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011.</u></p> <p><u>2. With regard to implementing acts referred to in Article 11(3) of this Regulation, which concern the specific objective referred to in [insert reference to another letter of Article 3(2) SMCP-proposal detailing a specific objective which is particularly conducive to MS-involvement e.g. Customs], the Commission shall be assisted by a [e.g. Customs] committee. That committee shall be a committee within the meaning of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011.</u></p> <p><u>[...other Paras to be added for other Committees, as appropriate]</u></p> <p><u>3. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Article 4 of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 shall apply.</u></p>

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	<p><u>4. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 shall apply.</u></p> <p><u>5. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 shall apply.</u></p> <p><u>Where the committee delivers no opinion, the Commission shall not adopt the draft implementing act, and Article 5(4) letter b of Regulation (EU) 182/2011 shall apply.</u></p> <p><u>Where the opinion of the committee is to be obtained by written procedure, that procedure shall be terminated without result when, within the time-limit for delivery of the opinion, the chair of the committee so decides or a simple majority of committee members so requests.</u></p> <p>AT (Comments): AT comment:</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AT wants an Article on Committee procedures to be inserted, preliminarily including many of the options for Member State involvement within the discretion of the Union legislator for further reference in this legislative procedure. • EC to explain <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ for which of the Committees for which Regulation (EU) 2021/690 (SMP) served as a basic act EC proposes <u>which</u> new basic act under MFF 2028-2024? Why? ○ for which of the Committees for which Regulation (EU) 2021/690 (SMP) served as a basic act EC proposes <u>no</u> new basic act under MFF 2028-2024? Why? ○ for which of the Committees for which other predecessor programmes of the SMCP served as a basic act EC proposes which new basic act under MFF 2028-2024? Why? ○ for which of the Committees for which other predecessor programmes of the SMCP served as a basic act EC proposes <u>no</u> new basic act under MFF 2028-2024? Why?

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As detailed above on Article 3, a number of comitology committees support EC in the implementation of Union Law in the internal market. • EC to explain which <u>one</u> Committee from its Comitology Register it deems most appropriate to fulfil a coordinating role in the control of EC implementation of this Regulation as regards its Single Market strand. <p>AT justification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AT wants to get an overview over the continuity or discontinuity of Member State involvement, so as to be able to better find its position on sectoral programmes under MFF 2028-2024. • Regulation (EU) 2021/690 (SMP) served as <u>one</u> of the predecessor programs to SMCP. • According to the Comitology Register, Regulation (EU) 2021/690 served as basic act for at least three different comitology committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ C66400 Single Market Programme –Competitiveness and Sustainability of SMEs (SMP/COSME) Committee in DG

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	<p>GROW - Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ C20400 Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed in DG SANTE - Health and Food Safety. ○ C108400 Consumer Financial Programme Committee (CFPC) 2021-2027 in DG JUST - Justice and Consumers. <p>FI (Drafting Suggestions): <u>Article 11b Evaluation</u></p> <p>FI (Comments): We propose to add an Article on Evaluation along the lines of the Article 18 of the current SMP. We think that interim and final evaluation would be appropriate taken into account that the duration of the SMPC is 7 years.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Can we expect more detailed regulation on the monitoring and evaluation of Single Market and Customs Programme?</p>

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Commission proposal bracketed provisions	Drafting Suggestions and Comments
	<p>PL (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p><u>Article 11a</u> Committee procedure</p> <p>1. The Commission shall be assisted by a committee. That committee shall be a committee within the meaning of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011.</p> <p>2. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 shall apply.</p> <p><u>Article 11b</u> Monitoring, reporting and evaluation</p> <p>In accordance with Article 13(5) of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009, the Commission shall consult the European Statistical System Committee for those parts of the interim and final evaluation reports that pertain to</p>

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Commission proposal bracketed provisions	Drafting Suggestions and Comments
	<p>actions implementing the specific objective referred to in Article 3(2)(g) of this Regulation, prior to their adoption and submission to the European Parliament and the Council.</p> <p>PL (Comments): We propose to add a new Article 11a introducing a committee procedure.</p>

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	<p>In our view the Article on monitoring, reporting and evaluation is missing, as EU programmes shall be monitored and evaluated.</p> <p>Concerning the European Statistics the provisions of the 223/2009 regulation impose on the Commission such an obligation, so the relevant provision seems to be also necessary in SMCP, similarly as it was done in SMP.</p> <p>Art. 13.5 of the 223 Regulation is as follows:</p> <p>5. For each European statistical programme, the Commission shall, after consulting the ESS Committee, present an intermediate progress report and a final evaluation report and shall submit them to the European Parliament and to the Council.</p> <p>Therefore, indicators should be included.</p> <p>PT (Comments): We propose to add a new article with the title “Committee Procedure”, to state that the Commission shall be assisted by Committee(s)</p> <p>SE</p>

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Commission proposal bracketed provisions	Drafting Suggestions and Comments
	<p>(Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p><u>2. In order to ensure the implementation of the Programmes, and without prejudice to the Financial Regulation, the Commission shall adopt implementing acts to establish multiannual work programmes. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article XX.</u></p> <p><u>NEW Article</u> <u>Committee procedure</u> <u>1. The Commission shall be assisted by a committee referred to as the Single Market Customs Programme Committee. That committee shall be a committee within the meaning of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011.</u></p> <p><u>2. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 shall apply.</u></p> <p>SK (Drafting Suggestions): <u>new Article on monitoring and reporting and Article on evaluation of the SMPC</u></p> <p>SK (Comments):</p>

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Commission proposal bracketed provisions	Drafting Suggestions and Comments
	<p><u>Article on monitoring and reporting and Article on evaluation is missing in the proposal establishing SMCP for the period 2028-2034</u></p> <p>We support to add the new article on monitoring and reporting of the SMCP, as well as an annex setting out minimum common indicators for monitoring outcome, benefits of the programmes.</p> <p>Transparency and measurable results are key to assessing the effectiveness of the programme.</p> <p>For example, for SMP 2021-2027; UAFP 2021-2027, indicators are clearly defined. The lack of indicators weakens control over implementation and does not allow Member States or the EC to assess achievements of SMCP objectives.</p>
<p><i>Article 12</i> Repeal</p>	
<p>Regulations (EU) 2021/444, (EU) 2021/690, (EU) 2021/785, (EU) 2021/847 and (EU) 2021/1077 are repealed with effect from 1 January 2028.</p>	

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Commission proposal bracketed provisions	Drafting Suggestions and Comments
<p><i>Article 13</i> Transitional provisions</p>	
<p>1. This Regulation shall not affect the continuation or modification of the actions carried out, until their closure, under Regulations (EU) 2021/444, (EU) 2021/690, (EU) 2021/785, (EU) 2021/847 and (EU) 2021/1077, which shall continue to apply to those actions.</p>	
<p>2. The financial envelope for the programme may also cover technical and administrative assistance expenses necessary to ensure the transition between the programme and the measures adopted under Regulations (EU) 2021/444, (EU) 2021/690, (EU) 2021/785, (EU) 2021/847 and (EU) 2021/1077.</p>	<p>FR (Comments): Can the Commission provide an estimate for the expenses mentioned ?</p>

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Commission proposal bracketed provisions	Drafting Suggestions and Comments
<i>Article 14</i> <i>Entry into force and application</i>	
This Regulation shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the <i>Official Journal of the European Union</i> .	
It shall apply from 1 January 2028.	
This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.	
<u>ANNEX</u> <u>Programming framework for European statistics</u>	CZ (Drafting Suggestions): <u>European Statistical Programme</u> CZ (Comments):

