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**As amended by**

**Laws 3842/2010, 3899/2010, 3943/2011, 3965/2011, 4047/2012, 4072/2012, 4182/2013, 4244/2014, 4254/2014, 4258/2014, 4334/2015 and the Act of Legislative Content of November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

**Hellenic Statistical System (EL.S.S.), Establishment of the Hellenic Statistical Authority (EL.STAT.) as an independent authority**

**CHAPTER A'**

**HELLENIC STATISTICAL SYSTEM (EL.S.S.)**

**Article 1**

**Principles and scope of EL.S.S.**

1. The Hellenic Statistical System is the set of rules, activities and agencies responsible for the conduct of statistical operations aiming at the development, production and dissemination of the country's official statistics, which are used for the decision and policy making at local, national, European and international level.
2. The agencies of EL.S.S. are the Hellenic Statistical Authority (EL.STAT.), an independent authority which is established by Article 10 and constitutes the national statistical authority according to Article 5 of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 (L 87/164), as well as the services and agencies of the public and private sectors which have the responsibility or obligation to collect data and are included in the list of EL.S.S agencies, in accordance with paragraph 5 of Article 11.
3. The terms "statistics", "development", "production", "dissemination", "data collection", "statistical unit", "confidential data", "use for statistical purposes", "direct identification" and "indirect identification", have the meaning defined in Article 3 of the Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009.
4. The activities of the EL.S.S. agencies concerning the development, production and dissemination of statistics are governed by the statistical principles of "professional independence", "impartiality", "objectivity", "reliability", "statistical confidentiality" and "cost-effectiveness" as these principles are defined in the provisions of Article 2 of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 and are developed in the European Statistics Code of Practice, as stipulated in Article 11 of the same Regulation, as in force from time to time.
5. When developing, producing and disseminating statistics, EL.S.S agencies shall implement the European Statistics Code of Practice, as in force from time to time.
6. In order to guarantee the quality in the development, production and dissemination of the statistical results, the EL.S.S. agencies shall follow uniform standards and harmonized methods and apply the evaluation criteria of quality, such as "relevance", "accuracy",

“timeliness”, “punctuality”, “accessibility”, “clarity”, “comparability” and “coherence” as these are defined in Article 12 of the Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009, as in force from time to time.

7. Official statistics of EL.S.S are those statistics, which are developed, produced and disseminated by EL.STAT. and the other EL.S.S agencies, provided they have been certified by EL.STAT. in accordance with paragraph 6 of Article 11.

## **Article 1A**

### **Official statistical agencies**

1. The Hellenic Statistical Program (EL.S.P.) includes: the Hellenic Statistical Authority (EL.STAT.), other services and organizations which manage the official statistical data, state and municipal entities and bodies provided that they conduct statistical surveys and other issues of statistical works.
2. The Hellenic Statistical System (EL.S.S.) consists of the Hellenic Statistical Authority (EL.STAT.) and the other services and organizations that manage the official statistical data. The Hellenic Statistical Authority (EL.STAT.) is an Independent Authority, which is established by Article 10 of this law and constitutes the national statistical authority, pursuant to article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 (L 87/164). The Hellenic Statistical System (EL.S.S) produces European statistics, which are set out in the European Statistical Program, and it belongs to the European Statistical System.
3. The Hellenic Statistical System (EL.S.S.) and the Bank of Greece cooperate for the preparation and implementation of the Official Statistical Program (EL.S.P.). The statistical data that are produced by the Bank of Greece can be used directly or indirectly by the Hellenic Statistical Authority and the other national authorities for the production of official and European statistics set out in the European Statistical Program. Similarly, the Bank of Greece, as member of the European System of Central Banks can, in the context of the corresponding areas of its competencies, use directly or indirectly data which are produced by the EL.S.S for the production of its statistical data and of European statistics laid down in Regulation (EU) No 2533/1998, provided that this necessity has been duly justified.

## **Article 2**

### **Basic principles of operation and obligations of EL.S.S. agencies**

1. EL.STAT. coordinates all the activities of the other EL.S.S. agencies which concern the development, production and dissemination of the country’s official statistics. EL.STAT. forwards the official statistics stipulated in paragraph 6 of the preceding Article to the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat).
2. The EL.S.S. agencies are obliged to develop, produce and disseminate the statistics as well as to ensure that the production of these statistics is in accordance with the operation principles of EL.S.S. as they are set out in the provisions of Chapter A’. By decision of ELSTAT is adopted the “Regulation on Statistical Obligations of the agencies of the EL.S.S”, which is published in the Government Gazette and is posted on EL.STAT.’s

website ... This Regulation defines, inter alia, the criteria for the inclusion of EL.S.S. agencies in the list provided for in paragraph 5 of Article 11, as well as the obligations arising from this inclusion.

3. The services and agencies of the public sector, as this is defined in paragraph 6 of Article 1 of Law 1256/1982 (Government Gazette No 65 A'), are obliged to grant EL.STAT. access to all the administrative sources, public registers and files they keep, in printed, electronic or other form, and provide EL.STAT. with primary statistical data and information. The legal entities under private law, the associations of individuals and natural persons are obliged to grant EL.S.S. agencies access to all the sources, records, or files kept in printed, electronic or other form and provide, in an accurate and timely manner, any data or primary information requested by these agencies for the performance of their duties. The data and information mentioned in this paragraph are used by EL.STAT. and the other EL.S.S. agencies for the production of official statistics, as it is specifically set out in the Regulation on Statistical Obligations.
4. Violation of these obligations by any person who may be a civil servant, state official, legal entity under public law, or employee of a Local Government Organization, in accordance with Article 2 of the Code of Regulations of Civil Administrative Servants and Employees of Legal Entities of Public Law, ratified by Law 3528/2007 (Government Gazette 26 A'), as in force from time to time, of the obligations stipulated in the above law, the Regulation on Statistical Obligations, and the legislation in force concerning specifically the obligations of accessing sources, registers or files or providing data, constitutes a disciplinary offence of breach of duty and can be punished with the penalty of final dismissal. More specifically, if the violation is committed by a member of the administration of a legal entity, this offence constitutes a serious reason for his replacement. The disciplinary prosecution is carried out by the competent disciplinary bodies of the legal entity at the request of EL.STAT.'s President, in accordance with the provisions in force.

