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## EUROSTAT DIRECTOR GENERAL VISITS ISTAT

**"Censuses are the priority of the European Statistical System in the next five years** and serve as the base for social and economic development policies" stated yesterday **Mr Walter Radermacher Director General of Eurostat** – the statistical office of the European Union - during his first official visit to the National Statistical Institute.

Mr Radermacher met Istat President Luigi Biggeri and the management to discuss European strategies for institutional strengthening and quality improvement of official statistics in times when huge and sudden changes are taking place in production processes, household behaviours and world trade.

Quality and soundness of Istat official statistics were widely acknowledged and appreciated by Eurostat DG for their essential value within the European Statistical System. Mr Radermacher also stressed the great importance that **"policy-makers, social partners and general public fully trust official statistics and use them in their decision-making processes"**. With reference to the forthcoming agricultural, population and housing censuses, he added that **"it is fundamental to be fully compliant with the European legal acts on deadlines and standards of statistics development, production and dissemination"**.

During the meeting Mr Radermacher focused on the principles of the new European statistical law, which is binding for all member states and establishes that National Statistical Institutes "shall act as the contact point for the Commission (Eurostat) on statistical matters".

Recalling the guidelines of European official statistics – such as the integrated use of administrative sources and new technologies - the Eurostat DG commended Istat for carrying out the analyses on microdata obtained by integrating different administrative and statistical registers with sample surveys reported in Istat Annual Report.

Eurostat's Director General recalled that the adoption of the European Statistics Code of Practice implies that the statistical authorities of the EU Member States should have sufficient resources to meet their obligations. Mr.Radermacher added that he was convinced that Italian authorities would ensure the availability of adequate resources at Istat, which will enable Istat to continue to play an active role on the European statistical scene."

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NOTA PER LA STAMPA