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Commission proposal bracketed provisions	Drafting Suggestions and Comments
	<p>See our general comment.</p> <p>DE (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p><u>Introduction</u></p> <p><u>The implementation of Union policies requires high-quality, comparable and reliable statistical information about the economic, social, territorial and environmental situation in the Union. Together with Regulation (EC) No 223/2009, and especially with reference to the professional independence of statistical institutes and the other statistical principles laid down in Article 2 of that Regulation, the Programme is intended to provide the overall framework for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics for 2028-2034. European statistics developed, produced and disseminated under this framework, will contribute to the implementation of the Union’s policies as set out in the TFEU and further reflected in the Commission’s strategic priorities. Continuous research and innovation are considered as key drivers in modernising European statistics and. Therefore, investment through</u></p>

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Commission proposal bracketed provisions	Drafting Suggestions and Comments
	<p><u>the European Statistical Programme should concentrate on the development of new methods and methodologies as well as exploring new data sources for producing statistics.</u></p> <p><u>The accompanying annual work programmes will aim to ensure that European statistics can be produced within the available resources at the national and the Union level and to achieve the best possible output. Prioritisation shall contribute to the reduction of costs and burdens for new statistical requirements by reducing statistical requirements in existing domains of European statistics.</u></p> <p>EE (Drafting Suggestions): Programming framework for European statistics European Statistical Programme</p> <p>EE (Comments): Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 establishes the European Statistical Programme, as a well-known name among stakeholders and users. Maintaining this name ensures legal certainty, clarity, and consistency for all users of European statistics.</p>

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Commission proposal bracketed provisions	Drafting Suggestions and Comments
	<p>ES (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>ANNEX</p> <p>Programming framework for European statistics</p> <p>European Statistical Programme</p> <p><u>Introduction</u></p> <p>The implementation of EU policies requires high-quality, comparable and reliable statistics on the economic, social and environmental situation at national and regional levels, as they are essential for citizens, democratic debate and decision-making. The European Statistical Programme provides the framework for developing, producing and disseminating European statistics for 2028–2034, in line with Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 and the European Statistics Code of Practice, ensuring quality standards under Article 12.</p> <p>Covering a seven-year period, the programme and the European Statistical System (ESS) will follow a cost-effective approach. The Commission will establish an effective mechanism for priority-setting</p>

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Commission proposal bracketed provisions	Drafting Suggestions and Comments
	<p>and simplification, preparing annual work programmes to define priorities, reduce costs and burdens, and ensure production within available resources in close cooperation with Member States. The ESS will maintain and improve its excellence through continuous research, innovation and investment in new methods, data sources and coordinated cooperation. In applying Article 3(2)(b), actions will include developing the programming framework under Article 13 of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 to boost the competitiveness and productivity of European businesses.</p> <p>ES (Comments): The specific objectives shall be divided into specific actions in accordance with Regulation 223/2009. The introductory context is needed to explain the users the main framework of European Statistics and the need of prioritize also in the context of the burden reduction</p> <p>FI (Drafting Suggestions):</p>

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Commission proposal bracketed provisions	Drafting Suggestions and Comments
	<p>ANNEX</p> <p>Programming framework for European statistics <u>sal programme</u></p> <p>FI (Comments): See our comment under Article 2(11).</p> <p>IT (Drafting Suggestions): Programming framework for European statistics <u>European Statistical Programme</u></p> <p>IT (Comments): Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 establishes the European Statistical Programme, as a well-known name among stakeholders and users. Maintaining this name ensures legal certainty, clarity, and consistency for all users of European statistics.</p> <p>LT (Drafting Suggestions): Programming framework for European statistics <u>European Statistical Programme</u></p>

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	<p>LT (Comments): Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 established the European Statistical Programme. The current name should be maintained to ensure legal certainty, clarity, and consistency for all users of European statistics.</p> <p>NL (Drafting Suggestions): ANNEX Programming framework for European statistics <u>European Statistical Programme</u></p> <p>PL (Drafting Suggestions): Programming framework for European statistics The European Statistical Programme</p> <p>PL (Comments): The language of the 223/2009 Regulation on European statistics should be maintained.</p>

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	<p>PT (Drafting Suggestions): Programming framework for European statistics <u>European Statistical Programme</u></p> <p>PT (Comments): PT would prefer to preserve the designation established in Regulation No 223/2009</p>
	<p>EE (Drafting Suggestions): The European statistical programme provides the framework for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics over the period 2028 to 2034, in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 223/2009</p> <p>EE (Comments): The introductory context serves to explain the users the main framework of European Statistics.</p>

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	<p>IT (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p><u>The European statistical programme provides the framework for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics over the period 2028 to 2034, in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 223/2009</u></p> <p>IT (Comments):</p> <p>The introductory context serves to explain the users the main framework of European Statistics.</p> <p>LT (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p><u>The European statistical programme provides the framework for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics over the period 2028 to 2034, in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 223/2009</u></p> <p>LT (Comments):</p> <p>LT suggests including an introduction.</p>

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	<p>NL (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p><u>The implementation of Union policies requires high-quality, comparable and reliable statistical information about the economic, social, territorial and environmental situation in the Union. Additionally, European statistics enable European citizens to understand and to participate in the democratic process and debate about the present state and future of the Union.</u></p> <p><u>Together with Regulation (EC) No 223/2009, and especially with reference to the professional independence of statistical institutes and the other statistical principles laid down in Article 2 of that Regulation, the Programme is intended to provide the overall framework for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics for [2028-2034]. European statistics are to be developed, produced and disseminated under that framework and in accordance with the</u></p>

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	<p><u>principles of the European statistics Code of Practice. That framework should respect the quality criteria referred to in Article 12(1) of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 through close and coordinated cooperation within the European Statistical System (ESS).</u></p> <p><u>The implementation of the Programme should not impose a significant additional cost or burden on respondents or national statistical authorities. To limit the administrative and financial burden on enterprises, in particular on small and medium-sized enterprises and micro-enterprises, the national statistical authorities should use all available administrative data, reusing already collected data, new data sources and technological innovation.</u></p> <p><u>Continuous research and innovation are considered as key drivers in modernising European statistics and in improving the quality of European statistics. Therefore investment through the European Statistical Programme [2028-2034] should concentrate on reusing</u></p>

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	<p><u>already collected data, development, technological innovation as well as exploring new data sources for producing statistics.</u></p> <p>NL (Comments): The specific objectives shall be divided into specific actions in accordance with Regulation No 223/2009. The introductory context is needed to explain the users the main framework of European Statistics and the need of prioritize also in the context of the burden reduction.</p> <p>PL (Drafting Suggestions): The implementation of Union policies requires high-quality, comparable and reliable statistical information about the economic, social and environmental situation in the Union and its components at national and regional level. European statistics enable European citizens to understand and to participate in the democratic process and debate about the present state and future of the Union.</p> <p>The European statistical programme provides the framework for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics over the period 2028 to 2034, in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 223/2009, and especially with the statistical principles laid down in</p>