### **Article 3**

#### **Advisory Committee of the Hellenic Statistical System**

1. The Advisory Committee of the Hellenic Statistical System (SY.EP.EL.S.S.) is hereby established.
2. The SY.EP.EL.S.S is composed of seventeen (17) voting members, who verifiably use in their work statistical data as users. Each one of them, along with his/her substitute, is nominated, respectively, by:
  - a) The Hellenic Parliament,
  - b) The Government of Greece,
  - c) The Bank of Greece,
  - d) The Central Union of Municipalities of Greece (KEDE),
  - e) The Hellenic Fiscal Council,
  - f) The Labour Institute of the Greek General Confederation of Labour (IN.E.G.S.E.E.),
  - g) The Union of Hellenic Chambers,
  - h) The Hellenic Federation of Enterprises (SEV),

- i) The Economic and Social Council of Greece (OKE),
- j) The National Centre for Social Research (EKKE),
- k) The Centre of Planning and Economic Research (KEPE),
- l) The Panhellenic Confederation of Unions of Agricultural Cooperatives (PASEGES),
- m) The Hellenic Bank Association,
- n) The Foundation for Economic and Industrial Research (IOBE),
- o) The European Commission- Directorate General for Economic and Financial Affairs (DG-ECFIN),
- p) The European Central Bank (ECB)
- q) The European Statistical Advisory Committee (ESAC)

The President of ELSTAT is an ex-officio member of the SYEPELSS and participates in its works and its meetings without vote.

3. The SY.EP.EL.S.S. is established by decision of the Minister of Finance. Its members shall be appointed for a four (4) year term, which can be renewed only once. In case of death, expiration of term or departure of members of the SY.EP.EL.S.S. and until the appointment of new members, the Committee can operate with a reduced number of members. Any other issue shall be governed by the provisions of the Code of Administrative Procedures.
4. The SY.EP.EL.S.S shall meet regularly twice a year.
5. The Chairman of the Committee shall be appointed for a term of two (2) years following a ballot taken by its members.
6. By decision of the SY.EP.EL.S.S. its Regulation of Internal Organization and Operation shall be established. Technical and administrative support for the Committee shall be provided by ELSTAT. The Committee's operating costs shall burden ELSTAT's budget.
7. The SY.EP.EL.S.S shall assist ELSTAT with respect to taking into account users' needs in the coordination of the strategic goals and priorities of the national statistical information policy, as specified in the following paragraphs.
8. In the preparation for the Hellenic Statistical Program and the annual statistical work program of ELSTAT, in accordance with the provisions set out in paragraphs 1 and 6 of Article 5 of this law, the SY.EP.EL.S.S provides an advisory opinion to ELSTAT as regards:
  - a) The areas in which it may be necessary to have new statistics developed by ELSS.
  - b) Potential changes in the priorities of production of existing statistics by ELSS.
  - c) The ways in which the relevance of ELSS statistics can increase for users.
  - d) Whether the scope, the level of analysis and the cost of statistics correspond to the needs of users.
9. The SY.EP.EL.S.S also provides advisory opinion to ELSTAT, if a request is submitted to it by ELSTAT, on matters that concern the requirements of the users of ELSS statistics, the assessment of the relevance of existing ELSS statistics and the policy on the dissemination of statistics that are produced by ELSS agencies.
10. If the SYEPELSS has not yet been established or its opinion, in accordance with the paragraphs above as well as in accordance with paragraphs 1 and 6 of Article 5 of this law, is not provided by the deadline set for this purpose by ELSTAT, the relevant administrative action of ELSTAT is carried out without the opinion.

## **Article 4**

### **Good Practice Advisory Committee**

1. An independent advisory committee is hereby established comprised of five members, as follows:
  - a) One member nominated by the Hellenic Parliament,
  - b) One member nominated by the European Statistical Office (Eurostat),
  - c) One member nominated by the European Statistical Governance Advisory Board (ESGAB),
  - d) One member nominated by the European Statistical System Committee (ESSC) and
  - e) One member nominated by the Hellenic Data Protection Authority.
2. The task of this committee shall be solely to prepare an annual report on the implementation of principles 1 to 6 (statutory framework) of the European Statistics Code of Practice in the Hellenic Statistical System. The committee shall submit its report to the Parliament having informed the European Statistical Governance Advisory Board accordingly. The committee's report shall be advisory in nature. The committee shall have no powers in relation to the management and organisation of EL.STAT. or in relation to the collection, production and dissemination of EL.STAT. statistics.
3. Members of the committee shall be selected from among experts with exceptional skills and national and/or international experience in matters relating to the European Statistics Code of Practice.
4. The Chairman of the Committee shall be appointed following a ballot taken by its members.
5. The President of EL.STAT. shall participate in the work of the Committee as well as in its meetings without vote.
6. Members of the committee shall be appointed for a two-year term of office by decision of the Minister of Finance.
7. The committee's annual report shall be made public after it is submitted to the Parliament.
8. The agencies of the Hellenic Statistical System shall provide the committee with information required to perform its task, following a request submitted to the senior administrative officer of the relevant agency.
9. Members of the committee shall be duty-bound not to disclose information to which they obtained access as part of committee procedures, if they are

informed by the competent agency that the said information is reasonably considered to be confidential.

