

1 July 2013

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To members of the European Statistical System (ESS)

Dear Colleagues,

Lithuanian Presidency of the Council Working Party on Statistics

As of 1 July 2013, Lithuania holds the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. In this context, Statistics Lithuania has the honour of chairing the Council Working Party on Statistics. We look forward to working with all our partners in the European Statistical System over the next six months to progress current and upcoming legislative dossiers in statistics.

In starting this Presidency, we are very much supported by the progress made by the previous Presidencies and the Irish Presidency over the past six months. The progress made on legislative dossiers provides a strong starting foundation for Lithuania. We would like to thank Ireland for their excellent collaboration in this regard.

Trio Programme

The overall priorities of the Lithuanian Presidency are set out in the Irish-Lithuanian-Greek Trio Presidency Programme.

The Trio Programme of Ireland, Lithuania and Greece – for the next 18 months – emphasises the provision of relevant and high quality European Statistics, to underpin Union policies; confidence in statistics and the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice; and a more integrated and independent ESS. The programme recognises the need for more cost-efficient statistical production, because of ever-tightening resource constraints, and the need for a continuous focus on simplification, re-prioritisation, and the control of response burden.

Lithuanian Presidency Priorities

Lithuania will give high priority to finalisation of the Regulations on European Statistics and to Demographic statistics. We will also progress proposals for the dossiers initiated by Ireland, including the “Omnibus I” proposal on alignment of statistical *acquis* in the fields of agriculture and fisheries with the Lisbon Treaty, proposal amending Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98 on the organisation of a labour force sample survey in the Community and proposal amending Regulation (EU) No 691/2011 on European environmental economic accounts.

The Lithuanian Presidency will continue the work started by previous Presidencies, emphasizing the need to produce relevant and high-quality official European statistics – to underpin the development, implementation and monitoring of Community policies and the provision of statistical information for the society.

The Lithuanian Presidency will support new initiatives to achieve the key quality objectives of European statistics by implementing, in an integrated manner, the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice (CoP).