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	<p>Article 2 of that Regulation and further elaborated in the European statistics Code of Practice and the quality criteria referred to in Article 12.</p> <p>The development of an effective priority-setting and simplification mechanism will be necessary and coherent with the cost-effective approach. In consequence, the Commission shall, in the preparation of the annual work programmes referred to in Article 10 of the Regulation (EC)223/2009, ensure effective priority-setting and an annual review of, and report on, statistical priorities in order to contribute to the reduction of costs and burdens on data providers and producers of statistics. The annual work programmes will thereby aim to ensure that European statistics can be produced within the available resources at the national and the Union level. Prioritisation shall contribute to the reduction of costs and burdens for new statistical requirements by reducing statistical requirements in existing domains of European statistics and shall be pursued in close cooperation with the Member States.</p> <p>Through the Programme, the ESS will aim to maintain and improve its level of excellence in the statistical field. Continuous research and innovation are considered as key drivers in modernising and improving the quality of European statistics. Therefore, investment through the European Statistical programme should concentrate on the development of new methods and methodologies as well as exploring new data sources for producing statistics in close and coordinated cooperation within the ESS.</p> <p>PL</p>

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	<p>(Comments):</p> <p>The introduction which explains in more detail the ESP context and scope, and also addresses the relevant provisions of the 223/2009 Regulation is proposed. Some of its elements reflect the content of initial part of the SMP Annex II, some others are based on the ESS position paper on the ESS priorities.</p> <p>SK</p> <p>(Comments):</p> <p>General comment:</p> <p>Slovakia would like to note that the Annex was expected to be aligned with the ESS Common Position on the Future and Strategic Priorities of European Statistics, as discussed within the European Statistical System, to ensure a coherent and comprehensive presentation of the agreed strategic priorities and actions.</p> <p>The draft Annex, on one hand, does not fully reflect all areas agreed in the ESS Common Position, while on the other hand, it introduces additional areas, making it thematically too broad and unbalanced.</p> <p>Greater focus on specific activities would help enhance their effective</p>

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	<p>implementation and communication to National Statistical Institutes and users of statistics.</p> <p>Slovakia reserves the right to provide further comments and opinions and to adjust its position at a later stage, depending on the progress of the negotiations and discussions.</p>
<p>The priorities of the programming framework for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics within the meaning of Article 13 of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 are the following:</p>	<p>CZ (Drafting Suggestions): The priorities of the programming framework for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics within the meaning of Article 13 of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 are the following:</p> <p>FI (Drafting Suggestions): The priorities of the programming framework <u>The main fields, objectives and actions</u> for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics within the meaning of in accordance with Articles 13 <u>and 14</u> of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 are the following and for implementing the specific objective of</p>

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	<p><u>Article 3(2)(g) of this Regulation, the following actions shall be carried out:</u></p> <p>FI (Comments): We propose to add here more extensive reference to requirements of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 while also linking this Annex to Article 3(2)(g) of this Regulation.</p> <p>IT (Drafting Suggestions): The priorities of <u>the European Statistical Programme</u> for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics within the meaning of Article 13 of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 are the following <u>shall be implemented through the following actions in pursuit of the specific objective referred to in Article 3(2)(g):</u></p> <p>IT (Comments): The specific objectives shall be implemented by means of targeted actions, in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 223/2009. While we acknowledge the objective of fostering cooperation among the various</p>

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	<p>programmes, we consider that increased granularity would significantly enhance the European statistical program’s effectiveness.</p> <p>LT (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>The priorities of <u>the European Statistical Programme</u> for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics within the meaning of Article 13 of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 are the following <u>shall be implemented through the following actions in pursuit of the specific objective referred to in Article 3(2)(g):</u></p> <p>LT (Comments):</p> <p>The specific objectives shall be implemented by means of targeted actions, in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 223/2009.</p> <p>NL (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>The priorities of the programming framework European statistical programme for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics within the meaning of Article 13 of Regulation (EC)</p>

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	<p>No 223/2009 are the following shall be implemented through the following actions in pursuit of the specific objective referred to in Article 3(2)(g):</p> <p>NL (Comments): The specific objectives shall be implemented by means of targeted actions, in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 223/2009. While we acknowledge the objective of fostering cooperation among the various programmes, we consider that increased granularity would significantly enhance the European statistical program’s effectiveness.</p> <p>PL (Drafting Suggestions): The priorities of the programming framework for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics within the meaning of Article 13 of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 are the following: <u>In implementing the specific objective referred to in Article 3(2)(g), the following actions shall be carried out:</u></p> <p>PL</p>

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Commission proposal bracketed provisions	Drafting Suggestions and Comments
	<p>(Comments):</p> <p>The specific objectives shall be implemented by means of targeted actions, in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 223/2009.</p> <p>PT</p> <p>(Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>The priorities of the programming framework, <u>main fields and objectives of the actions</u> for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics within the <u>European Statistical Programme for 2028-2034</u> meaning of Article 13 of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 are the following:</p> <p>PT</p> <p>(Comments):</p> <p>PT suggests further specifications aligned with the ESS common position on the future and strategic priorities of European statistics</p>
	<p>CZ</p> <p>(Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p><u>The implementation of Union policies requires high-quality, comparable and reliable statistical information about the economic,</u></p>

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	<p><u>social and environmental situation in the Union and its components at national and regional level.</u></p> <p><u>The European statistical programme provides the framework for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics over the period 2028 to 2034, in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 223/2009, and especially with the statistical principles laid down in Article 2 of that Regulation and further elaborated in the European statistics Code of Practice and the quality criteria referred to in Article 12.</u></p> <p><u>Given the fact that the programme is a multiannual programme covering a period of seven years, and that the European Statistical System (ESS) aims to maintain its role as a key player in the statistical field, the implementation of the programme will follow a cost-effective approach.</u></p> <p><u>The development of an effective priority-setting and simplification mechanism will be necessary. In consequence, the Commission shall, in the preparation of the annual work programmes referred to in Article 10, ensure effective priority-setting and an annual review of, and report on, statistical priorities in order to contribute to the reduction of costs and burdens on data providers and producers of statistics. The annual work programmes will thereby aim to ensure that European statistics can be produced within the available resources at the national and the Union level. Prioritisation shall contribute to the reduction of costs and burdens for new statistical requirements by reducing statistical requirements in existing</u></p>

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	<p><u>domains of European statistics and shall be pursued in close cooperation with the Member States.</u> <u>In implementing the specific objective referred to in Article 3(2)(g), the following actions shall be carried out:</u></p> <p>CZ (Comments):</p> <p>The introductory context is needed to explain the users the main framework of European Statistics and the need to prioritize also in the context of the burden reduction.</p> <p>ES (Drafting Suggestions): <u>Boosting the competitiveness and productivity of European businesses</u></p> <p>IT (Drafting Suggestions): <u>Boosting the competitiveness and productivity of European businesses</u></p> <p>LT (Drafting Suggestions): <u>Boosting the competitiveness and productivity of European businesses</u></p>

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	<p>NL (Drafting Suggestions): <u>Boosting the competitiveness and productivity of European businesses</u></p> <p>NL (Comments): Introducing a thematic heading aligned with the strategic priorities of European statistics.</p> <p>PL (Drafting Suggestions): <u>Boosting the competitiveness and productivity of European businesses</u></p>
<p>(a) revamping European business statistics and enriching the statistical evidence on the competitiveness and productivity of European businesses including small and medium-sized enterprises, and small mid-caps enterprises, innovation, trade and global value chains while limiting response burden;</p>	<p>CZ (Comments): The Czech Republic sees as a potential problem the fact that the requirements for outputs for SMEs + small mid-cap enterprises often go hand in hand with an increased burden on this sensitive segment of respondents. Many of these requirements are unlikely to be met through administrative data sources.</p> <p>DE</p>