10. Committee members may only be removed before their term in office expires where there is a serious ground relating to the performance of the committee's task.
11. Committee members shall not be paid a fee.
12. Technical and administrative support for the committee shall be provided by EL.STAT. in such a way that the committee's independence is safeguarded. The committee's operating costs shall burden the EL.STAT. budget.

## **Article 5**

### **Production of statistics**

1. EL.STAT., following the advisory opinion of SY.EP.EL.S.S, in accordance with what is provided for in Article 3 of this law, adopts every three years the Hellenic Statistical Program (EL.S.P.). The EL.S.P. is approved by the end of March of the year preceding the year of its implementation.
2. The EL.S.P. sets out the major fields and objectives of the actions scheduled by EL.S.S. agencies for a three (3) year period. The EL.S.P. determines the priorities concerning the information needs of EL.STAT., and of the other EL.S.S. agencies so as they can meet their Community and international obligations, and the required statistics for compilation, after having weighted the required human and financial resources as well as the administrative cost which the compilation of statistics entails for the agencies in question.
3. The EL.S.P. is submitted to the Hellenic Parliament and to the Minister of Finance, it is published in the Government Gazette and on EL.STAT.'s website.
4. The EL.S.P. is carried out:
  - a) Through the statistical activities of EL.S.S agencies, which are determined in the statistical program in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 5 and 6 of the present Article,
  - b) Through direct statistical actions of EL.S.S. agencies under special circumstances, in particular when dealing with emergency needs.
5. Each EL.S.S. agency sets up an annual statistical work program based on the EL.S.P, which is submitted to EL.STAT. for approval by the end of January of the year preceding the implementation year, and is accompanied by the annual evaluation report of the statistical work program of the previous year.
6. ELSTAT, before the end of May of the year preceding the implementation year, and following the advisory opinion of the SY.EP.EL.S.S in accordance with what is provided for in article 3 of this law, compiles its corresponding annual statistical work program, which takes into account the annual work programs of EL.S.S agencies. The annual statistical program of EL.STAT. shall be submitted to the Hellenic Parliament and the Minister of Finance, it shall be accompanied by the annual evaluation report of the statistical work program of the previous year, and published on EL.STAT.'s website.

7. The annual statistical work program of EL.STAT. includes:
  - a) The planning of statistical operations for next year and the competent bodies for their conduct and
  - b) The general framework, aims, place and time of the surveys to be conducted, as well as the required human and financial resources for their conduct.

The annual statistical program of EL.STAT. also determines:

  - a) The priority actions on the basis of the needs of EL.S.S. agencies, in order to meet their obligations at international, Community and national levels
  - b) The measures related to the review of priorities and the reduction of the response burden of the EL.S.S agencies and
  - c) The legislative, administrative and organizational measures necessary for the smooth and effective operation of EL.S.S.
8. The statistical activities drawn up in the annual statistical work programs of EL.S.S. agencies and of EL.STAT. must be fully documented and should include the aims, the anticipated results, the cost-effectiveness analysis, the timetable for their conduct and the burden for the agencies involved.

## **Article 6**

### **Quality of statistics**

1. In order to ensure the quality of the EL.S.S. results, the statistics of the EL.S.S agencies shall be developed, produced and disseminated on the basis of uniform standards and harmonized methods, by applying the evaluation criteria provided in paragraph 6 of Article 1. The Regulation on Statistical Obligations provides for special obligations for the EL.S.S agencies in order to ensure the excellent quality of statistics that are used for administrative purposes, such as the procedures for the compilation of the Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices and the excessive deficit procedure, as well as the terms and procedures for the verification by EL.STAT. of the data required for these statistics.
2. Other EL.S.S. agencies submit reports to EL.STAT. on the quality of the transmitted data which fall in the domain of their responsibility, on the basis of EL.STAT.'s instructions as regards the structure, periodicity, completeness, compliance with relevant rules and definitions, internal coherence, reliability of statistics and other issues concerning the evaluation of the quality of statistical data. These reports are submitted at least once a year. The date of submission and the content of the reports are set out in the Regulation on Statistical Obligations

## **Article 7**

### **Dissemination of statistics**

1. EL.STAT. and the other EL.S.S. agencies disseminate the statistics in compliance with the statistical principles of paragraph 4 of Article 1 and in particular with the principle of statistical confidentiality, according to the provisions of Article 8.
2. The EL.S.S. agencies are obliged to provide all users with equal access to statistics according to the principle of impartiality, as it is specifically set out in the Regulation on Statistical Obligations.

3. The EL.S.S. agencies may set up and keep public records and files for the dissemination of information collected within the frame of the performance of their duties, which concern individual statistical data from anonymised records, only in the case that the statistical units cannot be identified, directly or indirectly, after having taken into account all relevant means, which a third party may use.
4. The EL.S.S. agencies are allowed to disseminate statistical data that could, potentially, enable the identification of the statistical unit if and only if:
  - a) These data have been treated, as it is specifically set out in the Regulation on Statistical Obligations, in such a way that their dissemination does not prejudice the statistical confidentiality or
  - b) The statistical unit has given its consent, without any reservations, for the disclosure of data.

