

Report of the Spanish Presidency

30th June 2010

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1. Introduction

During the Spanish Presidency of the EU Council, five statistical proposals arrived at the Council, the first one in February. Therefore, due to calendar reasons the three first planned meetings had to be cancelled. The final calendar is detailed in item 3 of this report.

The most important challenges of the Spanish Presidency were the approval in a very short period of the proposal aimed at enlarging the auditing powers of Eurostat (EDP proposal) and facing the consequences of the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty.

The Tourism dossier was the first statistical dossier containing the delegation of powers to the Commission. The discussion at the Council Working Party on Statistics (CWPS) focused on the introduction of some limits to such delegation and the definition, dossier by dossier, of what it can be considered as an essential element of the basic legal act. Much progress was achieved during the Presidency, but there is still room for discussion regarding this important item.

More details on the discussions by dossier in the CWPS are described in item 2 of this report.

The Spanish Presidency created a web page for providing information about the activity at the CWPS (http://www.ine.es/en/ue2010/inicio_en.htm), as well as on important statistical documents and relevant news.

2. Legislative Dossiers.

A. OVERVIEW

Final Stage		
<p>Proposal for a Regulation of the Council amending regulation N°479/2009 as regards the quality of statistical data in the context of the excessive deficit procedure.</p>	COM (2010) 53	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Commission adoption</u>: 15.02.2010 - <u>Council discussion</u>: 08.04.2010, 29.04.2010, 19.05.2010 - <u>Coreper</u>: 02.06.2010 - <u>Ecofin</u>: 08.06.2010 - <u>EP Committee</u>: 28.06.2010 - <u>EP Plenary</u>: <i>Expected 06.07.2010</i>
Completed at Council Working Party level		
<p>Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on statistical returns in respect of carriage of goods and passengers by sea.</p>	COM (2010) 65	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Commission adoption</u>: 8.03.2010 - <u>Council discussion</u>: 29.04.2010 - <u>EP Committee</u>: 22.06.2010 - <u>EP Plenary</u>: <i>Expected 07.09.2010</i>
Further discussion at Council Working Party required		
<p>Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on tourism statistics (replacing Council Directive 95/575/EC).</p>	COM (2010) 117	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Commission adoption</u>: 29.03.2010 - <u>Council discussion</u>: 19.05.2010, 1.06.2010, 22.06.2010
<p>Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on European Environmental Accounts.</p>	COM (2010) 132	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Commission adoption</u>: 9.04.2010 - <u>Council discussion</u>: 1.06.2010, 22.06.2010 - <u>EP Committee</u>: <i>Expected 09.11.2010</i> - <u>EP Plenary</u>: <i>Expected 13.12.2010</i>
To be discussed at the Council Working Party		
<p>Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning European statistics on permanent crops.</p>	COM (2010) 249	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Commission adoption</u>: 21.05.2010

B. PROGRESS REPORT

Legislative Dossier. COM (2010) 53 ("EDP")

Proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 479/2009 as regards the quality of statistical data in the context of the excessive deficit procedure		
Procedure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Legal Basis: TFEU 126-p14 — Legislative Procedure: Qualified majority at the Council and consultation to the EP. 	
Stages in the procedure	Commission	Commission adoption: 15.02.2010
	Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — SCS/EFC: Written opinion: 01.03.2010 — EFC Opinion: 04.03.2010 — STATIS WP: 08.04.2010, 29.04.2010, 19.05.2010 — ECOFIN: 08.06.2010 (adoption)
	European Parliament	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Consultation Requested by the Council: 05.03.2010 — Committee responsible: Economic and Monetary Affairs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rapporteur: Karas Othmar (PPE) — Vote in Committee: 28.06.2010 — Vote in Plenary: <i>expected 06.07.2010</i>
	ECB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Consultation Requested by the Council: 05.03.2010 — ECB Opinion: 31.03.2010

Summary:

The Commission adopted the proposal on 15th of February 2010 and sent it to the Council and the European Parliament.

The Sub-committee on Statistics of the Economic and Financial Committee (SCS/EFC) submitted a written consultation to its members on 26th February in order to prepare the discussion at the EFC meeting of 4-5 March. On 4th March, the ECF delivered an Opinion on this proposal expressing its intention of taking up the issue again in May/June.

The Council asked for the opinion of the European Parliament and of the European Central Bank on 5th March. The ECB submitted its opinion of 31st March 2010.