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	<p>(Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p><u>Boosting the competitiveness and productivity of European businesses</u></p> <p>(a) ...;</p> <p>DE</p> <p>(Comments):</p> <p>We believe that an adapted structure and explicit headlines are necessary to relate the high-level statements as found in the given Annex to the concrete programme of the ESS common position on the future and strategic priorities of European statistics, since they can be clearly connected to the Annex 1 of the Common Statement.</p> <p>ES</p> <p>(Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>revamping European business statistics and enriching the statistical evidence on the competitiveness and productivity of EU industrial sector and ecosystems European businesses including small and medium-sized enterprises, and small mid-caps enterprises, their</p>

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	<p>energy intensity, and research and innovation, trade and global value chains while limiting response burden;</p> <p>aa) Enrich the statistical evidence on the global value chains, including critical raw materials, dependency ratios, indirect imports, as well as imports of clean and net-zero technologies;</p> <p>aaa) Enrich the statistical evidence on the trade in goods and services, key aspects of globalisation and foreign direct investments, and the role and characteristics of multinational enterprise groups;</p> <p>aaaa) Enrich the statistical evidence on the performance, scale-up, productivity, and resilience of enterprises, in particular SMEs and Small Mid-Cap enterprises, as well as the diffusion of digital technologies and the uptake of e commerce and Artificial Intelligence.</p> <p>IT (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>(a) revamping European business statistics and enriching the statistical evidence on the competitiveness and productivity <u>of EU industrial sector and ecosystems</u> European businesses including small and</p>

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	<p>medium-sized enterprises, and small mid-caps enterprises, energy intensity, and research and innovation trade and global value chains while limiting response burden;</p> <p><u>aa) enriching the statistical evidence on the global value chains, including critical raw materials, dependency ratios, indirect imports, as well as imports of clean and net-zero technologies;</u></p> <p><u>aaa) enriching the statistical evidence on the trade in goods and services, key aspects of globalisation and foreign direct investments, and the role and characteristics of multinational enterprise groups;</u></p> <p><u>aaaa) enriching the statistical evidence on the performance, scale-up, productivity, and resilience of enterprises, in particular SMEs and Small Mid-Cap enterprises, as well as the diffusion of digital technologies and the uptake of e-commerce and Artificial Intelligence.</u></p> <p>LT (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>(a) revamping European business statistics and enriching the statistical evidence on the competitiveness and productivity of EU industrial sector and ecosystems European businesses including small and medium-sized enterprises, and small mid-caps enterprises, energy intensity, and</p>

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Commission proposal bracketed provisions	Drafting Suggestions and Comments
	<p>research and innovation trade and global value chains while limiting response burden;</p> <p><u>aa) enriching the statistical evidence on the global value chains, including critical raw materials, dependency ratios, indirect imports, as well as imports of clean and net-zero technologies;</u></p> <p><u>aaa) enriching the statistical evidence on the trade in goods and services, key aspects of globalisation and foreign direct investments, and the role and characteristics of multinational enterprise groups;</u></p> <p><u>aaaa) enriching the statistical evidence on the performance, scale-up, productivity, and resilience of enterprises, in particular SMEs and Small Mid-Cap enterprises, as well as the diffusion of digital technologies and the uptake of e-commerce and Artificial Intelligence.</u></p> <p>PL (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>(a) revamping European business statistics and enriching the statistical evidence on the competitiveness and productivity <u>of EU industrial sector and ecosystems</u> European businesses including small and medium-sized enterprises, and small mid-caps enterprises, <u>energy intensity, and research and innovation</u> trade and global value chains while limiting response burden;</p> <p><u>aa) enriching the statistical evidence on the global value chains, including critical raw materials, dependency ratios, indirect imports, as well as imports of clean and net-zero technologies;</u></p>

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	<p><u>aaa) enriching the statistical evidence on the trade in goods and services, key aspects of globalisation and foreign direct investments, and the role and characteristics of multinational enterprise groups;</u></p> <p><u>aaaa) enriching the statistical evidence on the performance, scale-up, productivity, and resilience of enterprises, in particular SMEs and Small Mid-Cap enterprises, as well as the diffusion of digital technologies and the uptake of e-commerce and Artificial Intelligence.</u></p> <p>PT (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p><u>Boosting the competitiveness and productivity of European businesses:</u></p> <p>(a) revamping European business statistics and enriching the statistical evidence on the competitiveness and productivity of <u>EU industrial sector and ecosystems</u> European businesses including small and medium-sized enterprises, and small mid-caps enterprises, <u>their energy intensity, and research and innovation;</u> trade and global value chains while limiting response burden.</p>

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	<p><u>aa) enriching the statistical evidence on the global value chains, including critical raw materials, dependency ratios, indirect imports, as well as imports of clean and net-zero technologies;</u></p> <p><u>ab) enriching the statistical evidence on the trade in goods and services, key aspects of globalisation and foreign direct investments, and the role and characteristics of multinational enterprise groups;</u></p> <p><u>ac) enriching the statistical evidence on the performance, scale-up, productivity, and resilience of enterprises, in particular SMEs and Small Mid-Cap enterprises, as well as the diffusion of digital technologies and the uptake of e-commerce and Artificial Intelligence.</u></p>
	<p>ES (Drafting Suggestions): <u>New EU economic governance</u></p> <p>IT (Drafting Suggestions): <u>New EU economic governance</u></p> <p>LT</p>

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	<p>(Drafting Suggestions): <u>New EU economic governance</u></p> <p>NL (Drafting Suggestions): <u>New EU economic governance</u></p> <p>NL (Comments): Introducing a thematic heading aligned with the strategic priorities of European statistics.</p> <p>PL (Drafting Suggestions): <u>New EU economic governance</u></p>
<p>(b) providing comprehensive macro-economic statistics underpinning EU economic governance, investments, the Excessive Deficit Procedure, EU own resources, and updating the European System of Accounts to better reflect wellbeing and sustainability in macroeconomic statistics in line with the global System of National Accounts 2025 (SNA2025);</p>	<p>CZ (Drafting Suggestions): (b) providing comprehensive macro-economic statistics underpinning EU economic governance, investments, the Excessive Deficit Procedure, EU own resources, and updating the European System of Accounts to better reflect digitalisation, globalisation, wellbeing and sustainability in macroeconomic statistics in line with the global System of National Accounts 2025 (SNA2025);</p>

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	<p>CZ (Comments):</p> <p>The update of the European System of Accounts should better reflect not only wellbeing and sustainability, but also digitalization and globalization, which were important topics in the revision of the System of National Accounts.</p> <p>DE (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p><u>New EU economic governance, investments</u></p> <p>(b) providing reliable comprehensive macro-economic statistics and accounts underpinning EU economic governance, investments, the Excessive Deficit Procedure, EU own resources, and updating the European System of Accounts to better reflect wellbeing and sustainability in macroeconomic statistics in line with the global System of National Accounts 2025 (SNA2025);</p> <p>(c) improving the timeliness of housing price statistics and providing statistics on commercial real estate developments;</p> <p>ES (Drafting Suggestions):</p>

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	<p>b) providing comprehensive macro-economic statistics underpinning EU economic governance, and investments, the Excessive Deficit Procedure, EU own resources, and updating the European System of Accounts to better reflect wellbeing and sustainability in macroeconomic statistics in line with the global System of National Accounts 2025 (SNA2025</p> <p>IT (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>(b) providing comprehensive macro-economic statistics underpinning EU economic governance, and investments, the Excessive Deficit Procedure, EU own resources, and updating the European System of Accounts to better reflect wellbeing and sustainability in macroeconomic statistics in line with the global System of National Accounts 2025 (SNA2025</p> <p><u>bb) updating the European System of Accounts to better reflect wellbeing and sustainability issues in macroeconomic statistics in line with the global system of national accounts (SNA 2025);</u></p> <p><u>bbb) providing data and statistics that underpin the design of EU's own resources for the post-2027 MFF;</u></p>