## **Article 8**

### **Statistical confidentiality**

1. If EL.S.S. agencies have obtained data or have access to data which enable the direct or indirect identification of the statistical units by the disclosure of individual information directly received for statistical purposes or indirectly supplied from administrative or other sources, they are obliged to protect these data and to use them exclusively for statistical purposes. EL.S.S. agencies are not allowed to disseminate these data in any way. EL.S.S. agencies must take the appropriate preventive measures so as to render impossible the identification of individual statistical units by technical or other means which might reasonably be used by a third party. In case of violation of data confidentiality and/or statistical confidentiality, apart from the penal sanctions stipulated in Articles 252, 253, 370B, 370C of the Penal Code and Article 4 of the Law 2392/1996 (Government Gazette 60 A'), the administrative sanctions set out in paragraph 2 of the following Article are imposed.
2. The EL.S.S. agencies which have the responsibility or obligation to collect data, are obliged to transmit confidential data to EL.STAT. and cannot invoke the principle of statistical confidentiality if these data are necessary for the development, production and dissemination of statistics or the improvement of the quality of the statistics. The agencies of EL.S.S. may refuse to transmit confidential data to EL.STAT. only in the case that these data are related to issues concerning the national defense, state security and country's international relations. The Regulation on Statistical Obligations determines the procedure and the way of recording the data mentioned in the preceding sub-paragraph, which permits their appropriate registration and transmission if deemed necessary for the effective development, production and transmission of statistics in accordance with article 21 of the Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and Council of 11 March 2009 without risking the confidentiality of the data mentioned in the preceding sub-paragraph.
3. The confidential data that are transmitted by EL.S.S agencies to EL.STAT. must be used exclusively for statistical purposes and the only persons who have the right to have access to this data are the personnel engaged in this task and appointed by an act of the President of EL.STAT. In exceptional cases, the President of EL.STAT. may permit the access to confidential data to persons, other than its personnel, to whom it has contracted out



statistical works and after having taken all the necessary steps in order to ensure the confidentiality of data and/or statistical confidentiality.

4. The data received from public services or agencies to which, according to the legislation in force, everyone can have access, are not considered confidential for the application of the provisions of this Law.
5. The agencies of EL.S.S. are allowed to provide researchers conducting statistical analysis for scientific purposes with access to data which allow indirect identification of statistical units in accordance with the terms and conditions that are determined by the Regulation on Statistical Obligations. If these data have been transmitted to EL.STAT. by the other agencies of EL.S.S., a permission must be granted by the agency of EL.S.S. which is responsible for the protection of the confidential data and their transmission.
6. The civil servants and the personnel serving in EL.S.S. agencies under any employment status, as well as the natural persons who acquire access by any means to confidential data in accordance with the preceding paragraphs, are bound by the principle of confidentiality and must use these data exclusively for statistical purposes. After the termination of their term of office, they are not allowed to use these data for any reason.
7. Violation of data confidentiality and/or statistical confidentiality by any of the individuals subject to article 2 of the Code of Civil Servants, Civil and Administrative employees and employees of Legal Entities of Public Law in force, constitutes a disciplinary offence of breach of duty and may be punished with the penalty of final dismissal.

## **Article 9**

### **Administrative sanctions**

1. EL.STAT., by its decision, can impose on the head of the competent service or the legal representative of the legal entity of public or private law or the natural person, the following administrative sanctions for violation of their obligations provided in the present Law, the Regulation on Statistical Obligations of EL.S.S. agencies and in any other provision concerning the obligations related to the access to sources, records or files or the provision of data for the development, production and dissemination of statistics:
  - a) Issue a notice to correct the violation within a limited period of time,
  - b) In case of failure, to correct the violation, impose a fine, which may range from one thousand (1,000) to fifty thousand (50,000) euros.

The administrative sanctions are always imposed after the hearing of the defense of the head of the competent service or the legal representative of the legal entity of public or private law or the natural person depending on the gravity of the breach and its repercussions. Any relapse constitutes an aggravating factor for the assessment of the administrative sanctions.

2. EL.STAT., by its decision, may impose a penalty amounting to ten thousand (10,000) up to two hundred thousand (200,000) euros to anyone who violates the confidentiality of data and/or statistical confidentiality. The penalty is always imposed after the hearing of the defense of the person liable for the breach, depending on the gravity and the repercussions of the violation. Any relapse constitutes an aggravating factor for the assessment of the administrative sanction.

3. The Regulation on Statistical Obligations determines issues concerning the application of paragraphs 1 and 2.
4. The fine for the penalties may be readjusted by decision of the Minister of Finance after a proposal of EL.STAT.
5. The acts of EL.STAT. imposing penalties constitute an enforceable title and must be handed to the person to whom they are imposed. The money from these penalties is collected in accordance with the Code of Public Revenues Collection (Legal Decree 356/1974), as in force from time to time.

**CHAPTER B'**  
**ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HELLENIC STATISTICAL AUTHORITY**  
**(EL.STAT.) AS AN INDEPENDENT AUTHORITY**

**Article 10**  
**Establishment of EL.STAT.**

1. An Independent Administrative Authority under the corporate name of “Hellenic Statistical Authority” (EL.STAT.) is hereby established. EL.STAT. enjoys operational independence, administrative and financial autonomy, and it is not subject to the control of any governmental body or other administrative authority. EL.STAT. has a separate legal personality and shall appear on its own in all manner of trials which relate to its rights and obligations and its acts or omissions.
2. The operation of EL.STAT. is subject to the control of the Greek Parliament in accordance with its rules.
3. EL.STAT.’s registered office is in the Municipality of Piraeus. The official name of EL.STAT. in English is “Hellenic Statistical Authority (EL.STAT.)” and in French “Autorité Statistique Hellénique” (EL.STAT.).
4. The objectives of EL.STAT. are the systematic production of official statistics and the conduct of scientific research and studies which: a) concern all public and private sector activities, b) support the decision making procedure, the preparation and evaluation of the policies of the Government and of the public sector agencies (evaluation indices), c) are submitted to international agencies pursuant to the country’s obligations, and d) apply to the general public or to specific categories of statistical data users in Greece or abroad.

