



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

EUROSTAT



**Eurostat's guidelines concerning the  
dissemination of European Union and euro area totals in  
the event of an enlargement**

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The forthcoming enlargements of the euro area (Slovenia, 1<sup>st</sup> January 2007) and European Union (Bulgaria and Romania, 1<sup>st</sup> January 2007) constitute the first of several possible enlargements of the two areas that may take place in the coming years.

The changes in the composition of the euro area and European Union following the forthcoming and future enlargements will have a direct impact on the European statistical totals. In view of these events, Eurostat has set up a dissemination policy to meet internal and external users' requirements.

The "enlargement" dissemination strategy of Eurostat has been set up taking into account the following requirements:

- independence from the number of countries that will join the euro area or the European Union (whether one by one or in groups);
- equal treatment (same policy) for euro area and European Union enlargements;
- validity for the forthcoming and future enlargements to ensure a continuity in communicating with the public;
- dissemination of the information on the dissemination policy, in general and related to specific indicators, to the public at large and to institutional users;
- informing users about the timetable of the changeover and the methodological changes implied by the enlargement;
- coherence, as much as possible, with the approach followed in the previous euro area and European Union enlargements;
- harmonisation of the rules for the dissemination so to cover the majority of the statistical domains (departures from the common rules are minimised to very limited and fully justified circumstances – "exceptions").

## **2. EUROSTAT'S DISSEMINATION POLICY**

Eurostat's dissemination policy in the event of an enlargement consists of a set of rules that will be applied to (i) news releases; (ii) publications; (iii) dissemination via Eurostat's databases (on-line databases); (iv) metadata.

### **2.1. Terminology**

Enlargements change the composition of the European areas. Hence, the requirement to indicate within statistical figures the composition underlying European totals. There are three main concepts:

- Current (latest) composition: the composition of the euro area and the European Union corresponds to the current (most recent) composition, i.e. the composition after the enlargement.
- Historical composition: the composition of the euro area and the European Union corresponds to the composition in a specific point in time; this composition covers the entire time series.
- Evolving composition: the composition of the euro area and the European Union corresponds for each reference period to the composition of the areas in that period, i.e. the time series reflect the temporal sequence of enlargements.

### Example

With reference to the accession of Slovenia to the euro area that will take place on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2007:

Current composition:           till 31/12/2006: euro area with 12 Member States (BE, DE, ES, EL, FR, IE, IT, LU, NL, AT, PT, FI);  
   from 1/1/2007 onwards: euro area with 13 Member States (BE, DE, ES, EL, FR, IE, IT, LU, NL, AT, PT, FI and **SI**).

Historical composition:       - euro area with 11 Member States;  
   - euro area with 12 Member States.

Evolving composition:       euro area with 11 Member States from 01/01/1999 till 31/12/2000 (BE, DE, ES, EL, FR, IE, IT, LU, NL, AT, PT, FI), euro area with 12 Member States (BE, DE, **EL**, ES, FR, IE, IT, LU, NL, AT, PT, FI) from 01/01/2001 till 31/12/2006), euro area with 13 Member States (BE, DE, EL, ES, FR, IE, IT, LU, NL, AT, PT, **SI**, FI) from 01/01/2007 till next euro area enlargement.

## **2.2. Notation (for dissemination)**

The labels identifying the euro area and the European Union and distinguishing between the compositions of the areas are the following:

- EU:           European Union, evolving composition;
- EUXX:       European Union, composition with XX countries;
- EA:           euro area, evolving composition;
- EAYY:       euro area, current composition with YY countries.

n.b.:   This notation refers to dissemination via electronic means.  
 Following the Commission Interinstitutional Style Guide, in paper publications the same codes will be used with an "-" between the area code and the number of Member States: EU-XX and EA-YY.

