

CMFB opinion
concerning revised EDP notification tables and on questionnaire relating to EDP notification tables

1. At Eurostat's request the CMFB Chairman, with the assistance of the CMFB Executive Body, asked the CMFB Members on 3 July 2009 to state their opinion by 20 July 2009 on a revised set of EDP notification tables and, in accordance with Article 8a of Regulation 2103/2005, on the questionnaire relating to EDP notification tables. Twenty-four (24) national statistical institutes and twenty-three (23) national central banks from the EU Member States returned the questionnaire within the specified time. A total of forty-seven (47) national institutions responded to the questionnaire. The ECB also provided its opinion.
2. Based on a very large majority of the replies received, the CMFB agrees with the proposal for the revised EDP notification tables. It was noted that the changes have improved the clarity and consistency of the tables.
3. Based on a very large majority of the replies received, the CMFB agrees with the proposal for the revised EDP Questionnaire. It was noted that the new questionnaire provides balanced enhancements of the information necessary for a comprehensive analysis of government finance statistics, and that the information will help Eurostat to verify the reliability of the EDP data.
4. Several national institutions considered that the new breakdowns in the revised EDP notification tables and Questionnaire will require additional resources and, in some cases, new statistical surveys for compiling the required data. Suggestions were made for a flexible introduction of these new requirements. In this respect, the introduction of thresholds for the reporting of certain entries was welcomed. In addition, some issues of both technical and non-technical nature were raised.
5. A number of institutions also provided comments on the accompanying 'Instructions for the Questionnaire relating to the EDP notification tables'.
6. Accordingly, the CMFB suggests that Eurostat takes account of the specific remarks and questions raised in order to help clarifying the data requests.
7. In addition to this opinion, all the anonymised answers from the CMFB Members have been transmitted to Eurostat and will be kept in the records of the CMFB secretariat.

(Signed)

Peter van de Ven
CMFB Chairman

Den Haag, 6 August 2009