**Article 11**  
**Responsibilities of EL.STAT.**

1. EL.STAT. has the responsibilities of the General Secretariat of the National Statistical Service of Greece (NSSG) provided in article 1 of the Presidential Decree 224/1986 (Government Gazette 91 A’), any other responsibility stipulated in the legislation in force and the responsibilities defined in the present law, the Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 and in any other relevant provision.
2. More specifically, EL.STAT.:
  - a. Shall establish and implement the annual statistical program, produce and disseminate as the “National Statistical Institute”, according to paragraph 1 of article 5 of the Regulation (EC) No 223/2009, the official, national and European Statistics

- of the country, and conduct any kind of regular or ad-hoc statistical research, census and studies.
- b. Represents Greece as the “National Statistical Institute” in accordance with paragraph 1 of article 5 of the Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 in the services of the European Union and in any other competent international organization.
  - c. Cooperates with the European Statistical Office – Eurostat and the other services of the European Commission, the national statistical institutes of the other Member States and the national authorities defined in the next paragraph, and with other international agencies and organizations on statistical issues and participates in the relevant statistical committees of the European Union and of other international organizations as the “National Statistical Institute”.
  - d. Sees to the timely, reliable and effective dissemination of statistical information and to the promotion of statistical issues and economic research in the context of the country’s international cooperation.
  - e. Cooperates with public and private agencies in Greece or abroad, such as educational institutions, research centers and non-profit organizations for the promotion of scientific research for statistical issues, the harmonization of methodology and the implementation of the statistical principles of the Hellenic and European Statistical Systems.
  - f. Cooperates and consults with all the other agencies of EL.S.S. on the development of methods and systems for statistical purposes in their domains of responsibility.
  - g. Develops, disseminates and coordinates the implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice within the frame of EL.S.S. More specifically, it provides consultancy services concerning methodology issues and statistical tools to all other agencies of EL.S.S. and to any other public or private agency and undertakes statistical work on behalf of third parties, public or private agencies in compliance with community and international principles and practices so as a mutually accepted methodology is disseminated and implemented.
  - h. Teaches its staff and that of other EL.S.S. agencies to acknowledge the principles and methods of production of reliable statistics for the European Statistical System.
  - i. Sees to the continuous upgrading of the human resources available to EL.STAT. through training and seminars. Special issues concerning the continuous training of the personnel are determined in the Regulation on the Operation and Administration.
3. EL.STAT., by its decision published in the Government Gazette, defines the “national authorities” provided in paragraph 2 of article 5 of the Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 which are responsible for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics within the frame of EL.S.S. The list of the “national authorities” is forwarded to the European Statistical Office (Eurostat) and published on the EL.STAT. website.
  4. The President of EL.STAT. shall appoint a representative in order to represent Greece in Community and international organizations and meetings. EL.STAT. may also appoint any national authority mentioned in the preceding paragraph as its representative.
  5. EL.STAT., by its decision published in the Government Gazette, defines as the agencies of EL.S.S. those which have the responsibility or obligation to collect statistical data. This list is published on EL.STAT.’s website.
  6. EL.STAT. certifies as “official” statistics which have been produced by other agencies of EL.S.S. without prejudice to paragraph 5 of article 23 concerning the Bank of Greece. Confirmation shall be provided in the form of a decision of the President of EL.STAT. The

terms and conditions of the certification are determined in the Regulation on the Operation and Administration of EL.STAT.

7. ELSTAT provides its opinion prior to the submission to Parliament, of any legal provision that concerns ELSTAT or the official statistics of the country or through which this law is explicitly or implicitly amended. The same applies for any legal provision regarding the creation of new or the restructuring of administrative data sources and public registers or files, which are maintained in printed form, or by means of electronic, magnetic or other means, with a view to securing the capacity to utilize the relevant data for statistical purposes. For the implementation of the above, the draft of every relevant legal provision is submitted to ELSTAT, at the earliest possible point in time and before the relevant public consultation. If ELSTAT compiles a report on the final draft of the legal provision, this report is necessarily submitted to Parliament before the tabling of the legal provision for discussion.

## **Article 12**

### **Regulation on the Operation and Administration**

1. EL.STAT., by its decision, lays down the Regulation on the Operation and Administration, which is published in the Government Gazette. The Regulation on Operation and Administration determines the special issues related to the EL.STAT.'s competencies in compliance with the Community and national legislation in force, the rules of deontology and the methodology of EL.S.S.
2. The Regulation on the Operation and Administration determines the procedures concerning the monitoring, receipt and return of the primary statistical data which are transmitted by the agencies of EL.S.S. to EL.STAT. Moreover, it regulates issues applying to the cooperation and coordination of EL.STAT. with the other agencies of EL.S.S. Finally the Regulation determines the obligations of the EL.S.S. agencies to comply with the instructions of EL.STAT., in accordance with scientific developments, as well as with the European Statistical System. The Regulation may provide that the further specification of its provisions may take place with decisions of the President of EL.STAT. or with memoranda of cooperation with the ELSS agencies, and the publication of these decisions can take place on EL.STAT.'s website without need for other publication.
3. In case there is a violation of the obligations mentioned in the preceding paragraphs or a breach of the Regulation on the Operation and Administration, EL.STAT. may impose on the competent person, as he is defined in the Regulation, an administrative penalty which may range from one thousand (1,000) to one hundred thousand (100,000) euros depending on the gravity and frequency of the violation and its repercussions. Failure to comply with previous decisions related to the imposition of sanctions or a relapse will be an aggravating factor in the evaluation concerning the imposition of an administrative sanction. The Regulation on the Operation and Administration regulates implementation issues concerning this paragraph.

