

## **Main conclusions and list of actions of the 50<sup>th</sup> CMFB meeting, held in Luxembourg on 2-3 July 2015**

**(Final – 25 August 2015)**

---

---

### **1. OPENING**

---

- (1) The Chair welcomed participants and thanked Eurostat for hosting the meeting.

---

---

### **2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

---

- (2) The agenda was adopted without comments.

---

---

### **3. EXCESSIVE DEFICIT PROCEDURE**

---

- (3) Eurostat briefed the Committee on notifications and EDP visits, related CMFB EB, EDPS WG and specific task force meetings, actual EDP methodological issues, publications and reports and training. Eurostat expressed reservations on the quality of the data reported by (i) Bulgaria in relation to the sector classification of the Deposit Insurance Fund and the impact on the government deficit of the fund's repayment of the guaranteed deposits (BGN 3.7 bn) in the Corporate Commercial Bank; (ii) Portugal with regards to the capitalisation of Novo Banco by the Portuguese resolution Fund (EUR 4,9 bn).
- (4) Following the presentation, some members asked for a direct data transmission of EDP notification tables from Eurostat to ECB DG-S in order to improve efficiency; Eurostat indicated that this transmission is not possible.
- (5) Following a request by some Members to facilitate planning, especially concerning future CMFB consultations, Eurostat would include more details for the following meeting.
- (6) Some members recalled that the CMFB is entitled to have an active role in giving advice for the elaboration of the MGDD, albeit it is not a legally binding document for the members of the ESS and of the ESCB. There would be also merits that the CMFB would be consulted on the classification of Deposit Insurance Funds.
- (7) The Chairman thanked Eurostat for all the information and added that in general, any guidance given by Eurostat on EDP issues would be strengthened if the CMFB was consulted in accordance with article 9.1 of the ESA 2010 Regulation. The Chair will have a dialogue with Eurostat in the coming weeks on practical ways to revive CMFB consultations on EDP issues and on the MGDD.

---

---

**4. UPDATE ON THE CMFB PROCEEDINGS CONCERNING THE CLASSIFICATION OF FINANCIAL DEFEASANCE STRUCTURES (CHAIR)**

---

---

**A. PRESENTATION**

- (8) The Chairman referred to the CMFB written procedure (24 April – 5 June 2015) and thanked for the numerous responses. The outcome of the consultation revealed that certain clarifications were necessary to address some misunderstandings. A harmonised statistical classification across EU Member States and statistical systems was of high importance. The corresponding CMFB Task Force delivered its findings that contribute to this objective.
- (9) The essence of the presentation of the Chair and Vice-Chair outlined a general framework for statistical classification based on the Bank Recovery and Resolution Directive (BRRD), taking various resolution tools as a starting point and providing ESA 2010 sector classifications by strictly following national accounts criteria for institutional units, production of financial services and control. The proposal did not imply a unique classification, case-by-case studies will always be necessary to implement the classification, with a clearly defined mapping.
- (10) Eurostat thanked for the work and appreciated its added value, but disagreed with the conclusions on the basis, among others, that the Directive includes cases which, in its view, are to be treated as defeasance structures included in the S13 sector. The representative reinforced that any classification of non-viable institutions should take place following a case-by-case examination. In case of public support, the classification might not be into S12 but rather S13. Eurostat will continue the analysis in the framework of technical groups.
- (11) ECB DG-S thanked the Task Force and the CMFB EB as well for the work on this dossier, welcomed and supported the outcome. There is a legal obligation to ensure that the statistics produced by the ESS and the ESCB do not fall apart. Statistical classifications have an impact on a wide range of (monthly, quarterly and annual) statistics, across 28 Member States and two statistical constituencies. As the resolution of banks was a frequent event in EU Member States, a smooth and transparent procedure ensuring consistency in a sensitive and difficult area was of utmost importance. The mapping exercise seemed to be completed and closed, but may be reviewed following a change in the legal framework. Moreover, in case of doubts concerning specific cases, CMFB consultations (and preceding preparations, involving the respective NCB(s), NSI(s), Eurostat and the ECB) were the right tools to ensure proper cooperation across the various statistics and relevant statistical authorities.

