

CMFB opinion
on the proposal for two commission implementing regulations related to FATS

1. On Eurostat's request the CMFB Chairman, with the assistance of the CMFB Executive Body, asked the CMFB Members to state their opinion on a proposal for two COMMISSION Regulations implementing the provisions of "Regulation (EC) No 716/2007 of the EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT and of the COUNCIL on Community statistics on the structure and activity of foreign affiliates" (FATS-Regulation).

The first draft Commission Regulation concerns the implementation of NACE Rev. 2 and the definitions of the R&D variables while the second specifies the technical format for the transmission of foreign affiliates statistics and the derogations to be granted to the Member States.

2. Nine national statistical institutes and seven national central banks from the EU Member States replied explicitly to the request.
3. Eleven (11) of those supported the two draft regulations without further remarks. Eighteen (18) national statistical institutes and twenty (20) national central banks agreed tacitly with the proposals. This means that a very large majority of the CMFB supported the proposals.
4. Among the remaining five (5) institutions, four had concerns about the timing of the introduction of NACE Rev. 2, with three of them noting that they would prefer to align the introduction for inward and outward statistics. Two concerns related to possible confidentiality problems with the publication of detailed aggregates and editorial improvements in the wording of the legal text respectively.
5. This opinion has been transmitted to Eurostat and will be kept in the records of the CMFB secretariat.

(Signed)

Hans-Peter GLAAB
CMFB Chairman

Frankfurt, 30 January 2008