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	<p><u>bbbb) updating the Balance of Payments methodology to provide deeper insights into recent globalisation and digitalisation developments;</u></p> <p><u>bbbbb) providing advanced methodological guidance for the comparable statistical recording of public and private investments;</u></p> <p>⊕ <u>bbbbb)</u> improving the timeliness of housing price statistics and providing statistics on commercial real estate developments</p> <p>LT <u>(Drafting Suggestions):</u></p> <p>(b) providing comprehensive macro-economic statistics underpinning EU economic governance, and investments, the Excessive Deficit Procedure, EU own resources, and updating the European System of Accounts to better reflect wellbeing and sustainability in macroeconomic statistics in line with the global System of National Accounts 2025 (SNA2025)</p> <p><u>bb) updating the European System of Accounts to better reflect wellbeing and sustainability issues in macroeconomic statistics in line with the global system of national accounts (SNA 2025);</u></p> <p><u>bbb) providing data and statistics that underpin the design of EU's own resources for the post-2027 MFF;</u></p>

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	<p><u>bbb) updating the Balance of Payments methodology to provide deeper insights into recent globalisation and digitalisation developments;</u></p> <p><u>bbbb) providing advanced methodological guidance for the comparable statistical recording of public and private investments;</u></p> <p>⇨ <u>bbbbb) improving the timeliness of housing price statistics and providing statistics on commercial real estate developments</u></p> <p>PL (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>(b) providing comprehensive macro-economic statistics underpinning EU economic governance, and investments, the Excessive Deficit Procedure, EU own resources, and updating the European System of Accounts to better reflect wellbeing and sustainability in macroeconomic statistics in line with the global System of National Accounts 2025 (SNA2025)</p> <p><u>bb) Provide comprehensive macroeconomic statistics that underpin the European Deficit Procedure (EDP);</u></p> <p><u>bb) updating the European System of Accounts to better reflect wellbeing and sustainability issues in macroeconomic statistics in line with the global system of national accounts (SNA 2025);</u></p> <p><u>bbb) providing data and statistics that underpin the design of EU's own resources for the post-2027 MFF;</u></p>

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	<p><u>bbbb) updating the Balance of Payments methodology to provide deeper insights into recent globalisation and digitalisation developments;</u></p> <p><u>bbbbb) providing advanced methodological guidance for the comparable statistical recording of public and private investments;</u></p> <p>Ⓔ) <u>bbbbb)</u> improving the timeliness of housing price statistics and providing statistics on commercial real estate developments</p> <p>PT <u>(Drafting Suggestions):</u></p> <p><u>New EU economic governance:</u></p> <p>(b) providing comprehensive macro-economic statistics underpinning EU economic governance, investments, the Excessive Deficit Procedure, EU own resources, and updating the European System of Accounts to better reflect wellbeing and sustainability in macroeconomic statistics in line with the global System of National Accounts 2025 (SNA2025);</p> <p><u>ba) providing comprehensive macroeconomic statistics that underpin the European Deficit Procedure (EDP);</u></p>

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	<p><u>bb) updating the European System of Accounts to better reflect wellbeing and sustainability issues in macroeconomic statistics in line with the global system of national accounts (SNA 2025);</u></p> <p><u>bc) providing data and statistics that underpin the design of EU’s own resources;</u></p> <p><u>bd) updating the Balance of Payments methodology to provide deeper insights into recent globalisation and digitalisation developments;</u></p> <p><u>be) providing advanced methodological guidance for the comparable statistical recording of public and private investments;</u></p> <p>(d) improving the timeliness of housing price statistics and providing statistics on commercial real estate developments;</p>
	<p>ES (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>bb) Update the European System of Accounts to better reflect wellbeing and sustainability issues in macroeconomic statistics in line with the global system of national accounts (SNA 2025);</p>

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	<p>bbb) Provide data and statistics that underpin the design of EU’s own resources for the post-2027 MFF;</p> <p>bbbb) Update the Balance of Payments methodology to provide deeper insights into recent globalisation and digitalisation developments;</p> <p>bbbbb) Provide advanced methodological guidance for the comparable statistical recording of public and private investments</p> <p>(d) Improve the timeliness of housing price statistics and provide statistics on commercial real estate developments, as well as provide robust and timely evidence for the purposes of EU monetary policy;</p> <p>IT (Drafting Suggestions): <u>Defence and security</u></p> <p>LT (Drafting Suggestions): <u>Defence and security</u></p> <p>NL (Drafting Suggestions):</p>

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	<p><u>Defence and security</u></p> <p>NL (Comments): Introducing a thematic heading aligned with the strategic priorities of European statistics.</p> <p>PL (Drafting Suggestions): <u>Defence and security</u></p>
<p>(c) providing comparable European statistics on defence expenditure and investments, and the defence and space industries;</p>	<p>CZ (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>(c) providing comparable European statistics on defence expenditure and investments, and developing statistics on the defence and space industries;</p> <p>CZ (Comments): We believe that the goal should be to first analyse the feasibility and possible data sources for statistics on the defence and space industries and then to develop adequate methodologies before saying that we are able to provide comparable statistics on this topic.</p>

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	<p>DE (Drafting Suggestions): <u>Defence and security</u> (d) providing comparable European statistics on defence expenditure and investments, and the defence and space industries, <u>while safeguarding data confidentiality.</u></p> <p>ES (Drafting Suggestions): <u>Defence and security</u> (c) providing comparable European statistics on defence expenditure and investments, and the defence and space industries; cc) Elaborate the methodological guidance for the recording of government finance statistics, including the statistical treatment of joint defence procurements;</p> <p>IT (Drafting Suggestions): c) providing comparable European statistics on defence expenditure and investments, and the defence and space industries <u>and their supply</u></p>

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	<p><u>chains by using microdata linking, while safeguarding data confidentiality</u></p> <p><u>cc) elaborating the methodological guidance for the recording of government finance statistics, including the statistical treatment of joint defence procurements;</u></p> <p>LT (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>c) providing comparable European statistics on defence expenditure and investments, and the defence and space industries <u>and their supply chains.</u></p> <p>NL (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>(e) — providing comparable European statistics on defence expenditure and investments, and the defence and space industries;</p> <p>NL (Comments):</p> <p>Moved to the heading Fairness, cohesion, and democracy under point (ee).</p> <p>PL</p>

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Commission proposal bracketed provisions	Drafting Suggestions and Comments
	<p>(Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>c) providing comparable European statistics on defence expenditure and investments, and the defence and space industries <u>and their supply chains by using microdata linking, while safeguarding data confidentiality</u></p> <p><u>cc) elaborating the methodological guidance for the recording of government finance statistics, including the statistical treatment of joint defence procurements;</u></p> <p>PT</p> <p>(Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>(e) — providing comparable European statistics on defence expenditure and investments, and the defence and space industries;</p> <p>PT</p> <p>(Comments):</p> <p>Moved into the heading below on “Defence and Security”</p>
<p>(d) improving the timeliness of housing price statistics and providing statistics on commercial real estate developments;</p>	<p>CZ</p> <p>(Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>(d) improving the timeliness of housing price statistics and providing statistics on commercial real estate developments;</p>