**B. DISCUSSION**

- (12) Members thanked for the work of the TF and the presentation. It was mentioned that a European resolution framework did not exist previously and the CMFB must act upon this. As the statistical classification under the BRRD concerns only the resolution period, the analysis is not extended to the liquidation period. The mapping presented in the tables was, in general, appreciated. Several interventions emphasized that the proposal had to be seen as a starting point for new cases, not excluding that future cases bring up other issues that might require further analysis.
- (13) It was largely suggested that cases potentially not covered by the analysis might bring-up the need for more refined classification rules. Further contributions underlined the importance of the framework as a common starting point.

- (14) Some interventions, including from the previous CMFB Chair, recalled the series of CMFB EB and TF meetings that were, at least to a significant part, dedicated to this issue. For the overwhelming majority of speakers, a consensus should be within reach and should not be missed.

**C. WAY FORWARD**

- (15) The Chairman thanked for all comments made. Concerning doubts arising from a technical perspective, he clarified that credit institutions under resolution as residual entities continue – until they actually enter a legal liquidation phase - to produce financial intermediation services on their own account with a view to protect value and fulfil their contractual obligations. A more in-depth explanatory note has been circulated on this issue.
- (16) The Chair thanked for the discussion and concluded as follows:
- This long lasting and in-depth work should be concluded following the present CMFB meeting, but any compromise must preserve the rationale of the TF work.
  - As highlighted by many members, the classification framework would serve as starting point, i.e. guidelines, not excluding further reflections on specific cases.
  - A cover note clarifying the status, possible use and limits of the tables will be produced, also touching upon the treatment of cases outside the new legal framework.

Actions	Deadline	Responsible
(17) Cover note clarifying the status, possible use and limits of the tables	Asap	Chair

---

**5. WP ITEM 1 – ENSURING THE QUALITY OF STATISTICS UNDERPINNING THE MACROECONOMIC IMBALANCES PROCEDURE SCOREBOARD (SPONSORED BY EMIL DIMITROV AND KIRSTEN WISMER)**

---

**5.1. ESS-ESCB Quality Assessment Report on the statistics underlying the Macroeconomic Imbalances Procedure (level 1): way forward (ECB DG-S/Eurostat/ Sponsors)**

**A. PRESENTATION**

- (18) In their introduction, Sponsors referred to the road map agreed by the CMFB in June 2014 and the deadlines set out therein.
- (19) Eurostat thanked for the valuable input from the CMFB during the written procedure. The report should be submitted to the ESF in September 2015 and to the EFC-SCS to form part of the autumn statistical package. ECB DG-S referred to the excellent cooperation between the two systems in this domain. Annual updates to the reports continue to be necessary.
- (20) The Chairman praised the spirit of this work and explained some wording enhancements suggested by the CMFB EB (no substantial amendments).

**B. DISCUSSION**

- (21) Members welcomed the report. An intervention suggested taking into account more specific information arising from lower level reports.

### C. CONCLUSION

- (22) The Chairman thanked for the report and added that the right balance has apparently been found between the needs of different target audiences. The report will be submitted to the ESF and EFC-SCS thereafter. He stressed also the necessity to avoid repetition in successive reports, to the extent possible.

Actions	Deadline	Responsible
(23) Submitting the ESS-ESCB Quality Assessment Report on the statistics underlying the Macroeconomic Imbalances Procedure (level 1) to the ESF	2 September 2015	Secretariat, ECB DG-S, Eurostat

### 5.2. Report by the CMFB Technical Group on generic templates for national reports providing information on statistics underlying the MIP indicators - Financial Accounts (Sponsors/ECB DG-S/Eurostat)

#### A. PRESENTATION

- (24) Sponsors recalled the background of the TG and congratulated on its achievements.
- (25) ECB DG-S started with the presentation, thanking all contributors recalling that the work was carried out in very good cooperation with the participation of seven Member States; examples were provided by BE, IE and the UK. The presentation touched upon the main components of the template, especially concerning the differences as compared to the similar template specifications for balance of payments and international investment position statistics. The issue of non-consolidation/consolidation at sectoral level and introduction of the source were emphasised.
- (26) Sponsors also thanked for the excellent work done and reinforced the importance of further considerations on the non-consolidation/consolidation issue at sector level.

