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NEGOTIATING POSITION
ON CHAPTER 12
STATISTICS

OVERALL POSITION

The Republic of Bulgaria accepts and will implement in full the acquis in the field of Statistics.

As a working hypothesis, the Bulgarian Government considers that Bulgaria will become a member of the EU on 01.01.2007.

No derogations or transitional periods in this area will be requested.

ACQUIS ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION

The current legislation of the Republic of Bulgaria in the field of statistics has a high level of compliance with the acquis communautaire. The legal basis for this is the Law on Statistics and the by-laws adopted by virtue of its provisions, which correspond to the acquis communautaire. The adoption of new legal acts, which will be compatible to the acquis requirements and will enhance the further development of Bulgarian statistics, is forthcoming.

The Republic of Bulgaria does not expect any serious difficulties in the implementation of the acquis communautaire in Chapter "Statistics". The National Statistical Institute and other Bodies of Statistics have good contacts and a well-developed system for cooperation with EUROSTAT. All respective institutions, responsible for statistics, are conducting their activities towards improvement of the coordination mechanism and the quality of statistical information.

Statistical Infrastructure

The Law on Statistics (published in the Official Gazette, No 57/25.06.1999) allows a possibility for a more flexible approach in coordination of the national statistical system by adoption of the National Programme for Development of Statistical Activities for the period 2000-2006 and by a maximum use of all available resources needed for its implementation during the programme period. The Law on Statistics lays down the basic principles of the modern statistical system and pays special attention to the confidentiality principle, especially in relation to individual data. The confidentiality principle and the relevant

mechanisms for its implementation are regulated in a more detailed manner in the Statute for dissemination of statistical data, which will take effect by the end of 2000.

The transposition of EU requirements as regards the statistical infrastructures is almost completed and further efforts are concentrated mainly on the application of these requirements.

Demographic and Social Statistics

On the grounds of the newly adopted Law on Census of Population, Housing Fund and Agricultural Farms (published in Official Gazette, No 16/25.02.2000), a Census will be conducted in March 2001, including also foreigners, residing in the Republic of Bulgaria. The census will serve also as a basis for the maintenance and up-dating of the existing population register.

Harmonization as regards data about the employed foreigners will be completed by the end of 2002.

Regular quarterly labour force surveys are foreseen. Full harmonization concerning the scope of indicators observed will be achieved in 2005.

Full harmonization of the surveys on the structure of earnings, the structure of labour costs and on the “Social protection” theme will be achieved in 2005.

Macro-Economic Statistics

The macro-economic statistics will be harmonized by the end of 2006, as well as the implementation of the ESA 95 methodology. As regards the annual national accounts, they correspond to the acquis requirements in general and full compliance is foreseen for 2006.

High level of compliance is achieved in the consumer price index, where full compliance is expected by the end of 2001.

Business Statistics

Structural business statistics in Industry and Services is partially harmonized with the acquis requirements. Full compliance will be available by 2005.

As regards Transport, full compatibility with the requirements of EUROSTAT will be achieved after the adoption of the respective legislative acts in the field of transport, which will ensure improvement in the scope of the collected statistical data. Road accidents statistics is in full compliance with the EU standards.

In "Energy and Raw Materials", full harmonization is achieved in the structural surveys and short-term statistics of energy and energy prices. The finalization of the work on statistics of raw materials is forthcoming. Statistics of the renewable energy sources will be in full compliance with the EU requirements by the end of 2006.

In the field of PRODCOM survey the Republic of Bulgaria will fully implement PRODCOM by the end of 2002.

Statistics of Trade, Tourism and Services will be fully harmonized by the end of 2005.

Monetary Statistics, Finance and Trade Statistics and Balance Of Payments

The statistics of Trade in goods with third countries is in line with the acquis requirements. The statistics of Trade in goods between Member states will be compatible by the end of 2006.

Compliance in the field of monetary and financial statistics is at a medium level. In the medium term the standards connected with the EMU statistics will be observed, as well as the EURO usage in the national statistics. The Republic of Bulgaria will achieve compliance with these requirements by the end of 2004.

As regards the common methodology of statistics on the balance of payment as well as direct foreign investments, there is a high degree of compliance with EU standards. In the medium term, compatibility will be improved in the field of trade in services in geographical breakdown as well as transactions with the entities of EU. Full compliance will be achieved by the end of 2005.

Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Harmonization in this field will be finalized by the end of 2006.

The theme "Land Use and Landscape" is in line with the EU requirements. Harmonization of crop statistics will be finished by the end of 2001. Harmonization of the themes "Statistics on viticulture", "Statistics on fruit growing", "Animal production" will be fulfilled on a later stage. Harmonization of the theme "Statistics on Farm Structure" will be accomplished in 2006. The work on the agromonetary statistics has already begun and full compliance will be achieved by the end of 2005.

The Republic of Bulgaria is capable to organize and conduct an Agricultural census according to EU requirements in 2003.

There is a high level of compatibility with EU requirements on the theme “Forestry statistics”. There is an information system on forestry in the country, whose database contains extensive information about the forests in Bulgaria.

Regarding the fisheries statistics there is a medium level of compatibility with Eurostat requirements. There is a draft Law on Fishery and Aquaculture which stipulates the establishment of a system for information. Full compliance will be achieved in 2003.

Multi-Domain Statistics

There is a medium level of harmonization in the field of environment statistics and indicators. A methodology identical to CORINAIR is adopted. By the end of 2006 will be achieved full compliance in this theme.

The NUTS classification is applied in regional statistics. The register of settlements as well as regional databases will be developed in accordance with EU requirements by the end of 2003. Regional accounts will be in line with the requirements of Eurostat by the end of 2006.

The Republic of Bulgaria will not establish any new administrative institutions, because the existing administrative infrastructure is considered sufficient for the implementation and enforcement of the *acquis communautaire*.

The institutional infrastructure necessary for the implementation of EU legislation in the area of Statistics will be functioning in full conformity with the *acquis* by the date of accession of Bulgaria to the EU.

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The Bulgarian government proposes the negotiations on this chapter to be provisionally closed on the basis of the existing *acquis*.

Should new elements of the *acquis* make it necessary, Bulgaria recognizes the possibility of opening supplementary negotiations before the end of the Intergovernmental conference.