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	<p>CZ (Comments): The Czech Republic proposes deleting the reference to the provision of statistics on commercial real estate developments since the benefits of these statistics are limited. The number of users is low and the burden on respondents and MSs for producing these statistics will be high.</p> <p>DE (Drafting Suggestions): see new (c)</p> <p>ES (Drafting Suggestions): (d) — improving the timeliness of housing price statistics and providing statistics on commercial real estate developments;</p> <p>ES (Comments): Moved to section “<u>New EU economic governance</u>”</p> <p>IT (Drafting Suggestions): d) improving the timeliness of housing price statistics and providing statistics on commercial real estate developments</p>

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	<p>LT (Drafting Suggestions): (d) — improving the timeliness of housing price statistics and providing statistics on commercial real estate developments;</p> <p>PL (Drafting Suggestions): d) improving the timeliness of housing price statistics and providing statistics on commercial real estate developments</p> <p>PT (Drafting Suggestions): d) — improving the timeliness of housing price statistics and providing statistics on commercial real estate developments;</p> <p><u>Green transition and sustainable development:</u> (g) consolidating statistics on environment, climate change mitigation <u>in both the public and private sectors, as well as in ecosystem services and environmental footprints</u> and adaptation, green transition,</p>

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	<p>circularity, clean technologies, agriculture, fisheries, energy, transport and regional developments;</p> <p><u>ga) providing the relevant statistical basis for the monitoring of EU progress in achieving the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and UN Pact for the Future;</u></p> <p><u>gb) enhancing the statistics on energy consumption and dependency, and on the production and role of renewable energy;</u></p> <p><u>gc) capturing new mobility patterns and emerging technologies and explore the opportunities for increasing connectivity and digitalisation in transport and mobility;</u></p> <p><u>gd) providing comprehensive agricultural, fisheries, and aquaculture statistics to meet the needs of the evolving Common Agricultural and Fisheries Policies, while limiting the response burden on farmers and national administrations through the increased use of administrative and innovative data sources;</u></p>

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Commission proposal bracketed provisions	Drafting Suggestions and Comments
	<p><u>ge) improving information on land cover and land use, landscape, and the quality of grassland and soil in Europe using innovative sources and Earth Observation data.</u></p> <p>PT (Comments): Moved into the heading on “New EU Economic Governance” above.</p>
	<p>ES (Drafting Suggestions): <u>Fairness, cohesion, and democracy</u></p> <p>IT (Drafting Suggestions): <u>Fairness, cohesion, and democracy</u></p> <p>LT (Drafting Suggestions): <u>Fairness, cohesion, and democracy</u></p> <p>NL (Drafting Suggestions): <u>Fairness, cohesion, and democracy</u></p>

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	<p>NL (Comments): Introducing a thematic heading aligned with the strategic priorities of European statistics.</p> <p>PL (Drafting Suggestions): <u>Fairness, cohesion, and democracy</u></p>
<p>(e) enriching the statistical evidence regarding affordable and sustainable housing;</p>	<p>CZ (Drafting Suggestions): (e) aiming at enriching the statistical evidence regarding affordable and sustainable housing;</p> <p>CZ (Comments): It is not clear what is meant by this point in terms of statistics and the Czech Republic does not have a usable data source on the housing stock.</p> <p>DE (Drafting Suggestions): <u>Fairness, cohesion, and democracy</u></p> <p>(e) ...</p>

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	<p>(f) ...</p> <p>(g) providing statistics on demographic changes in the EU, and on immigration and emigration, based on improved and harmonised methodologies and re-using administrative and new digital data sources;</p> <p>ES (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>(e) enriching the statistical evidence regarding affordable and sustainable housing and related aspects such as energy poverty, housing supply, and short-term accommodation rentals;</p> <p>IT (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>e) enriching the statistical evidence regarding affordable and sustainable housing <u>and related aspects such as energy poverty, housing supply, and short-term accommodation rentals;</u></p> <p>h) ee) providing statistics on demographic changes in the EU, and on immigration and emigration, based on improved and harmonised methodologies and re-using administrative and new digital data sources;</p> <p>LT</p>

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Commission proposal bracketed provisions	Drafting Suggestions and Comments
	<p>(Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>e) enriching the statistical evidence regarding affordable and sustainable housing <u>and related aspects such as energy poverty, housing supply, and short-term accommodation rentals;</u></p> <p>h) <u>ee)</u> providing statistics on demographic changes in the EU, and on immigration and emigration, based on improved and harmonised methodologies and re-using administrative and new digital data sources;</p> <p>NL</p> <p>(Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>(e) enriching the statistical evidence regarding affordable and sustainable housing <u>and related aspects such as energy poverty, housing supply, and short-term accommodation rentals;</u></p> <p><u>(ee) improving the timeliness of housing price statistics and providing statistics on commercial real estate developments;</u></p> <p><u>(eee) providing statistics on demographic changes in the EU, and on immigration and emigration, based on improved and harmonised</u></p>

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	<p><u>methodologies and re-using administrative and new digital data sources;</u></p> <p>PL (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>e) enriching the statistical evidence regarding affordable and sustainable housing <u>and related aspects such as energy poverty, housing supply, and short-term accommodation rentals;</u></p> <p>h) ee) providing statistics on demographic changes in the EU, and on immigration and emigration, based on improved and harmonised methodologies and re-using administrative and new digital data sources;</p> <p>PT (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p><u>Fairness, cohesion, and democracy:</u></p> <p>e) enriching the statistical evidence regarding affordable and sustainable housing <u>and related aspects such as energy poverty, housing supply, and short-term accommodation rentals;</u></p>

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	<p>(f) implementing the programme of social statistics including ad-hoc modules for the EU labour force survey and statistics on income and living conditions;</p> <p><u>fa) integrating fairness aspects into the development of statistics on the labour market, education, skills, and the distribution of household income, consumption, and wealth;</u></p> <p><u>fb) providing statistics on equality by grounds of discrimination and on gender-based violence;</u></p> <p><u>fc) enriching health statistics with new data sources and methods, and provide statistics on health inequalities, mental health, long-term care, and healthcare resources;</u></p> <p><u>fd) enhancing the availability of statistics on EU cities and rural areas, including geo localised and gridded data, to provide better insights into inequalities and variations in living conditions, income, employment, education, healthcare, digital skills, and access to services and</u></p>

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	<p><u>infrastructure, as well as to support Europe’s Civilian and Defence Preparedness and Readiness and emergency and disaster responses;</u></p> <p>(h) providing statistics on demographic changes in the EU, and on immigration and emigration, based on improved and harmonised methodologies and re-using administrative and new digital data sources;</p>
<p>(f) implementing the programme of social statistics including ad-hoc modules for the EU labour force survey and statistics on income and living conditions;</p>	<p>DE (Drafting Suggestions): see above</p> <p>ES (Drafting Suggestions): (f) implementing the programme of social statistics including ad-hoc modules for the EU labour force survey and statistics on income and living conditions;</p> <p>IT (Drafting Suggestions):</p>

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	<p>f) implementing the programme of social statistics including ad-hoc modules for the EU labour force survey and statistics on income and living conditions;</p> <p><u>ff) integrating fairness aspects into the development of statistics on the labour market, education, skills, and the distribution of household income, consumption, and wealth;</u></p> <p><u>fff) providing statistics on equality by grounds of discrimination and on gender-based violence;</u></p> <p><u>ffff) enriching health statistics with new data sources and methods, and provide statistics on health inequalities, mental health, long-term care, and healthcare resources;</u></p> <p><u>fffff) enhancing the availability of statistics on EU cities and rural areas, including geo localised and gridded data, to provide better insights into inequalities and variations in living conditions, income, employment, education, healthcare, digital skills, and access to services and infrastructure, as well as to support Europe’s Civilian and Defence Preparedness and Readiness and emergency and disaster response.</u></p> <p>LT (Drafting Suggestions):</p>