#### B. DISCUSSION

- (27) An intervention recalled that MIP inventories were being produced under EU regulations and according to their timetables, which should be given priority, therefore the proposed deadline of November 2015 could be extended to May 2016, which would be more appropriate. Another contribution reminded the need to harmonise deadlines related to MIP statistical quality reporting. Some stressed also the resources issue to be able to meet the deadlines.

#### C. CONCLUSION

- (28) The Chairman referred to the interest of DG ECFIN to consolidated financial accounts figures which should be followed-up. Metadata should be provided to users to explain the practical differences between various consolidation methods.
- (29) The deadline for completing the FA templates for all Member States was set to end-January 2016.

Actions	Deadline	Responsible
(30) All Members States to complete, for the financial accounts domain, the generic template for national reports providing information on statistics underlying the MIP indicators	29 January 2016	Secretariat Members

**5.3. Report by the Technical Groups on generic templates for national reports providing information on statistics underlying the MIP indicators – Unemployment rate and HPI (Sponsors/ Eurostat)**

**A. PRESENTATION**

- (31) Sponsors introduced the item by referring to the excellent work of the ESS working groups.
- (32) Eurostat presented the work performed inside the ESS covering house price index and unemployment rate. In fulfilling the tasks given by the last CMFB plenary that a minimum of three further statistical domains underlying the MIP indicators should be covered by generic templates developed by end-June 2015. For housing price statistics BG, IT and UK volunteered and delivered filled examples based on the generic template developed. The Labour Market Statistics Working Group (LAMAS) discussed the generic template for the Labour Force survey (LFS) being the underlying statistics for unemployment rate on 18 June followed by a written procedure.
- (33) For the remaining two indicators, Eurostat informed the CMFB that DG ECFIN, the compiler of the REER indicator, published a paper on its website<sup>1</sup> concerning the quality of competitiveness indicators, inspired by the generic template as applied to b.o.p./i.i.p.
- (34) Eurostat further added that the only statistical domain indicator not covered by a generic template at the time was national accounts, in an MIP context, as far as used in the nominal unit labour cost based on national accounts data. It was suggested to combine this exercise with the development of a quality framework for ESA2010 already foreseen in the respective regulation. This would address the request frequently put forward by MSs not to duplicate exercises in order to limit the burden on MSs.

**B. DISCUSSION**

- (35) Some comments highlighted that the template was a good basis, but was received too late and suggested a written procedure..

**C. CONCLUSION**

- (36) The Chairman thanked for the report. A CMFB written procedure will take place with a deadline of 18 September 2015.

Actions	Deadline	Responsible
(37) CMFB written procedure on the Report by the Technical Groups on generic templates for national reports providing information on statistics underlying the MIP indicators – Unemployment rate and HPI	18 September 2015	Secretariat

<sup>1</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/economy\\_finance/db\\_indicators/competitiveness/documents/quality\\_report\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/db_indicators/competitiveness/documents/quality_report_en.pdf)

---

---

**6. WP ITEM 2 – GLOBALISATION: MONITORING AND PROMOTION OF INITIATIVES: UTILISATION OF THE LEGAL ENTITY IDENTIFIER (LEI) AND/OR OTHER COMMON IDENTIFIERS IN STATISTICAL PRODUCTION (SPONSORED BY ALFREDO CRISTOBAL AND EMIL DIMITROV)**

---

---

**6.1. The future of the LEI initiative (G. Hartsink, Chairman of the Global LEI Foundation; [www.gleig.org](http://www.gleig.org), [www.leiroc.org](http://www.leiroc.org))**

**A. PRESENTATION**

(38) Following a short introduction by the CMFB Chair, Gerard Hartsink delivered a presentation on the Global Legal Entity Identifier Foundation. The presentation covered, after a brief introduction and reasoning on the use of LEI, the role of the Global Legal Entity Identifier Foundation, the GLEIF in the Global LEI System, GLEIF infrastructure development and next steps and application of the LEI by statistical agencies.

