



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 12 December 2008

17121/08

**Interinstitutional File:
2008/0201 (COD)**

**STATIS 174
TELECOM 231
ECO 186
CODEC 1801**

NOTE

from: Presidency
to: Working Party on Statistics
on: 17 December 2008

Subject: Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council
amending Regulation (EC) No 808/2004 concerning Community statistics on
the information society

Delegations will find attached a text of the above proposal revised in the light of the results of discussions at the meeting of the Working Party on Statistics on 26 November 2008.

Changes compared to the previous version are indicated as follows:

- new elements added to the text and amendments of the text are indicated in **bold underlined**;
- deletion from the text is indicated as **[...]**.

Proposal for a

REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

amending Regulation (EC) No 808/2004 concerning Community statistics on the information society

(Text with EEA relevance)

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 285 (1) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission¹,

Having regard to the opinion of the Statistical Programme Committee, established by Council Decision 89/382/EEC, Euratom²,

Acting in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 251 of the Treaty³,

Whereas:

- (1) The annual provision of statistics on the Information society as laid down in Regulation (EC) 808/2004 [...] ⁴ is restricted to up to five reference years after the date of entry into force of the Regulation and will end in 2009. However, there is a continuing need at European level for the annual provision of coherent statistical information **on** the information society domain.

¹ OJ C [...], [...], p. [...].

² OJ L 181, 28.6.1989, p. 47.

³ OJ C [...], [...], p. [...].

⁴ OJ L 143, 30.4.2004, p.49. Regulation as amended by Regulation (EC No 1893/2006 (OJ L 393, 30.12.2006, p. 1)

- (2) The Spring European Council in March 2005 stressed the importance of building a fully inclusive information society, based on widespread use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in public services, small and medium sized enterprises (SME) and households.
- (3) The Spring European Council in March 2006 recognised the crucial importance of more productive use of information and communication technologies in businesses and administrative organisations and called on the Commission and the Member States to implement the i2010 strategy vigorously. **This strategy** promotes an open and competitive digital economy and highlights ICT as a driver of inclusion and quality of life. It is seen as a key factor in the renewed Lisbon partnership for growth and jobs.
- (4) In April 2006 the i2010 high level group endorsed the i2010 benchmarking framework, which sets out a list of key indicators to benchmark the development of the European Information Society as laid out in the i2010 strategy.
- (5) Decision **No** 1639/2006/EC of the European Parliament and **of** the Council of 24 October 2006 establishing a Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (2007 to 2013) ¹ helps to enhance competitiveness and innovation capacity in the Community, to promote the advancement of the knowledge society, and to foster sustainable development based on balanced economic growth. **That** decision requires the Community to equip itself with **a** sound analytical basis **[...]** to support policy making **in a number of areas**. The **framework** programme **established by that Decision** supports actions for policy analyses based on official statistics.

¹ OJ L 310, 9.11.2006, p. 15.

- (6) **The ministerial declaration on e-Inclusion¹, which was adopted in Riga on 11 November 2006 calls for an inclusive information society. It sets the frame for a comprehensive policy on e-Inclusion, addressing issues in the fields of the ageing society, geographical digital divide, accessibility, digital literacy and competences, cultural diversity and inclusive online public services. It invites the European Commission to support evidence gathering and benchmarking within and outside Europe.**
- (7) The indicators for benchmarking the development of the information society as expressed in the political strategies of the Community, such as the i2010 benchmarking framework of the i2010 strategy and its further developments under the Lisbon strategy have to be based on coherent statistical information.
- (7a) **The amending of Regulation 808/2004 takes into account Regulation (EC) No .../2009 on European Statistics.**
- (7b) **This Regulation should not increase the burden on respondents and national statistical authorities, measured in number of mandatory variables or interview duration, in respect of the collection and transmission of harmonised statistics as compared to the existing situation before its entry into force.**
- (8) Regulation (EC) No 808/2004 should therefore be amended accordingly,

HAVE ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

¹ **http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/events/ict_riga_2006/index_en.htm**

Article 1

Regulation (EC) No 808/2004 is **hereby** amended as follows:

1. [...] Article 3 (1) **shall be** replaced by the following:

"1. The statistics to be compiled shall include information required to benchmark political strategies of the Community on the development of the European Information Space, business innovation and the European Information Society, such as the i2010 benchmarking framework and its developments under the Lisbon strategy, and useful to the structural indicators, and other information necessary to provide a uniform basis on which to analyse the information society."

2. **The title of Article 6 shall be replaced by the following:**

"Treatment, transmission and dissemination of data"

3. [...] Article 6(1) **shall be** replaced by the following:

"1. Member States shall transmit the data and the metadata required by this Regulation and its implementing measures [...] to the Commission (Eurostat) in accordance with **Article 20 of Regulation (EC) No .../2009 on European Statistics** on the transmission of **confidential data**. [...]"

4. **In Article 6 a new paragraph shall be inserted as follows:**

"(2a.) Chapter V of the Regulation (EC) No .../2009 on European Statistics shall apply to the treatment and dissemination of confidential data."