## **Article 13**

### **President of EL.STAT.**

1. The President of ELSTAT shall be selected following an international open call, which is published by the Minister of Finance four (4) months before the expiry of the term of the outgoing President. The call shall refer to the candidate evaluation and selection criteria, the duties and responsibilities of the President of EL.STAT. and his projected earnings, the deadline for applications by candidates, the administrative act of the constitution of the committee of experts of paragraph 3 of this Article, with its entire content, and any other information necessary for the selection process..  
The President of ELSTAT shall be appointed for a five-year term by decision of the Minister for Finance, which shall be published in the Government Gazette.
2. The sole criteria for selection for the position of President of EL.STAT. are (a) the high scientific training, with professional or academic expertise in the field of statistics or similar fields or in a field relevant to that of statistical surveys and studies, and (b) the candidate's ability, as indicated by his professional and scientific career, to meet the requirements of the statistical principles provided for in article 338 paragraph 2 of the TFEU, in article 2 of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 and in the European Statistics Code of Practice. In addition, the President of EL.STAT. must have a PhD degree.
3. For the selection of the President of ELSTAT, the Minister of Finance establishes, by means of a decision he issues prior to the invitation of interest, a five-member committee of experts. The task of the committee of experts shall be the assessment of the candidates and the selection of the President of ELSTAT. Technical and administrative support to the committee shall be provided by ELSTAT, in such a way that the committee's independence is safeguarded. The operating costs of the committee shall be borne by ELSTAT's budget.

As members of the committee are appointed exclusively persons with professional or academic expertise in the field of statistics or similar fields or in a field relevant to that of statistical surveys and studies. The members of the committee are appointed as follows:

- (a) one member nominated by the Hellenic Parliament,
- (b) one member appointed by the Minister for Finance,
- (c) one member nominated by the European Statistical Office (Eurostat),
- (d) one member shall be proposed by the European Statistical Governance Advisory Board (ESGAB) and
- (e) one member nominated by the European Statistical System Committee (ESSC).

In the nominations or proposals of the members and in the decision of the constitution of the committee of experts are listed the qualifications, on the basis of which their proposal or their appointment took place.

On the basis of the information submitted by the candidates and any other relevant information it has collected, the committee of experts makes a justified recommendation to the Finance Minister for the choice of

candidate, who meets to the fullest extent the consistent-with-the law selection criteria referred to in paragraph 2 of this article. In the event that the Minister of Finance does not agree with the recommendation of the committee, the Minister may appoint as President of EL.STAT. the candidate of his choice after prior notification to the Committee with the full justification of his choice of candidate in accordance with the exclusive selection criteria provided for in paragraph 2 of this article and after the Committee notifies the Minister of its judgment about this candidate's meeting of the selection criteria. The recommendation of the Committee of experts on its choice for President of EL.STAT., the justification of any choice by the Minister of Finance that deviates from the recommendation of the Committee, and the relevant judgment thereon of the Committee of experts are published mandatorily in Greek and in English on the website of EL.STAT.

The term of office of the President may be renewed only once by decision of the Minister of Finance. In the event that the process of selecting a new President is not completed by the end of the term of the outgoing one, the latter term shall be extended ipso jure to the appointment of a new President, except if the President's appointment had taken place without the concurring judgment of the committee of experts, in which case his term is extended for at most three months following the expiration date of his term. For renewal of term it is not required to carry out the procedure of the previous paragraph, except in the case where the selection of the President had taken place in accordance with this procedure and the committee of experts had not concurred with the selection made. In the case of renewal of term, for which it is not required to carry out the procedure of the previous paragraph, if the decision of renewal of term is published after the call for interest, the procedure that has started is cancelled. In the case that the renewal of term of the outgoing President can take place without carrying out the procedure of the previous paragraph, and if after three months from the end of his term the procedure for the selection of a new President has not been completed, the procedure is cancelled ipso jure and the term of the outgoing President is renewed ipso jure.

In the case of renewal of the term of the President, the new term begins on the date of the publication of the decision of the Minister of Finance in the Government Gazette or from the date of the ipso jure renewal of the term, irrespective of the extension of time that had taken place following the expiration of the previous term. A person who has been removed from that post is not allowed to be reappointed to the post of President of EL.STAT.

4. Article 3(4), (6) and (8) of Law 3051/2002 (Government Gazette 220 A') shall also apply to the President of EL.STAT.

## **Article 14**

### **Competences of the President**

1. The President of EL.STAT. is the supreme officer of EL.STAT., and shall exercise all its powers and shall be responsible for ensuring that the authority operates without problems in order to discharge its objectives in line with the provisions of national and European law, the European Statistics Code of Practice and best international statistical practices. More specifically, the President shall have the following competences:
  - a) he shall approve the EL.S.P.;
  - b) he shall prepare the Regulation on Statistical Obligations of the EL.S.S. agencies and the Regulation on the Operation and Administration of EL.STAT.;
  - c) he shall prepare the annual statistical work program of EL.STAT. and the evaluation report of the statistical program of the previous year;
  - d) he shall decide on the imposition of administrative sanctions, in accordance with articles 9 and 12 of this law;
  - e) he shall take decisions relating to statistical methods, standards and procedures, the content of statistical data and the timing of publication thereof, decisions relating to the transmission of official statistics from the EL.S.S. to the European Statistical Office (Eurostat) and in general decisions relating to the transmission, submission and notification of statistics in the context of European and international statistical cooperation;
  - f) he shall be responsible for coordinating all the activities of other EL.S.S. agencies relating to the development, production and dissemination of the official statistics of Greece, as well as for the implementation of the national quality assurance framework for statistics;
  - g) he may issue a decision ordering that all manner of statistical surveys, censuses and studies be carried out in addition to those specified in the EL.S.P., and the EL.STAT. annual statistical work program;
  - h) he shall represent EL.STAT. judicially and extra-judicially, before the courts, all authorities and third parties. The President of EL.STAT. may assign the task of representing the authority to the Legal Advisor of EL.STAT. or an employee of EL.STAT.;
  - i) he shall be the head of EL.STAT.'s various units, coordinate and direct their operation, provide orders for various measures to be taken relating to the discharge of EL.STAT.'s mission, and shall set up working groups comprised of specialist or other staff of EL.STAT. and shall specify their remit;
  - j) he shall be the head, hierarchically and disciplinarily, of EL.STAT.'s personnel, and assure that a Career Advancement Board and a Disciplinary Board are set up and run in accordance with the existing provisions;
  - k) he shall prepare the EL.STAT. annual budgets, annual reports and balance sheets;
  - l) he shall be responsible for all matters relating to the administrative operations and financial management of EL.STAT. and as the person responsible for ordering the

incurring of expenditure by EL.STAT., he shall assume obligations, which entail the disbursement of its budget appropriations;