(39) The GLEIF recommended

- continuing the dialogue on how it could further enhance its free of charge services to the CMFB members.
- developing a joint CMFB and GLEIF questionnaire for CMFB members to understand the best way forward for the GLEIF to deliver its services relevant for statistics.

**B. DISCUSSION**

(40) Questions were raised about

- branches having an LEI and relationship data to be collected by the GLEIS.
- corporations possibly lacking interest (due to costs) in case an LEI is not mandatory for any of their activities.
- the rules setting procedure and retention period of LEI records as statisticians might be interested in temporal comparisons.
- the quality assurance in the central database and concerning the timeline for Phase 2.

(41) G. Hartsink and ECB DG-S responded. A ROC TF was in charge of relationship elements, which was especially complex concerning consolidation. Concerning the type of data, the GLEIS remains open and flexible to requests both from the industry and public organisations. If large and small firms understood the potential, the initiative would most likely become a success. The rules would be set by the ROC in coordination with LOUs. The retention period was not yet been decided, most likely no data would be deleted, but no backdata will be available (prior to obtaining an LEI). Data quality would be given very high priority via a mixture of approaches, also including external consultancy. Data checking rules would be published, with an open mind for suggestions. The Level 2 consultation should take place between August and December 2015.

**C. CONCLUSION**

(42) The Chairman thanked for the presentation and the CMFB might feed into the public consultation on Level 2, as appropriate, with statistical considerations. The CMFB EB would propose a way forward for a setup to convey the Committee's views to the LEI authorities.

## **6.2. Progress report by the CMFB Technical Group on business unit identifiers relevant for statistical production (Sponsors)**

### **A. PRESENTATION**

(43) The Chairman introduced the item by referring to the need of linking the LEI to other identifiers. Sponsors thanked for the group, acknowledged the very tight deadline and briefly recalled the Executive Summary of the report, and mentioned that the full report would follow shortly after the meeting. Eurostat mentioned a possible cost issue for non-financial corporations. The group identified ways to link LEI information to EGR and RIAD, including concrete experience and mentioned some technical issues and related adaptation costs for further investigation. The Level 2 of the GLEIS would need to be followed-up by statisticians; the CMFB should continue to be proactive on this issue.

### **B. DISCUSSION**

(44) An intervention stressed the importance of the LEI for statistical purposes and mentioned high coverage and quality as the main requirements for statistical use. A high level initiative from authorities was needed to make progress in this area. A universal application of the LEI for all legal entities was discussed, as it would open new frontiers for securities statistics, supervisory statistics, etc.

### **C. CONCLUSION**

- (45) The Chairman concluded that
- the last two paragraphs of the Executive Summary called for a concrete assessment and more precise analysis combining the LEI with other European codes, mainly the EGR. The TG is invited to precisely address this point within the final report possibly via a more focused mandate.
  - a written procedure will take place on the Progress Report of the TG on BUIs by 24 July 2015.
  - concerning the follow-up on codes and business registers, the CMFB EB will consider setting up a higher level group. A concrete proposal would follow later.

Actions	Deadline	Responsible
(46) CMFB comments on the progress report by the CMFB Technical Group on business unit identifiers relevant for statistical production	24 July 2015	Secretariat Members
(47) CMFB comments on the refocused mandate for the CMFB Technical Group on business unit identifiers relevant for statistical production	4 September 2015	CMFB EB

## **6.3. The potential merits of an EU legal basis for the LEI (ECB DG-S)**

### **A. PRESENTATION**

(48) ECB DG-S presented the item by referring to the January 2015 CMFB EB meeting that had touched upon a possible legal basis for the LEI. Three options could be envisaged: (i) a ‘real’ legal basis, with a binding EU legal instrument that generally obliges all entities to apply for an LEI; (ii) introducing the LEI in specific legally binding obligation so that each entity that is

subject to such reporting holds and reports an LEI; (iii) suggesting in specific legal acts that entities subject to such reporting are encouraged to apply for / report an LEI.