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	<p>f) implementing the programme of social statistics including ad-hoc modules for the EU labour force survey and statistics on income and living conditions;</p> <p><u>ff) integrating fairness aspects into the development of statistics on the labour market, education, skills, and the distribution of household income, consumption, and wealth;</u></p> <p><u>fff) providing statistics on equality by grounds of discrimination and on gender-based violence;</u></p> <p><u>ffff) enriching health statistics with new data sources and methods, and provide statistics on health inequalities, mental health, long-term care, and healthcare resources;</u></p> <p><u>fffff) enhancing the availability of statistics on EU cities and rural areas, including geo localised and gridded data, to provide better insights into inequalities and variations in living conditions, income, employment, education, healthcare, digital skills, and access to services and infrastructure, as well as to support Europe's Civilian and Defence Preparedness and Readiness and emergency and disaster response.</u></p> <p>PL</p>

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	<p>(Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>f) implementing the programme of social statistics including ad-hoc modules for the EU labour force survey and statistics on income and living conditions;</p> <p><u>ff) integrating fairness aspects into the development of statistics on the labour market, education, skills, and the distribution of household income, consumption, and wealth;</u></p> <p><u>fff) providing statistics on equality by grounds of discrimination and on gender-based violence;</u></p> <p><u>ffff) enriching health statistics with new data sources and methods, and provide statistics on health inequalities, mental health, long-term care, and healthcare resources;</u></p> <p><u>fffff) enhancing the availability of statistics on EU cities and rural areas, including geo localised and gridded data, to provide better insights into inequalities and variations in living conditions, income, employment, education, healthcare, digital skills, and access to services and infrastructure, as well as to support Europe's Civilian and Defence Preparedness and Readiness and emergency and disaster response.</u></p> <p>PT</p> <p>(Drafting Suggestions):</p>

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	<p>(f) — implementing the programme of social statistics including ad hoc modules for the EU labour force survey and statistics on income and living conditions;</p> <p>PT (Comments): Moved into heading on “Fairness, cohesion, and democracy” above.</p>
	<p>ES (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>ff) Integrate fairness aspects into the development of statistics on the labour market, education, skills, and the distribution of household income, consumption, and wealth;</p> <p>fff) Provide statistics on equality by grounds of discrimination and on gender-based violence;</p> <p>ffff) Enrich health statistics with new data sources and methods, and provide statistics on health inequalities, mental health, long-term care, and healthcare resources;</p> <p>fffff) Enhance the availability of statistics on EU cities and rural areas, including geo localised and gridded data, to provide better</p>

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	<p>insights into inequalities and variations in living conditions, income, employment, education, healthcare, digital skills, and access to services and infrastructure, as well as to support Europe’s Civilian and Defence Preparedness and Readiness and emergency and disaster responses.</p> <p>(h) providing statistics on demographic changes in the EU, and on immigration and emigration, based on improved and harmonised methodologies and re-using administrative and new digital data sources;</p> <p>IT (Drafting Suggestions): <u>Green transition and sustainable development</u></p> <p>LT (Drafting Suggestions): <u>Green transition and sustainable development</u></p> <p>NL (Drafting Suggestions):</p>

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	<p><u>Green transition and sustainable development</u></p> <p>NL (Comments): Introducing a thematic heading aligned with the strategic priorities of European statistics.</p> <p>PL (Drafting Suggestions):</p>
<p>(g) consolidating statistics on environment, climate change mitigation and adaptation, green transition, circularity, clean technologies, agriculture, fisheries, energy, transport and regional developments;</p>	<p><u>Green transition and sustainable development</u></p> <p>DE (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p><u>Green transition and sustainable development</u></p> <p>(h) consolidating statistics on environment, climate change mitigation and adaptation and adaptation, green transition, circularity, clean technologies, agriculture, fisheries, energy, transport and regional developments;</p> <p>ES (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p><u>Green transition and sustainable development:</u></p>

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	<p>(g) consolidating statistics on environment, climate change mitigation and adaptation in both the public and private sectors, as well as in ecosystem services and environmental footprints,, green transition, eircularity, clean technologies, agriculture, fisheries, energy, transport and regional developments;</p> <p>IT (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>(g) consolidating statistics on environment, climate change mitigation and adaptation <u>in both public and private sectors, as well as in ecosystem services and environmental footprints,</u> green transition, circularity, clean technologies, agriculture, fisheries, energy, transport and regional developments;</p> <p><u>gg) enhancing the statistics on energy consumption and dependency, and on the production and role of renewable energy;</u></p> <p><u>ggg) capturing new mobility patterns and emerging technologies, and exploring the opportunities for increasing connectivity and digitalisation in transport and mobility;</u></p> <p><u>gggg) providing comprehensive agricultural, fisheries, and aquaculture statistics to meet the needs of the evolving Common Agricultural and Fisheries Policies, while limiting the response</u></p>

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	<p><u>burden on farmers and national administrations through the increased use of administrative and innovative data sources; ggggg) improving information on land cover and land use, landscape, and the quality of grassland and soil in Europe using innovative sources and Earth Observation data</u></p> <p>LT (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>(g) consolidating statistics on environment, climate change mitigation and adaptation <u>in both public and private sectors, as well as in ecosystem services and environmental footprints,</u> green transition, circularity, clean technologies, agriculture, fisheries, energy, transport and regional developments;</p> <p><u>gg) enhancing the statistics on energy consumption and dependency, and on the production and role of renewable energy;</u></p> <p><u>ggg) capturing new mobility patterns and emerging technologies, and exploring the opportunities for increasing connectivity and digitalisation in transport and mobility;</u></p> <p><u>gggg) providing comprehensive agricultural, fisheries, and aquaculture statistics to meet the needs of the evolving Common Agricultural and Fisheries Policies, while limiting the response burden on farmers and national administrations through the increased use of administrative and innovative data sources;</u></p>

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	<p><u>ggggg) improving information on land cover and land use, landscape, and the quality of grassland and soil in Europe using innovative sources and Earth Observation data.</u></p> <p>PL (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>(g) consolidating statistics on environment, climate change mitigation and adaptation <u>in both public and private sectors, as well as in ecosystem services and environmental footprints,</u> green transition, circularity, clean technologies, agriculture, fisheries, energy, transport and regional developments;</p> <p><u>gg) Provide the relevant statistical basis for the monitoring of EU progress in achieving the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and UN Pact for the Future;</u></p> <p><u>ggg) enhancing the statistics on energy consumption and dependency, and on the production and role of renewable energy;</u></p> <p><u>gggg) capturing new mobility patterns and emerging technologies, and exploring the opportunities for increasing connectivity and digitalisation in transport and mobility;</u></p> <p><u>ggggg) providing comprehensive agricultural, fisheries, and aquaculture statistics to meet the needs of the evolving Common Agricultural and Fisheries Policies, while limiting the response burden on farmers and national administrations through the increased use of administrative and innovative data sources;</u></p>