### Example

#### *Euro area (after 1/01/2007):*

- EA11: historical composition - euro area in its composition corresponding to the period 1/1/1999 – 31/12/2000: BE, DE, ES, FR, IE, IT, LU, NL, AT, PT, FI.
- EA12: historical composition - euro area in its composition corresponding to the period 1/1/2001 – 31/12/2006: BE, DE, ES, **EL**, FR, IE, IT, LU, NL, AT, PT, FI.
- EA13: current composition - euro area in its composition corresponding to the period 1/1/2007 onwards (till the date of next enlargement): BE, DE, ES, EL, FR, IE, IT, LU, NL, AT, PT, **SI**, FI.
- EA: evolving composition - euro area (EA11 from 01/01/1999 up to 31/12/2000 / EA12 up to 31/12/2006 / EA13 onwards till next euro area enlargement).

#### *European Union (after 01/01/2007):*

- EU15: historical composition – European Union in its composition corresponding to the period 01/01/1995 – 30/04/2004: BE, DK, DE, EL, ES, FR, IE, IT, LU, NL, AT, PT, FI, SE, UK.
- EU25: historical composition – European Union in its composition corresponding to the period 01/05/2004 – 31/12/2006: BE, **CZ**, DK, DE, **EE**, EL, ES, FR, IE, IT, **CY**, **LV**, **LT**, LU, **HU**, **MT**, NL, AT, **PL**, PT, **SI**, **SK**, FI, SE, UK.
- EU27: current composition – European Union in its composition corresponding to the period 01/01/2007 onwards till the date of next enlargement: BE, **BG**, CZ, DK, DE, EE, EL, ES, FR, IE, IT, CY, LV, LT, LU, HU, MT, NL, AT, PL, PT, **RO**, SI, SK, FI, SE, UK.
- EU: evolving composition - European Union (EC6-72, EC9-80, EC10-85, EC12-94, EU15-04, EU25-06, EU27 onwards till next European Union enlargement) – where EUXX-YY corresponds to the composition of the European Union (EU) or the European Communities (EC) with XX Member States before the enlargement that took place in year YY+1 (or during the year for EU15-04).

Similarly, aggregates for EU6, EU9, EU10 and EU12 can be calculated.

### **2.3. News releases**

The following guidelines concern news releases devoted to infra-annual statistics (monthly and quarterly data). News releases on annual data will be considered on ad hoc basis.

## 1) Publication of data for reference periods before the date of enlargement

Composition: Euro area and/or European Union aggregates refer to the composition before the enlargement (for the entire span of the series).

Headline figure: the headline figure for news releases is the aggregate according to its composition in the reference period (i.e. before the enlargement).

Order: Member States are listed according to the protocol order. Before the date of the enlargement, acceding countries are presented according to the protocol order, after Member States. After the date of enlargement, old and new Member States are listed together according to the protocol order.

Information: before the date of enlargement, only the figures for the "old" composition will be released in the news release tables; after the date of enlargement, besides the headline figures according to the old composition, figures according to the new composition will be released.

Footnotes: footnote referring to the availability of the aggregates according to the new composition on the Eurostat website.

Metadata: information on the timetable for the changeover and the changeover period for the concerned indicator.

If the technical requirements or the publication layout or the availability of data are a constraint for the publication of particular aggregates, ad hoc solutions may be adopted.

## 2) Publication of data for reference periods after the date of enlargement

Composition: Euro area and/or European Union aggregates refer to the composition after the enlargement (for the entire span of the series).

Headline figure: the headline figure for news releases is the aggregate according to its composition in the reference period (i.e. after the enlargement) – current composition.

Order: Member States, including the new ones, are listed according to the protocol order.

Information: both the new composition and the historic composition before the enlargement will be available in the detailed tables associated to the news release. Publication of such historic compositions will only be continued for a pre-established period (see par. 2.3.1).

Footnotes: footnote referring to the availability of the aggregates according to the previous historical composition on the Eurostat website.

Metadata: detailed description on how the aggregate according to the new composition is compiled.