- (49) Eurostat invited the Committee – prior to concluding on any of these options – to take into account the report by the technical group, including on the burden on respondents. The suggestion to focusing legal action regarding the LEI on the administrative world with statistics being secondary users was recommended in the report.

**B. DISCUSSION**

- (50) Interventions suggested making a choice based on the potential use of the LEI, which might call for option 1, though it seemed very difficult to achieve, at least for the time being. The LEI could allow participating entities to identify each other, therefore benefits were not restricted to authorities. LEI fees might be set at a lower level if the LEI would be generally required.
- (51) A Member underlined that if the statistical community was worried about missing an unseized opportunity to influence the LEI initiative, it should not wait any longer and work on this dossier in parallel to technical investigations.
- (52) The Chairman underscored that the LEI was a promising setup due to its cross-sectorial (financial and non-financial corporations) and global nature, especially to monitor systemic risks. These advantages seemed to outweigh fees that might be charged for the LEI. However, fees could be flexible and size-contingent in order not to weigh too much on SMEs. In addition, statisticians should convey their views concerning the development of the LEI.

**C. CONCLUSION**

- (53) The Chairman thanked for the presentation and the discussion.
- The CMFB took note of the issue concerning the legal basis, which should develop progressively, ideally following some further reflections on the potential of the LEI for statisticians.

**6.4. State of play of initiatives regarding business registers; stock-taking**

- (54) The CMFB would develop a proposal for the way forward to address the issue of linkages between different business registers, including a clear specification of their administrative versus statistical nature as well as the conditions for their accessibility for statistical or supervisory purposes by the different users at national and European levels possibly following a light questionnaire (one-page), in the course of autumn 2015. The EB will reflect on a method and a possible draft mandate on this issue.

Actions	Deadline	Responsible
(55) Light questionnaire concerning the state of play of initiatives regarding business registers	4 September 2015	Chair, Secretariat

---

**7. WP ITEM 3 – GLOBALISATION: COORDINATION OF A CONSISTENT RESPONSE TO INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES SUCH AS SDDS PLUS (SPONSORED BY IRMTRAUD BEUERLEIN AND JOE MCNEILL)**

---

**7.1. Update on the G-20 DGI (Sponsors/ECB DG-S/Eurostat)**

- (56) The sponsor NSI delivered a presentation relating to collaboration and working modalities, progress since 2009 and proposal for the 2nd phase of the G-20 DGI.



## **7.2. Update on worldwide adherence to SDDS Plus and the G-20 DGI (IMF)**

- (57) Ms He Qi (IMF) gave a presentation on the close link between the SDDS Plus and the DGI, the successful launch of the SDDS Plus and work ahead.
- (58) ECB DG-S commented that SDDS Plus was closely integrated into the DGI Phase 2 and those adhering to SDDS Plus also contribute successfully to it, which otherwise would be lacking concrete templates. Almost all requirements in the SDDS Plus could be covered by European requirements which make the investment into SDDS Plus a quick win. A second wave of adherents might follow in 2016 or 2017; countries already adhering to SDDS Plus might provide support.
- (59) Eurostat recalled the DMES discussion of the previous week; ECB, Eurostat and IMF stood ready to provide technical support on SDMX implementation. Besides technical support, the mapping to the SDDS Plus requirement against the European reporting framework would also be supported.

## **7.3. Questionnaire on the experience of MSs adhering to SDDS Plus and plans of other MSs (Sponsors/Chair)**

- (60) Sponsors summarised the background of the questionnaire by referring to the similar exercise of 2014 and outlined the developments since then. The January 2015 CMFB advised on the reporting of EDP debt and an IMF reporting workshop (hosted by the ECB) took place in November 2014. The content of the questionnaire was briefly summarised, underlining that countries could suggest areas for support coordinated at European level.
- (61) A Member added that the IMF will change the transition period and it should be taken on board in the questionnaire.
- (62) The Chairman thanked for the all excellent presentations on SDDS Plus and DGI and concluded that a written procedure would take place to finalise the questionnaire with a deadline of 24 July.