- m) he shall reallocate to categories, branches and specializations, the vacant permanent (organic) positions that are provided for in the Organisation of ELSTAT;
  - n) he may transfer competences to other officers of EL.STAT. and issue a decision authorising officers of EL.STAT. to sign documents or other decisions “*On the President’s Orders*”, by means of decisions published by posting them to EL.STAT.’s website without requiring any other form of publication;
  - o) he shall exercise all other powers of EL.STAT. laid down by law and by the Regulation on the Operation and Administration of EL.STAT.
2. Where the President is absent or unable to perform his duties, he shall be substituted in the exercise of all his duties by the General Director of Statistical Surveys, and where he too is absent or unable to perform his duties, by the General Director of Administration and Organization.

## **Article 15**

### **Guarantees of independence – Impediments**

1. The President of EL.STAT. shall enjoy personal independence in the performance of his duties and he is bound by the relevant provisions in force. The President of EL.STAT. is by law subject to the status of full-time, exclusive employment.
2. The President of EL.STAT. may be discharged by decision of the very administrative body which appointed him, for inability in the exercise of his duties due to impediment, illness, or disability, or for any serious grounds relating to the performance of his duties, such as the disclosure of confidential information, which he became aware when exercising his duties, or abuse of his position for personal or commercial profit. The grounds for removal may not place at risk his professional and scientific independence.
3. All manner of pay for the President of EL.STAT. shall be laid down by decision of the Minister of Finance.

## **Article 16**

### **Resources – Budget**

1. The resources of EL.STAT. are the following:
  - a) The proceeds from credits entered in the General State Budget.
  - b) The proceeds from the management of its assets.
  - c) The proceeds from the sale of its statistical products deriving from statistical surveys, studies, statistical undertakings, publications and provision of services to third parties.
  - d) The proceeds from the sale of its statistical products deriving from statistical activities in the context of national, community or international programs.



- e) The proceeds from subsidies, donations and other contributions from public or private agencies.
  - f) The proceeds from administrative penalties.
  - g) The proceeds from any other legal cause.
2. EL.STAT.'s budget shall include all amounts which are necessary to provide users with high quality statistics in accordance with all national and European obligations. The President of EL.STAT. shall make a recommendation on the budget to the Minister of Finance, the President also being responsible for ordering the incurring of expenditure. The President may issue decisions during the course of the fiscal year setting aside EL.STAT. budget appropriations or increasing such appropriations by reducing other budget appropriations by the same amount. Implementation of the budget shall be scrutinised by the State Reporting and General Balance Sheet and Scrutiny of State Budget Implementation Committee, as specified in the Hellenic Parliament's bylaws. EL.STAT. shall be obliged to keep accounts which shall include the operating results and balance sheet in the manner specifically laid down in the Regulation on the Operation and Administration. The financial records and annual accounts and financial statements shall be audited by two (2) certified public accountants. Those records and financial statements shall be published in the Government Gazette and on EL.STAT.'s website. The EL.STAT. accounts and annual report shall be subject to both preventative and corrective (pre- and post-) audits by the Court of Audit.
- The Authority is excluded from the scope of article 146 of Law 4270/2014 and of article 14 of Legislative Decree 496/1974, as in force.
3. All issues relating to financial management of EL.STAT., particularly in relation to the chart of accounts used; the type, structure and content of the accounts and books held; approval and settlement of expenditure; the issuing of payment orders, and advance payment orders; the method for paying expenses; the management of cash flows; the payment of payment orders; the management of cash on hand; the auditing of financial management; all manner of contracts (especially those for the procurement of goods, the award of works, the provision of services, leasing, rental, purchase or sale of real estate properties), and issues relating to financing and the allocation of expenditure from each inventory prepared, and all necessary modalities shall be laid down in the Regulation on the Operation and Administration of EL.STAT. Until the Regulation on the Operation and Administration of EL.STAT. is issued, the provisions on public accounting shall apply.

## **Article 17**

### **Publication and dissemination of statistical data – Provision of EL.STAT.'s products**

1. The products, any rights of intellectual property and in particular the special right of the manufacturer of statistical database, arising from the conduct of statistical operations,

researches, studies, programmes or other activities conducted by EL.STAT. , belong to it exclusively.

2. The statistical data that are collected and processed shall be published or disseminated exclusively by the competent bodies of EL.STAT. in any form (printed, electronic or other) that seems to be the most appropriate according to articles 7 and 8.
3. EL.STAT. has the obligation to provide, free of charge, with prejudice to the relevant expenses and cost, the most important economic and social statistical data which it collects and processes and to publish them on its website. The calculation of cost and expenses may be made against a purchase price according to the systems and procedures of sale and invoicing determined by the Regulation on the Operation and Administration of EL.STAT.
4. The provision to individual persons or agencies of the products deriving from researches or studies or of data for the production or processing of which a special procedure is required, lies in the discretion of EL.STAT. and it may be done against a purchase price according to the systems and procedures of sale and invoicing determined by the Regulation on the Operation and Administration of EL.STAT.

