

Eurostat position on announcement of criminal charges against head of ELSTAT

As a matter of principle, Eurostat does not comment on national legal proceedings.

As regards the revision of Greek public finance data for 2009 undertaken by ELSTAT in November 2010, Eurostat has, on many occasions, explained its position on this revision:

- the compilation of the Greek data has followed the rules applicable, and applied in all Member States (European System of Accounts 1995).
- As a result, Eurostat has published the data on government deficit and debt transmitted by ELSTAT without any reservation for the last five notifications (November 2010, April 2011, October 2011, April 2012, October 2012), in contrast with previous periods.
- This reflects the very significant progress made in the quality of public finance data transmitted by Greece, as a result of new and strengthened procedures.
- In consequence, Eurostat refutes allegations that the deficit of 2009 was over-estimated or that any pressure was put on ELSTAT to falsify data.

More information is available in the written response I gave in March 2012 to a Greek parliamentary committee looking into this issue. My reply is published on the Eurostat website:

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_PUBLIC/GR_LETTER_26_03_2012/EN/GR_LETTER_26_03_2012-EN.PDF

As you know, I have also expressed my support for the work of Mr Georgiou and ELSTAT in an open letter to the members of the ESS Committee:

http://www.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/BUCKET/General/NWS_1408035_Note%20WR%20to%20ESS_30%2011%2011%20_1_EN.pdf

As we all know, the independence of a statistical office is crucial for the credibility of its statistics and, in this difficult situation, Mr Georgiou retains my full confidence.

Walter Radermacher

Luxembourg, 23 January 2013