

**REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL on the 'Commitments on Confidence in Statistics' by Member States as required by Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009**

Submitted by the Office for National Statistics on 19 July 2018.

**SUBJECT MATTER**

1. This Commission Report is a requirement of Regulation 223/2009 (the 'Regulation') on European statistics. This Regulation establishes a legal framework for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics.
2. The Regulation provides that the Commission shall report to the European Parliament and the Council on the 'Commitments on Confidence in Statistics' by Member States.
3. The Commitments on Confidence is an instrument to ensure public trust in European statistics' compliance with the implementation of the statistical principles set out in the European Code of Practice.
4. The Regulation states Member States must establish and produce a Commitment on Confidence in Statistics, or at least send to the Commission and publish a progress report on the implementation of the Code of Practice and the efforts made to establish a Commitment. The Report highlights the two main approaches by Member States in the form of the Commitment: those which have established 'stand-alone' Commitments, and those which have declared that certain items of their legislation constitute the Commitment.
5. Fifteen Member States, including the UK, have declared in their reporting that certain items of their legislation are sufficient in making up the Commitment on Confidence in Statistics.
6. The Report concludes that all Member States have duly reported to the Commission on their activities and achievements concerning the Commitments. The instrument of the Commitments on Confidence in Statistics, with the continued monitoring by the Commission (Eurostat), will contribute to the various efforts being made by the members of the European Statistical System to maintain and improve public trust in official statistics. The Commitments are expected to continue to reassure the general public that national statistical

institutes enjoy the full support of their governments in their efforts to provide high-quality statistics.

## **SCRUTINY HISTORY**

7. Regulation 223/2009 was subject to scrutiny as Document 14094/07 of 6 October 2007: the House of Commons European Scrutiny Committee reported on three occasions that the proposal raised issues of political importance in reports 9,21 & 40, 07/08, clearing the proposal on 26 November 2008; the House of Lords European Union Committee sifted to the Justice sub-committee in sift 1302 and cleared the proposal on 19 December 2008.
8. Regulation 2015/759 amended Regulation 223/2009 including the introduction of provisions on Commitments on Confidence and was subject to scrutiny as Document 9122/12 of 15 May 2012: the House of Commons European Scrutiny Committee reported on the proposal on 10 occasions (finally in report 37, 14/15) and the proposal was debated in European Committee B on 20 January 2014; the House of Lords European Union Committee sifted for examination to the Financial Affairs sub-committee in sift 1468 and cleared the proposal on 18 September 2012.

## **MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

9. The Minister for the Cabinet Office

## **INTEREST OF THE DEVOLVED ADMINISTRATIONS**

10. The report relates to the UK commitment on confidence in statistics which does not separately identify the Devolved Administrations. Therefore, the Devolved Administrations have not been consulted in detail during the preparation of this EM.

## **LEGAL AND PROCEDURAL ISSUES**

11.
  - i. Legal basis  
Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics
  - ii. European Parliament Procedure  
Not Applicable
  - iii. Voting procedure  
Not Applicable

iv. Impact on United Kingdom Law

None

v. Application to Gibraltar

The Report applies to all European Union Member States

vi. Fundamental rights analysis

Not Applicable

## **APPLICATION TO THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA**

12. The Report applies to the European Economic Area.

## **SUBSIDIARITY**

13. No subsidiarity issues are raised by this Report.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS (including Exit implications where appropriate)**

14. On 23 June 2016, the EU referendum took place and the people of the United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union. Until exit negotiations are concluded, the UK remains a full member of the European Union and all the rights and obligations of EU membership remain in force. During this period the Government will continue to negotiate, implement and apply EU legislation. The outcome of these negotiations will determine what arrangements apply in relation to EU legislation in future once the UK has left the EU.

15. The UK is highly committed to complying with the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice through our national system, and has met the reporting commitments within this Report.

16. UK statistical legislation, Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007, includes specific provisions on the status of the national statistician, statistical independence, and the coordinating role of the National Statistical Institute regarding official statistics.

17. The Government recognises the relevance of this Report as it raises Member States' awareness of the importance of their contribution to maintaining and improving public trust in official statistics.

## **CONSULTATION**

18. The Commission Report has been discussed and adopted at Working Group level and at the Committee within the European Statistical System.

## IMPACT ASSESSMENT

19. Not Applicable

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

20. There are no financial implications from the Commission report.

## TIMETABLE

21. Routine – this is a routine report. No substantive discussion by the Council is expected.

Chloe Smith

24.7.18

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