

From: KOTZEVA Mariana (ESTAT)

Sent: Thursday, 9 April 2020 17:52

To: 'AT - Werner Holzer'; 'BE - Nico Weyaert'; 'BG - Sergey Tsvetarsky'; 'CY Pantelis Protopapas'; 'CZ - President contact'; 'DE - Dr Georg Thiel'; 'DK - Jørgen Elmeskov'; 'EE - Mart Mägi'; 'EL - A. Thanopoulos'; 'ES - Presidency'; 'FI - Marjo Bruun'; 'FR - President contact'; 'jean-luc.tavernier@insee.fr'; 'HU - Gabriella VUKOVICH'; 'IE - Pádraig Dalton'; 'IT - President contact'; KOTZEVA Mariana (ESTAT); 'LT - Jūratė Petrauskienė'; 'LU - Serge Allegrezza'; 'LV - Aija Zigure'; 'MT - Etienne Caruana'; 'PL - Dominik Rozkrut'; 'PT - Francisco Lima'; 'RO - Tudorel Andrei'; 'SE - Joakim Stymne'; 'SK - Alexander Ballek'; 'SI - Bojan Nastav'; 'CH - Georges-Simon ULRICH'; 'IS - Ólafur Hjálmarsson'; 'LI - Andrea Scheller'; 'NO - Geir Axelsen'; Kroese, dr A.H. (ah.kroexx@xxx.xx)

Cc: GUEYE Gallo (ESTAT); RITOLA Veijo (ESTAT)

Subject: ESS response to Covid-19/ Number 3

Dear colleagues,

I hope that this email finds you in good form, running the business successfully and continuously despite the daily challenges caused by Covid-19.

I would like to thank you very much for the comprehensive responses your offices submitted to the questionnaires, sent to you by Eurostat's directors to a very short deadline. While the replies suggest that a number of actions should be undertaken at expert level, including the preparation of the ESS guidelines on imputation, choosing weights and treatment of biases in several statistical domains, there are other aspects, which require discussions and decisions at Directors'-General level.

Additionally, I fully share the view expressed by many of you in our bilateral contacts, that Directors-General need to exercise a bold and visionary leadership in these unprecedented times, including being an active 'point of entry and exit' for communication with users and key stakeholders of official statistics.

Against this background, I would like to convene a virtual meeting of Directors-General on 24 April this year. The meeting will be devoted to the specific aspects that have

emerged from the Directors' questionnaires and to potential joint ESS actions in response to the challenges to statistical production caused by Covid-19. I am also delighted to announce that the Partnership Group will have a meeting next week, on 16 April, to prepare the plenary DGs meeting.

A draft agenda of the plenary DGs meeting will be sent to you next week, together with the technical details on how to join the meeting. Meanwhile, please feel free to send any suggestions for topics to be discussed at the meeting to Dominik and myself.

I use the opportunity to inform you that yesterday Eurostat launched a dedicated section on its website, called "[COVID-19 - Support to Statisticians](#)". In this section, Eurostat will share guidelines, methodological notes and practical solutions that have been developed together with the experts from the NSIs to tackle statistical issues generated by the Covid-19 outbreak.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish a Happy Easter to those of you who celebrate it this week.

Stay safe,

Mariana