

NEW EUROPEAN STATISTICAL LAW APPROVED

The Italian Semester of Presidency of the EU Council Working Party on Statistics closes with a major achievement

After six Presidencies of the EU Council and two years of arduous negotiations, the new European Statistical Law (Revision of Regulation no. 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council on European statistics) was endorsed this past 19 December.

This major achievement, awaited by all the countries of the EU and by the European Commission, came at the end of the Semester of Italian Presidency of the European Union and of the Council Working Party on Statistics (CWPS) chaired by Istat president Giorgio Alleva.

The new European Regulation aims to strengthen the governance of the European Statistical System (ESS) with the purpose of securing unconditional application of the principle of professional independence of National Statistical Institutes (NSIs), and to clarify the coordinating role of ESS in the national statistical systems. Moreover, it enhances the use of administrative data for statistical purposes; this enhancement will lead the way towards modernizing the production of European statistics.

The "Commitments on confidence in Statistics" were also introduced in order to make national governments aware of their co-responsibility for implementing the European Statistics Code of Practice and of their duty to ensure the credibility of official statistics by respecting the independence of the NSIs.

"This dossier has been a priority for the Italian Presidency," declared president Giorgio Alleva. "To succeed in this objective has meant delivering a concrete result and a positive message not only for Italy, but for the European Statistical System as a whole. It was a difficult commitment but also a great challenge: we have faced a new European Parliament, a new European Commission, and some obstacles with an all-Italian style, based on communication, on dialogue, and on the transparency of the initiatives undertaken during the Semester. It is with great satisfaction that I can say that today we have a new legal framework for the independence, reliability, and quality management of the European statistics provided by Member States and compiled on the EU level."

On 19 December the CWPS Presidency Handover took place in Istat headquarter in Rome. The meeting was attended by the delegations from statistical offices of Latvia - Central Statistical Bureau (CSB) – and Luxembourg - Institut national de la statistique et des études économiques (STATEC) - which are the incoming presidencies of the current Trio (Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg) ending its office in December 2015. The Eurostat's Director-General, Walter Radermacher participated as well.

During the Handover Meeting, president Giorgio Alleva reported on the still pending legislative dossiers, already negotiated and which will require some possible adjustments for their final approval, and wished Mrs Aija Žigūre, president of Latvia's Central Statistical Bureau (CSB) and her team a great success and a fruitful continuation of the works begun in the Semester that has just come to an end.