Actions	Deadline	Responsible
(63) Final comments on the questionnaire on the experience of MSs adhering to SDDS plus and plans of other MSs	24 July 2015	Secretariat

---

## **8. WP ITEM 4 – IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL STANDARDS (ESA 2010 AND BPM6) AND REQUIRED CHANGES TO REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES, INCLUDING THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE EURO AREA INTEGRATED ACCOUNTS (SPONSORED BY GERARD EDING AND LUIGI CANNARI)**

---

### **8.1. Analysis and follow-up to result of the questionnaire on the state of play of the implementation in 2015 of the revision policy advised by the CMFB in 2012 (ECB DG-S/Eurostat/ Sponsors)**

- (64) Sponsors delivered the presentation. Of the 28 EU MS, 27% (7/26) implemented a common European revision policy for quarterly and annual routine revisions, 46% (12/26) introduced it. Most of the MSs which indicated that they did not introduce the policy were partly in line with the policy. 19 (out of 29 respondents) support the idea for coordination of benchmark revisions. A dedicated CMFB Task Force to revisit the CMFB recommendations (RRP TF) was proposed, with the view to preserving flexibility if and when needed.

- (65) A draft mandate of the planned RP TF was outlined: (i) reviewing the main difficulties in implementation, (ii) assess if an update of the revision policy for routine revisions is needed; (iii) if appropriate, outline an updated policy for routine revisions.
- (66) Interventions, including from Eurostat, supported the idea of the RRP TF, but also the coordination on benchmark revisions. ECB DG-S added that recent European policy needs (MIP, European Semester) could add new aspects that could not have been taken into account when the revision policy was developed.
- (67) Eurostat indicated that the DMES will undertake a work on benchmark revisions. The CMFB would be consulted afterwards.
- (68) The Chairman thanked for the presentation and discussion, the mandate of the HRP TF would be circulated for a CMFB written procedure with a deadline of 10 July 2015. A call for expression of interest would be launched with the aim of 6-8 MSs composing the TF with a deadline of 21 August 2015.

Actions	Deadline	Responsible
(69) CMFB comment on the draft mandate for the CMFB TF on the harmonised European routine revision policy	10 July 2015	Secretariat
(70) Call for expression of interest to participate in the CMFB TF on the harmonised European routine revision policy	21 August 2015	Secretariat

### **8.2. The statistics revision policy of Banco de Portugal (João Cadete de Matos)**

- (71) The presentation briefed on the experience of Banco de Portugal of harmonising revision policies across a large number of statistical domains.
- (72) Questions inquired about the reaction of users, the organisation of the work, resources involved, priority between overall consistency and a stringent revision policy (pre-defined inconsistencies) and about unscheduled revisions.
- (73) The BdP representative responded that a high-level group was established within Banco de Portugal to manage this work throughout the bank. The revision policy helped to manage user expectations and reduced the number of queries. Certain domains were marked to be kept fully consistent, as for the others revisions were also possible outside the pre-defined calendar, on a case-by-case basis as decided by the senior management of BdP (no examples since the introduction of the policy on 1 January 2014).
- (74) The Chairman thanked for the presentation.

### **8.3. Euro Area Integrated accounts – state of play (ECB DG-S/Eurostat)**

- (75) ECB DG-S and Eurostat provided a concise update on the joint release policy concerning Euro Area Accounts. Work is ongoing to assess the revisions observed between the t+107 data and data at t+94. A proposal to move the release from t+107 to t+94 would be prepared for the CMFB meeting of January or July 2016.
- (76) Some interventions underlined that the investment made to reach a timeliness of t+85 days should be followed-up on European level with advancing the release of the aggregate. An

intervention emphasized the importance of quality and revisions and praised the work done in the TF QSA.

- (77) The Chairman thanked for the update.