After an informal written consultation to the Member States this dossier was discussed at the meeting of the Council Working Party on Statistics (STATIS) on 8th April 2010.

At the meeting of 8th April, there was a general agreement among the delegations in the fact that the regular notifications and the dialogue visits should remain as they are under the current legal framework and that the Commission (Eurostat) will have a wider access to all the needed information in the methodological visits, if the criteria to decide that there are significant risk or problems are clearly defined in the regulation. Delegations and Commission agreed that the list of criteria should not be exhaustive and that the criteria have to be general and, at the same time, technical (statistical). There were also other issues related with the methodological visits (article 11), with the participation of national experts (article 12.1) and with article 16.2.

Taking into account the comments made by the Commission, the Member States and the ECB during the meeting, the Spanish Presidency submitted a Working Document for discussion at the STATIS WP meeting of 29th April 2010. At this meeting there was an agreement on some important articles of the proposal, but there were still two articles open for discussion (article 11 and 16.2).

The Presidency met with the European Parliament Rapporteur on this dossier, Mr. Othmar Karas, on 28th April to inform on the outcomes at the Council WP meeting. The opinion of the EP on the proposal has not been delivered yet. The report of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs was adopted on 28th June 2010 and the final adoption of the opinion by the Plenary is expected on 6th July 2010.

This dossier was discussed again by the WP STATIS on 19th May. During this meeting, there was an agreement on the compromise text of the Spanish Presidency with the exception of three conflicting issues. Since more progress on these points was not possible, it was decided to send the proposal to COREPER as point II for discussion.

Following the EFC Opinion delivered on 4th March, the Presidency informed this Committee about the EDP proposal on May 27th.

On 2nd June COREPER agreed with the proposal and on 8th June the ECOFIN Council agreed on a general approach on a draft regulation aimed at strengthening the rules on statistical data used under the EU's excessive deficit procedure. The Regulation will be formally adopted at a forthcoming Council meeting, once the European Parliament has submitted its opinion, expected for 6th July.

Legislative Dossier . COM (2010) 65 ("Carriage by sea")

Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council amending Directive 2009/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on statistical returns in respect of carriage of goods and passengers by sea		
Procedure	— Legal Basis: TFEU 338 — Ordinary Legislative Procedure: Council and EP (Former Co-decision)	
Stages in the procedure	Commission	Commission adoption: 08.03.2010
	Council	— Proposal Received: 08.03.2010 — STATIS WP: 29.04.2010
	European Parliament	— Received: 08.03.2010 — Committee responsible: Transport and Tourism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rapporteur: Mr. Simpson Brian (S&D) — Vote in Committee: 22.06.2010 — Vote in Plenary: <i>expected 07.09.2010</i>

Summary:

The purpose of this proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council is to amend Directive 2009/42/EC.

The Commission adopted the proposal by written procedure on 8th March and sent it to the Council and the European Parliament.

In order to reach an agreement at first reading, the Presidency met the EP Rapporteur in April.

This dossier was discussed at the STATIS WP meeting of 29th April 2010, reaching an agreement in the first meeting. The proposal was submitted to the COREPER and the Council for its formal adoption.

The Rapporteur of the Committee on Transport and Tourism of the European Parliament prepared a draft report on 6th May proposing a number of amendments concerning the delegation of powers to the Commission as consequence of the Lisbon Treaty. The EP Committee approved the amendments on June 22nd and the EP plenary opinion is expected for 7th September. In the last Working Party on Statistics of the Spanish Presidency, the Chair informed that the Belgian Presidency would launch a written consultation on this dossier before the EP plenary meeting.

Legislative Dossier. COM (2010) 117 ("Tourism")

Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on tourism statistics (replacing Council Directive 95/575/EC).		
Procedure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Legal Basis: TFEU 338 — Ordinary Legislative Procedure: Council and EP (Former Co-decision) 	
Stages in the procedure	Commission	Commission adoption: 29.03.2010
	Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Proposal Received: 29.03.2010 — STATIS WP: 19/05/2010, 01.06.2010, 22.06.2010
	European Parliament	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Received: 29.03.2010 — Committee responsible: Transport and Tourism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Rapporteur: Mr. Brian Simpson (S&D)

Summary:

The aim of this proposal is to update and optimise the existing legal framework for European statistics on tourism, namely Council Directive 95/57/EC. Over the past decade, communications from the Commission and resolutions passed by the European Parliament have called for changes to the legal basis of tourism statistics.