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	<p><u>gggggg) improving information on land cover and land use, landscape, and the quality of grassland and soil in Europe using innovative sources and Earth Observation data</u></p> <p>PT (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>g) — consolidating statistics on environment, climate change mitigation and adaptation, green transition, circularity, clean technologies, agriculture, fisheries, energy, transport and regional developments;</p> <p>PT (Comments):</p> <p>Moved into the heading on “Green transition and sustainable development” above.</p>
	<p>ES (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p>gg) Provide the relevant statistical basis for the monitoring of EU progress in achieving the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and UN Pact for the Future;</p> <p>ggg) Enhance the statistics on energy consumption and dependency, and on the production and role of renewable energy;</p>

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	<p>gggg) Capture new mobility patterns and emerging technologies, and explore the opportunities for increasing connectivity and digitalisation in transport and mobility;</p> <p>gggggg) Provide comprehensive agricultural, fisheries, and aquaculture statistics to meet the needs of the evolving Common Agricultural and Fisheries Policies, while limiting the response burden on farmers and national administrations through the increased use of administrative and innovative data sources;</p> <p>ggggggg) Improve information on land cover and land use, landscape, and the quality of grassland and soil in Europe using innovative sources and Earth Observation data.</p>
<p>(h) providing statistics on demographic changes in the EU, and on immigration and emigration, based on improved and harmonised methodologies and re-using administrative and new digital data sources;</p>	<p>DE (Drafting Suggestions): see above, new (g)</p> <p>ES (Drafting Suggestions): (h) — providing statistics on demographic changes in the EU, and on immigration and emigration, based on improved and harmonised</p>

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	<p>methodologies and re-using administrative and new digital data sources;</p> <p>ES (Comments): Moved to “<u>Fairness, cohesion, and democracy</u>” section.</p> <p>IT (Drafting Suggestions): h) providing statistics on demographic changes in the EU, and on immigration and emigration, based on improved and harmonised methodologies and re-using administrative and new digital data sources;</p> <p>LT (Drafting Suggestions): providing statistics on demographic changes in the EU, and on immigration and emigration, based on improved and harmonised methodologies and re-using administrative and new digital data sources;</p> <p>NL (Drafting Suggestions):</p>

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	<p>(h) — providing statistics on demographic changes in the EU, and on immigration and emigration, based on improved and harmonised methodologies and re-using administrative and new digital data sources;</p> <p>NL (Comments): Moved to the heading Fairness, cohesion, and democracy under point (eee).</p> <p>PT (Drafting Suggestions): (h) — providing statistics on demographic changes in the EU, and on immigration and emigration, based on improved and harmonised methodologies and re-using administrative and new digital data sources;</p> <p>PT (Comments): Moved into the heading on “Fairness, cohesion, and democracy” above.</p>
	<p>ES (Drafting Suggestions):</p>

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Commission proposal bracketed provisions	Drafting Suggestions and Comments
	<p><u>Partnership and reinforcement of the European Statistical System</u> IT (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p><u>Partnership and reinforcement of the European Statistical System</u> LT (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p><u>Partnership and reinforcement of the European Statistical System</u> NL (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p><u>Partnership and reinforcement of the European Statistical System</u> NL (Comments): Introducing a thematic heading aligned with the strategic priorities of European statistics.</p> <p>PL (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p><u>Partnership and reinforcement of the European Statistical System</u> PT (Drafting Suggestions):</p>

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Commission proposal bracketed provisions	Drafting Suggestions and Comments
	<p><u>Defence and security:</u></p> <p>(c) providing comparable European statistics on defence expenditure and investments, and the defence and space industries <u>and their supply chains by using microdata linking, and while safeguarding data confidentiality;</u></p> <p><u>ca) elaborating the methodological guidance for the recording of government finance statistics, including the statistical treatment of joint defence procurements.</u></p>
<p>(i) fostering innovation in the European Statistical System and reducing the statistical reporting burden by leveraging new data sources, including from the EU’s Earth observation flagship Copernicus and ethical use of digital technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI), implementing the once-only principle and further digitalisation of data collections, and revising the EU statistical legislative framework;</p>	<p>DE</p> <p><u>(Drafting Suggestions):</u></p> <p><u>Partnership and reinforcement of the European Statistical System</u></p> <p>(i) fostering innovation in the European Statistical System and reducing the statistical reporting burden by leveraging new data sources, including from the EU’s Earth observation flagship Copernicus and ethical use of digital technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI), implementing the once-only principle and further digitalisation of data</p>

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Commission proposal bracketed provisions	Drafting Suggestions and Comments
	<p>collections, and revising the EU statistical legislative framework <u>while reducing burden on businesses and administrative burden</u>;</p> <p>PT (Drafting Suggestions):</p> <p><u>Partnership and reinforcement of the European Statistical System:</u></p> <p>(i) fostering innovation in the European Statistical System, <u>including capacity-building mechanisms</u>, and reducing the statistical reporting burden by leveraging new data sources, including from the EU’s Earth observation flagship Copernicus and ethical use of digital technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI), implementing the once-only principle and further digitalisation of data collections, and revising the EU statistical legislative framework;</p> <p>PT (Comments):</p> <p>Points (j) to (m) to be included also under the heading on “Partnership and reinforcement of the European Statistical System”.</p>

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(j) developing quality frameworks that cater for multisource and AI-based statistics and enhancing the contribution to the Common European Data Spaces in line with statistical principles and legislation;	AT (Comments): AT: We would like to have clarification on what is meant by AI-based solutions
(k) improving dissemination and communication of European statistics including through AI-based search engines, enhancing their role in the fight against disinformation and improving data literacy;	
(l) supporting national statistical authorities of the enlargement countries in the accession path to the EU and strengthening international statistical partnerships;	
(m) continuous dialogue with users and horizon scanning to better understand evolving data needs and to adapt priorities to keep European statistics relevant and trustworthy. <p style="text-align: center;">END</p>	AT (Drafting Suggestions): <p style="text-align: right;">END</p>

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	<p>AT (Comments): END</p> <p>BE (Drafting Suggestions): END</p> <p>BE (Comments): END</p> <p>CZ (Drafting Suggestions): END</p> <p>CZ (Comments): END</p> <p>DE (Drafting Suggestions): END</p>

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Commission proposal bracketed provisions	Drafting Suggestions and Comments
	<p>DE (Comments): END</p> <p>EE (Drafting Suggestions): END</p> <p>EE (Comments): END</p> <p>EL (Drafting Suggestions): END</p> <p>EL (Comments): END</p> <p>ES (Drafting Suggestions): END</p>

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	<p>ES (Comments): END</p> <p>FI (Drafting Suggestions): END</p> <p>FI (Comments): END</p> <p>FR (Drafting Suggestions): END</p> <p>FR (Comments): END</p> <p>HU (Drafting Suggestions): END</p>

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	<p>HU (Comments): END</p> <p>IE (Drafting Suggestions): END</p> <p>IE (Comments): END</p> <p>IT (Drafting Suggestions): END</p> <p>IT (Comments): END</p> <p>LT (Drafting Suggestions): END</p>

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	<p>LT (Comments): END</p> <p>NL (Drafting Suggestions): END</p> <p>NL (Comments): END</p> <p>PL (Drafting Suggestions): END</p> <p>PL (Comments): END</p> <p>PT (Drafting Suggestions): END</p>

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	<p>PT (Comments): END</p> <p>SE (Drafting Suggestions): END</p> <p>SE (Comments): END</p> <p>SI (Drafting Suggestions): END</p> <p>SI (Comments): END</p> <p>SK (Drafting Suggestions): END</p>

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Commission proposal bracketed provisions	Drafting Suggestions and Comments
	SK (Comments): END