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From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Working Party on the Environment
Working Party on Statistics

Subject: EEA - Presidency Flash note

Delegations will find attached the Czech Presidency Flash note on the proposal amending Regulation introducing new environmental economic accounts modules, in view of the upcoming Working Party on Statistics scheduled on 7 October 2022.

Presidency Flash

Prague, 26 September 2022

Meeting of the Council Working Party on Statistics, 7 October 2022, Brussels

Dear colleagues,

We are pleased to invite you to the third meeting of the Council Working Party on Statistics under the Czech Presidency, which will take place on Friday 7 October in Brussels (Justus Lipsius Building). The meeting will start at 10:00. It will be chaired by the President of the Czech Statistical Office, Mr Marek Rojíček.

The whole meeting will be dedicated to the **Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) No 691/2011 as regards introducing new environmental economic accounts modules**. This proposal was adopted by the European Commission on 11 July 2022. Member States first had an opportunity to share their initial views on the proposal at the meeting of the Council Working Party on Statistics on 9 September 2022. The comments were also submitted in written form both before and after the meeting, with the final deadline of 16 September. Overall, comments from 23 countries were received and compiled. The Presidency would like to thank all delegations that sent their views in writing.

Based on the comments and general discussion during the last meeting of the Council Working Party on Statistics, we are of the view that Member States understand the need for the introduction of a legal basis for this statistical area and generally support the proposal. However, various concerns and reservations were identified. Most of them relate to the ecosystem accounts, especially to their methodological framework and the use of a delegated act for the inclusion of monetary valuation of ecosystem services. A number of Member States also propose the inclusion of an Article on (co)financing in the legislation.

The Presidency has carefully considered all comments and will propose a first compromise text of the proposal for the meeting. This compromise version will only cover the main text of the proposal; it will not deal with the Annexes at this stage. The Presidency intends to have a line-by-line discussion during the meeting. Delegations will be invited to share their views on the compromise. The Presidency is also ready to request further clarifications from the European Commission on some of the issues that were raised in the submitted comments.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or comments.

We look forward to meeting you in Brussels.

The Czech Presidency Team in Statistics