5. [...] Article 7 **shall be** replaced by the following:

"Quality assessment and reports

1. **Member States shall ensure the quality of the data transmitted.**
2. **For the purpose of this Regulation, the quality assessment as laid down in Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No.../2009 on European Statistics shall apply.**
3. **Every year, Member States shall provide the Commission (Eurostat) with a report on the quality of the data transmitted as well as on any methodological changes that have been made. The report shall be provided one month after the transmission of the data."**

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, [...]

For the European Parliament

The President

[...]

For the Council

The President

[...]

MODULE 1: ENTERPRISES AND THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

(1) Aims

The aim of this module is the timely provision of statistics on enterprises and the information society. It provides a framework for the requirements in terms of coverage, **duration** and periodicity, subjects covered, breakdowns of data provision, type of data provision and any necessary pilot **or feasibility** studies.

(2) Coverage

This module covers business activities within Sections C to N and R and Division 95 of the statistical classification of economic activities in the European Community (NACE REV. 2).

Statistics will be compiled for enterprise units.

(3) **Duration and** periodicity of data provision

Statistics will be provided annually **for up to ten reference years** following the date of entry into force of this Regulation. Not all characteristics will necessarily be provided each year; the periodicity of provision for each characteristic will be specified and agreed upon as part of the implementing measures referred to in Article 8.

(4) Subjects covered

The characteristics to be provided will be drawn from the following list of subjects:

- ICT systems and their usage in enterprises,

- use of the internet and other electronic networks by enterprises,
- e-commerce,
- e-business processes and organisational aspects,
- use of ICT by enterprises to exchange information and services with governments and public administrations (e-government),
- ICT competence in the enterprise unit and the need for ICT skills,
- barriers to the use of ICT, the internet and other electronic networks, e-commerce and e-business processes,
- ICT expenditure and investment,
- ICT security and trust,
- **[...] use of ICT and its impact on the environment (Green ICT),**
- **[...]**
- **[...]**
- access to and use of the internet and other network technologies for connecting objects and devices (Internet of Things),
- access to and use of technologies providing the ability to connect to the internet or other networks from anywhere at any time (ubiquitous connectivity)

Not all subjects will [...] be covered each year.

(5) Breakdowns of data provision

Not all breakdowns will necessarily be provided each year; the breakdowns required will be drawn from the following list, **taking into account the nature of the statistical units, the expected quality of the statistical data and the overall sampling size. The breakdowns will be** agreed upon as part of the implementing measures:

- by size class,
- by NACE heading,
- by region: regional breakdowns will be limited to no more than three groupings.

(6) Type of data provision

Member States will transmit aggregate data to the Commission (Eurostat).

(7) **Feasibility and** pilot studies

Whenever significant new data requirements are identified [...] or new indicators of a complex nature are required, the Commission will institute **feasibility or pilot studies** [...] to be completed on a voluntary basis by the Member States before any data collection. These [...] studies will assess the feasibility of the respective data collection, taking into consideration the benefits of the availability of the data in relation to the collection costs and the burden on respondents. The results of **these feasibility or** pilot studies shall contribute to the definition of new indicators.

MODULE 2: INDIVIDUALS, HOUSEHOLDS AND THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

(1) Aims

The aim of this module is the timely provision of statistics on individuals, households and the information society. It provides a framework for the requirements in terms of coverage, **duration** and periodicity, subjects covered, **socio-economic background characteristics** of data provision, type of data provision and any necessary pilot studies.

(2) Coverage

This module covers statistics about individuals and households.

(3) **Duration and** periodicity of data provision

Statistics will be provided annually **for up to ten reference years** following the date of entry into force of this Regulation. Not all characteristics will necessarily be provided each year; the periodicity of provision for each characteristic will be specified and agreed upon as part of the implementing measures referred to in Article 8.

(4) Subjects covered

The characteristics to be provided will be drawn from the following list of subjects:

- access to and use of ICTs by individuals and/or in households,
- use of the internet and other electronic networks for different purposes by individuals and/or in households,

- ICT security and trust,
- ICT competence and skills,
- barriers to the use of ICT and the internet,
- perceived effects of ICT usage on individuals and/or on households,
- use of ICT by individuals to exchange information and services with governments and public administrations (e-government),
- access to and use of technologies providing the ability to connect to the internet or other networks from anywhere at any time (ubiquitous connectivity)

Not all subjects will [...] be covered each year.

(5) Socio-economic background characteristics of data provision

Not all background characteristics will necessarily be provided each year; the background characteristics required will be drawn from the following list and agreed upon as part of the implementing measures:

(a) for statistics supplied for households:

- by household type,
- by income group,
- by region.

(b) for statistics supplied for individuals:

- by age group,
- by sex,
- by education level,
- by employment situation,
- by de facto marital status,
- by country of birth, citizenship,
- by region.

(6) Type of data provision

Member States will transmit individual data records, which will not allow direct identification of statistical units concerned, to the Commission (Eurostat).

(7) **Feasibility and** pilot studies

Whenever significant new data requirements are identified [...] or new indicators of a complex nature are required, the Commission will institute **feasibility or** pilot studies [...] to be completed on a voluntary basis by the Member States before any data collection. These [...] studies will assess the feasibility of the respective data collection, taking into consideration the benefits of the availability of the data in relation to the collection costs and the burden on respondents. The results of **these feasibility or** pilot studies shall contribute to the definition of new indicators."