---

**9. WP ITEM 5 – BALANCE OF PAYMENTS STATISTICS – SUBGROUP ON FRIBS AND BOP/IIP**

---

**A. PROGRESS REPORT (SPONSORS)**

- (78) The Chairman thanked for the excellent work of the Subgroup and recalled the high interest in balance of payments, international investment position and related external statistics.
- (79) The NCB co-chair of the Subgroup presented the report on behalf of both co-chairs. The impact of fully implementing the FRIBS regulation can only be assessed by MSs. Concerning business registers, the Subgroup investigated from the perspective of external statistics, if there were additional needs from the BoP compilers point of view. In terms of external statistics, there was a strong need to identify FDI relationships in the registers, especially for the production of monthly data. The Subgroup also noted that a European legal act might help overcoming national issues in this domain. Regarding the impact of the draft FRIBS regulation on quality of bop/iip statistics, the Subgroup started its work but concrete arguments, pros and cons were not yet concluded. Some flexibility might be needed to deal with flexibility in the coming month as FRIBS was not ready yet. The classification issues were also on the table.

**B. DISCUSSION**

- (80) ECB DG-S welcomed the interim report by the subgroup and thanked for the work done. The integration of FDI and ITS either in the b.o.p. or FRIBS regulation would deserve an objective, factual technical investigation from an efficiency and effectiveness point of view by the January 2016 CMFB plenary. This assessment should be carried out with priority.
- (81) Eurostat also thanked the group for the achievements and appreciated the interim report. Concerning the technical investigation, Eurostat would contribute, even if the deadlines were demanding.
- (82) A number of interventions requested more clarity as per the conclusion concerning the statistical units of FDIs. A stock-taking of national practices concerning the organisation of FDI and ITS statistics was also suggested, to better assess the merits and costs of the related European initiatives. A large number of concerns were expressed about the integration of FDI and ITS into the FRIBS regulation. Splitting the production of balance of payments statistics might result in double-work. The proposal for an objective analysis of merits and costs received pronounced support. B.o.p. statistics were an input to the MIP Scoreboard and the separation of its components could put its quality at risk.
- (83) Other comments highlighted that trade in goods and monetary statistics were also used for b.o.p. but not considered part of it, primary statistics (possibly including ITS and FDI) might properly serve the needs of other statistical domains. There is also a need to look objectively into other ways to organize the BOP process than the integrated vertical one; BOP can be considered as the result of an integration of several sources/statistical components of which FDI statistics and ITSS can be part of. FDI, as well as ITSS, can be and are, in the view of these members, since several years considered as a statistical product on their own as well and could be treated like that, The IMF presented already in BMP6 FDI components in a different way as done in FDI statistics themselves. The importance point is that the basic methodology is the

same. The question should be seen more in terms of the statistical infrastructure and less in terms of the regulatory framework.

- (84) It was underlined that the work on FRIBS might be concluded by end-2015 and the CMFB might consider aligning the timing of its contributions accordingly.

**C. WAY FORWARD**

- (85) The Chair thanked for the report and inspiring discussion and concluded that
- Section 2 of the report (statistical units) was in need of some refinement.
  - there was unanimity on conducting factual technical investigations regarding the benefits of moving FDI and ITS into the FRIBS regulation.
  - a fair and orderly presentation of views will be organised: arguments of Eurostat will be presented at the next the Subgroup meeting, end-September 2015, as well as arguments in favour of keeping FDI and ITS within the BOP regulation.
  - a new progress report should be submitted to the CMFB EB by 16 October 2016.
  - the CMFB EB would prepare a draft CMFB opinion in the course of 2015, to be adopted via a CMFB consultation according to Article 6 of the CMFB RoP.

Actions	Deadline	Responsible
(86) New progress report from the Subgroup on FRIBS and BOP/IIP to the CMFB EB	16 October 2016	Sponsors, Secretariat

---

**10. WP ITEM 5 – BALANCE OF PAYMENTS STATISTICS – TASK FORCE ON TRAVEL, TOURISM AND TRANSPORT (T3F)**

---

- (87) Sponsors presented the progress along the objectives set out in the mandate.
- (88) ECB DG-S thanked for the excellent report and supported the recommendations for objective 3.
- (89) The Chairman concluded that the recommendations of the TF were endorsed. CMFB could convey, in its capacity, certain requirements for the update of the payments regulation, the CMFB EB should further reflect on the exact manner.