Example: news releases

*1<sup>st</sup> January 2007 European Union and euro area enlargements.*

- News releases on data for reference periods before the date of enlargement

For news releases published after the date of enlargement (1<sup>st</sup> January 2007) but referring to monthly and quarterly statistics till end 2006:

- composition: EA12 and EU25.
- headline figures: EA12 and EU25.
- order: protocol order.
- information in tables: both EA12 and EA13, EU25 and EU27.
- footnotes: availability of "old" and "new" composition on the website.
- metadata: information on the timetable for the changeover and the changeover period for the concerned indicator. Announcement on the first news release that will be affected by the change of the headline figure.

- News releases on data for reference periods after the date of enlargement

For news releases published after the date of enlargement (1<sup>st</sup> January 2007) referring to monthly and quarterly statistics for periods after 1/01/2007:

- composition: EA13 and EU27 (for the entire availability of the time series).
- headline figures: EA13 and EU27.
- order: protocol order.
- information in tables: both EA13 and EA12, EU27 and EU25 (EA12 and EU25 only in the transitional period, see 2.3.1).
- footnotes: availability of "old" and "new" composition on the website.
- metadata: detailed description on how the aggregate according to the new composition is compiled.

### *2.3.1 Availability of the "before enlargement" composition.*

In order to meet users' requirements, the aggregate according to the more recent historical composition ("before enlargement") will be included in the news releases for a transitional period of:

- 6 months for monthly statistics;
- 1 year for quarterly statistics,
- 1 year for annual statistics.

In case of technical constraints related to the publication layout, to data availability or to less than annual frequency, derogations to the general rule may be adopted.

If the changes in the aggregates are not significant, the length of the transitional period may be reduced on an ad hoc basis, in any case not to less than 1 period after the enlargement. Publication of such a historic aggregate will only be continued for further periods if the difference with the new aggregate is relevant.

## **2.4. Publications**

The general policy outlined for the news releases is also valid for publications.

Ad hoc exceptions for specific areas and/or indicators may affect some publications.

In addition, and conditional to technical and publication layout constraints or data availability, both historical and current compositions (adequately labelled) will be covered in publications at least during the transitional period, as described in 2.3.1)

## **2.5. Dissemination via databases (Eurostat website data section)**

### *2.5.1. Pre-dissemination of the new composition aggregates*

As already experienced in previous enlargements, there will be a growing user demand for the European aggregates according to their new compositions before the actual date of enlargement.

Until enlargement takes place, figures for the euro area or the European Union in its new composition will be put at users' disposal (if available).

In order to avoid a misleading interpretation of such totals, they will not be labelled according to the new composition (i.e., EA13 and EU27), but they will be labelled as follows:

- E $U_{XX}$ \_ACC: European Union in its composition at  $XX$  countries (before enlargement) + acceding countries (to European Union);
- E $A_{YY}$ \_ACE: euro area in its composition at  $YY$  countries (before enlargement) + acceding countries (to euro area).

These labels are used only in dissemination (website, publications, news release)<sup>1</sup>.

These new totals will be available in the dissemination database on the website before the enlargement date. These figures should, in principle, become accessible for users starting from the date of the enlargement decision. On the enlargement date, the label will be switched to the current composition (after enlargement).

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<sup>1</sup> Due to technical reasons and time limits, the transitional code for the enlargement of the euro area of 1/1/2007 will be EUROZONE\_SI.

In view of the 2007 euro area enlargement, for which the enlargement decision was already taken, relevant data for EA12\_ACE (Slovenia) and EU25\_ACC (Bulgaria and Romania) will be put at users' disposal by 1<sup>st</sup> December 2006, if available.

Example:

With reference to the accession of Slovenia to the euro area and Bulgaria and Romania to the European Union on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2007:

Till 30/12/2006:

- EA12\_ACE (EUROZONE\_SI): euro area with 12 Member States + Slovenia;
- EU25\_ACC: European Union with 25 Member States + Bulgaria and Romania.

From 1/1/2007:

- EA12\_ACE will become EA13;
- EU25\_ACC will become EU27.