The Commission adopted the proposal on 29th March and sent it to the Council and the European Parliament.

After an informal written consultation to the Member States, this dossier was discussed for the first time at the STATIS WP meeting of 19th May 2010. The main issue concerns the powers conferred on the Commission to adopt delegated acts.

During the STATIS WP of 1st June 2010 most of concerns about the delegation of powers were clarified and more progress was achieved during the Working Party of the 22nd June. Nevertheless, there are still some disagreements regarding the treatment of the same-day visits (article 3.1), the ad-hoc modules (article 3.3), the pilot studies (new article 4a), the calendar (article 7) and the delegated acts in the whole proposal.

The Spanish Presidency tried to contact the EP Rapporteur in order to share the Council views on the dossier, but due to the busy agenda of the EP Rapporteur, it was not possible. Therefore, the Council General Secretariat will try to contact him again in a next future. There is not still a expected date for voting this issue at the EP Committee and Plenary, neither a Draft Report from the Rapporteur.

Legislative Dossier. COM (2010) 132 ("Environmental Accounts")

Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on European Environmental Accounts		
Procedure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Legal Basis: TFEU 338 — Ordinary Legislative Procedure: Council and EP (Former Co-decision) 	
Stages in the procedure	Commission	Commission adoption: 09.04.2010
	Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Proposal Received: 09.04.2010 — STATIS WP: 01.06.2010, 22.06.2010
	European Parliament	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Received: 09.04.2010 — Committee responsible: Public Health and Food Safety: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rapporteur: Mrs. Jo Leinen (S&D) — Opinion of the Committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Economic and Monetary Affairs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rapporteur: Martin Hans-Peter (NI) ○ Industry, Research and Energy — EP Committee: <i>Expected 09.11.2010</i> — EP Plenary: <i>Expected 13.12.2010</i>

Summary:

The purpose of this proposal is to establish a common framework for the collection, compilation, transmission and evaluation of European environmental economic accounts for the purpose of setting up environmental economic accounts as satellite accounts to ESA 95 by providing methodology, common standards, definitions, classifications and accounting rules, intended to be used for compiling environmental economic accounts.

The Commission adopted the proposal on 9th April and sent it to the Council and the European Parliament.

An informal written consultation to the Member States was carried out on 18th May in order to prepare the discussion for the meeting of the WP STATIS of the 1st June 2010.

The main issue for Member States concerns the powers conferred on the Commission to adopt delegated acts and much progress on this issue was achieved during the meeting of 1st June 2010. Spain prepared a Presidency Compromise text for the meeting of the 22nd of June but it was not possible to reach an agreement on the compromise text because of some disagreements on the delegated acts and changes proposed by the Commission in Annex II which needed further analysis by the Member States' experts.

The Spanish Presidency tried to contact the EP Rapporteur in order to share the Council views on the dossier, but due to the busy agenda of the EP Rapporteur, it was not possible. Therefore, the Council General Secretariat will try to contact them again in a next future.

Legislative Dossier. COM (2010) 249 ("Crops")

Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning European statistics on permanent crops		
Procedure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Legal Basis: TFEU 338 — Ordinary Legislative Procedure: Council and EP (Former Co-decision) 	
Stages in the procedure	Commission	Commission adoption: 21.05.2010
	Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Proposal Received: 21.05.2010 — STATIS WP:
	European Parliament	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Received: 21.05.2010 — Committee responsible: Agriculture and Rural Development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rapporteur: Mrs. Mariya Nedelcheva (PPE)

Summary:

The purpose of this proposal is to update the common framework for the systematic production of permanent crop statistics.

The Commission adopted the proposal on 21st May and sent it to the Council and the European Parliament.

C. EXPECTED LEGISLATIVE DOSSIERS

Legislative dossiers expected to be adopted by the Commission in 2010	
Proposal for a Regulation (EC) of the European Parliament and the Council on the statistical business process.	Commission adoption expected: 3rd quarter 2010
Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European System of national and regional accounts in the Community.	Commission adoption expected: November 2010
Proposal for a Regulation (EC) of the European Parliament and the Council on the collection of Urban Audit data.	Commission adoption expected: 4th quarter 2010
Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1172/98 of 25 May 1998 on statistical returns in respect of the carriage of goods by road.	Commission adoption expected: 4th quarter 2010

3. Calendar of meetings

The Council Working Party on Statistics meetings of the Spanish Presidency have been held on the following dates:

- April 8
- April 29
- May 19
- June 1
- June 22