---

**11. WP ITEM 5 – BALANCE OF PAYMENTS STATISTICS – TASK FORCE ON ASYMMETRIES IN FDI AND THE FDI NETWORK**

---

**A. PRESENTATION**

- (90) Sponsors presented the report. The FDI network was established in 2007, but reconciliation requests were declining since 2008, with another drop in 2014, possibly also due to the introduction of BMP6. Main issues were valuation, inconsistent recording within multinational chains, heavy security measures, large amount for granular data, coverage of SPEs, different collection practices of reinvestment earnings etc. The structure of the template and encryption-decryption processed could be improved. The lack of or late response to requests, the lack of a mediation process, thresholds regarded as too high for smaller Members States were also seen as issues. Voluntary participation might lead to an overall lower priority given to the network.

## B. DISCUSSION

- (91) Comments praised the work of the TF. Clear prioritisation was supported by several interventions: a limited number of measures that would increase the level and the regularity of the participation. Some members proposed to limit the tool to transactions in a first phase, as they are easier to match than positions. It was recalled that the CMFB EB discussion also focused on improving efficiency within the current resource capacities.
- (92) Eurostat reminded that this network, subject to proper commitment, was a low hanging fruit. In particular, the TF could come up with a balanced assessment how a voluntary commitment as per the numbers relative to the size of the respective economy could be made. Relating to technical improvements, automatic reminders were a good idea but should be considered with care.

## C. CONCLUSION

- (93) The Chairman concluded that the Task Force should
- analyse whether the IT tool could be made more user-friendly, also by means of a short questionnaire addressed to the users of the network (by mid-September 2015, results to be taken into account in the final report).
  - improve the efficiency of the network first within existing resources.
  - focus on transactions; the TF should mainly propose practical solutions, and not try to solve valuations issues.

Actions	Deadline	Responsible
(94) Short questionnaire to the users of the FDI Network concerning the user-friendliness of the IT tool	15 September 2015	Co-Chairs of the Task Force on asymmetries in FDI and the FDI network

---

## 12. WP ITEM 6 – INTRODUCTORY DISCUSSION ON BIG DATA AND THE POTENTIAL ROLE OF THE CMFB (SPONSORED BY JOE GRICE AND JOAO CADETE DE MATOS)

---

### 12.1. Analysis of the results of the 2015 CMFB Questionnaire (Sponsors)

- (95) The CMFB welcomed the presentation from the Sponsors on the state of play of Big Data, based on the results of the questionnaire launched in the first half of 2015. Overall, the exploration of Big Data sets has several advantages; however, most of the CMFB members expressed concerns about legal issues and costs associated to implementation.
- (96) Some contributions underlined the experimental nature of Big Data projects. The use of credit card and scanner data was highlighted in this respect, also adding, as an example, that a statistical module was still to be implemented directly link scanner data to statistical classifications, without an additional accounting layer.
- (97) The Chairman thanked for the excellent presentation, comments and added that the CMFB played an informative role in this domain, exchanging views and sharing practices.
- (98) Action: 2 concrete examples for the CMFB January 2016 meeting.

---

---

**13. ORGANISATIONAL MATTERS AND REPORTS**

---

**13.1. Priorities for the 2016 operational work programme in the light of the September 2015 meeting of the European Statistical Forum and of the CMFB Plenary meeting discussion (Chair)**

- (99) The Chairman presented the draft work programme for the following year, that benefits from the views expressed at the ESF Bureau on its meeting of 8 June 2015 and from the proposals from Eurostat on balance of payments. He invited for comments.
- (100) One member suggested to make stock taking exercises and to take into account works that were carried out in the past.
- (101) No objection was put forward on the proposed work program.
- (102) The Chairman concluded that the CMFB operational work programme for 2016 was endorsed by the CMFB. Given the necessity to have deliverables within an appropriate timeline, stock taking exercises will take place if proposed by the dedicated working groups, the EB and decided by all members of the CMFB.

---

---

**14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

---

- (103) The Chairman thanked again for the constructive participation and remarkable progress in all substructures.
- (104) The next CMFB plenary will take place in Frankfurt on 28-29 January 2016.
- (105) The conference of the International Association for Research in Income and Wealth will take place in Dresden on 21-27 August 2016, sponsored by Destatis.