2.5.2. *Dissemination on the website (Eurostat data section)*

The policy of dissemination on the website (Eurostat data section) ensures the availability of:

- European aggregates according to the latest composition (after enlargement);
- European aggregates according to the evolving composition;
- European aggregates according to historical compositions (depending on statistical domains and data availability). The availability of the "before enlargement" historical composition will be ensured for a transitional period.

Example

With reference to the accession of Slovenia to the euro area and Bulgaria and Romania to the European Union on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2007:

From 1/1/2007 onwards:

- EA13, EU27: euro area and European Union current composition;
- EA, EU: euro area and European Union evolving composition;

Till (at least) 30/6/2007: - EA12, EU25: "before enlargements" (monthly)

Till (at least) 31/12/2007: - EA12, EU25: "before enlargements" (quarterly/annual)

According to data availability and domains: EAYY and EUXX: historical compositions.



### 2.5.3. *Time series availability*

For the dissemination on the website, time series will be as long as possible for current and evolving compositions (according to data availability).

The "before enlargement" historical composition of the euro area and European Union should be in principle available (depending on technical considerations). The periods covered should be available:

- Backward: as far as possible;
- Forward: at least 1 year after the date of the following enlargement.

## 2.6. **Changeover period for headline figures**

In the event of an enlargement that takes place part way through a quarter and year, the periods to be used for the changeover from the old to the new areas' composition will be the first reference period including the enlargement date.

A derogation could be envisaged for annual data, considering the long lag between the date of enlargement and the availability of the first "enlarged" reference period.

In considering the year of enlargement in retrospect, the European Union and euro area figures, associated to the evolving composition, in their new composition should, if possible, be presented for the whole year, whether for monthly, quarterly or annual data.

Example (news releases):

Date of enlargement: 1st May 2004;

Changeover period:

- monthly data, first release related to the reference period May 2004;
- quarterly data, first release related to the reference period 2004Q2;
- annual data, first release related to the reference period 2004 (an exception to this rule could be considered with respect to the lag between release and enlargement dates).

Retrospectively, the evolving composition will reflect the enlargement starting from January 2004 for monthly statistics; 2004Q1 for quarterly statistics and 2004 for annual statistics.

## 2.7. **Historical series**

The compilation of the European aggregates according to several compositions of the euro area and of the European Union can become quite cumbersome, especially in those areas that do not derive the European totals as a mere aggregation of Member States data (estimations, in particular for infra-annual statistics). In these domains, the availability of

different compositions of the areas could be limited to the most relevant ones, i.e. the evolving and the most recent composition (taking into account the policy for the transitional periods).

In specific domains and for specific indicators for which the availability of data for the historical compositions of the euro area and of the European Union could be of interest for users, the possibility of special historical sections will be assessed, depending on data availability. Such data sets will not be updated with the same frequency as the current set of data, if at all, and may cover longer (reconstructed) time series.

## **2.8. Special domains/statistics**

The dissemination policy outlined in the previous paragraphs may not suit all statistical domains and indicators currently compiled and disseminated by Eurostat. In particular, the compilation of some indicators depends on technical solutions and legislative aspects that prevent the alignment of the compilation process to Eurostat's dissemination policy in the event of an enlargement (for example, HICP incl. components).

These particular cases are handled on an ad hoc basis and treated as exceptions to general rules. Appropriate metadata will explain the ad hoc approaches followed for such specific statistics.

## **2.9. Metadata**

The implementation of the enlargement dissemination policy is accompanied by detailed metadata informing on:

- Eurostat's general dissemination policy in the event of an enlargement;
- domain and indicator specific information related to the enlargement (in news releases, publications and website);
- changeover period (announced in news releases and reported in dissemination means);
- availability of historical compositions;
- methodological description on how the European Union and euro area aggregates are compiled following the enlargement (short version for news-releases, longer version for publications and website, if relevant).

## **3. TIMETABLE**

- 01/12/2006: pre-dissemination of the euro area aggregates according to the new composition (EA12\_ACE and EU25\_ACC);
- 01/01/2007: dissemination of EA13 and EU27 figures.