## **Article 18**

### **Notifications to the Authority of Personal Data Protection**

1. EL.STAT. notifies the Authority of Personal Data Protection of the set up and processing of records or of the commencement of a process referring to the total of the statistical activities performed by it in accordance with article 6 of Law 2472/1997 (Government Gazette 50 A’).
2. The President of EL.STAT. is appointed as “the person responsible”, according to paragraph f’ of Article 2 of Law 2472/1997, for the data keeping and data processing.

## **Article 19**

### **Transfer of services – Personnel issues**

1. The regular units of the General Secretariat of NSSG, determined in Presidential Decree 226/2000 (Government Gazette 195 A’), the central and regional units and their personnel are transferred to EL.STAT., constituting the services, posts and personnel of EL.STAT. Also transferred: the already existing ad personam posts and the personnel serving with an employment contract of private law of indefinite or definite duration. The personnel transferred is classified in the same payroll scale and preserves the total amount of its wages including all allowances, specifically the special (productivity allowance), (provided for in Articles 57 of Law 2324/1995, Government Gazette 146A’, and 72 of Law 3746/2009, Government Gazette 27A’), which it receives when this Law enters into force. The provisions of Article 3(3) of the Law 1882/1990 (Government Gazette 43 A’) and of Article 5 of the Law 2685/1999 since 1.1.2011 apply accordingly to all EL.STAT.’s employees (regular permanent employees, employees under private contract of unlimited duration, revocable employees).
2. The existing screening council and disciplinary boards of the General Secretariat of NSSG henceforth constitute the career advancement boards and disciplinary boards of EL.STAT.
3. Personnel seconded to the General Secretariat of NSSG will continue to be employed by EL.STAT. until the expiration of its secondment.

4. EL.STAT.'s personnel will continue to be subject to the same pension and insurance status, concerning its main and supplementary pension and insurance, as the pension and insurance status to which the personnel of the General Secretariat of NSSG was subject.

## **Article 20**

### **Organization of EL.STAT.**

1. By virtue of a Presidential Decree, issued after the recommendation of the Ministers of Interior, Decentralization and Electronic Governance, and Finance, and following a proposal from EL.STAT., the Organization of EL.STAT. shall be established. This Organization determines the issues provided in Article 20 of Law 2503/1997 (Government Gazette 107 A') and the issues concerning the transfer of EL.STAT.'s personnel.
2. A Research and Studies Department, directly subject to the President of EL.STAT., is hereby established in the headquarters of EL.STAT. This Department has the following responsibilities: To provide scientific support to EL.STAT., such as the conduct of studies and submission of proposals concerning the modernization of statistical research, services provided and short- and long-term goals of EL.STAT., the monitoring of the progress and perspectives of statistical surveys, the improvement of the quality of statistics, and the exploitation, publication and dissemination of statistical data. The President of EL.STAT. may issue a decision assigning the Research and Studies Department or officers working in that Department appointed by the President for that purpose, the task of preparing socio-economic studies individually or in collaboration with other units of EL.STAT. or with other agencies, and may also assign the task of carrying out any other work in the context of EL.STAT.'s competences.
3. For the Department of Research and Studies are established ten (10) permanent (organic) positions of specialized scientific personnel, under the employment status of private law for an indefinite time duration. The filling of the posts is carried out after a call for applications issued by EL.STAT. In the event that at the time of issue of the call for filling the posts the Organization of EL.STAT., the establishment of which is provided for in paragraph 1 of this article, has not yet entered into force, or the Organization does not specify the relevant information, the subjects of the above posts and the number of posts per subject are determined in the call for applications, which also defines the formal and substantive criteria and qualifications for the filling of the posts in accordance with the provisions of article 2 of Presidential Decree 50/2001 as well as any other necessary detail. The President of EL.STAT. is responsible for determining all of the above and for issuing the call for applications. For the rest of the matters for the filling of posts, the provisions of Law 2190/1994 (Official Gazette 28 A '), as in force, are applicable. The filling of the posts can also be made, following a call by EL.STAT., through the redeployment of staff with the same formal and substantive qualifications from the Public sector or from legal entities under public law, or legal entities under private law in the public sector, or the non-publicly traded companies in which the Government holds a majority of the share capital. The redeployment is made by decisions of the Minister that is competent for the service or the

agency from which the redeployment is taking place and the President of EL.STAT

4. It is hereby established, in the headquarters of ELSTAT, one (1) post of Legal Advisor which must be filled by a Lawyer to the Supreme Court, employed on the basis of a fixed retainer. The tasks of the Legal Advisor are the provision of ELSTAT with legal advice and opinion and generally any kind of legal services in accordance with the Code on Lawyers, including extrajudicial or judicial representation of ELSTAT following delegation by the President of ELSTAT, in accordance with Article 14 of the present law. The Legal Advisor of ELSTAT is hired by decision of the President of ELSTAT, following a call for applications, which sets out the criteria, qualifications, as well as remuneration and terms of cooperation. The procedure for hiring lawyers in paragraph 2 of Article 43 of Law 4194/2013 shall not apply to the Legal Advisor of ELSTAT.

## **Article 21**

### **Assets of EL.STAT.**

1. The real estate located in the Municipality of Piraeus in the crossroad of Peiraios, Eponiton and A. Mourati streets shall ipso jure and without any other formality be passed to the full ownership of EL.STAT. as soon as the present Law enters into force. The relevant transcription act in the records of the competent mortgage registry and cadastral registry is released from any tax, dues or rights in favor of third parties.
2. Inventory and any kind of equipment used by or allocated to the services of the General Secretariat of NSSG shall be passed to the ownership of EL.STAT.without any other formality.
3. The registered mark and domain name of NSSG do consist henceforth the registered mark and domain name of EL.STAT.
4. EL.STAT. is substituted as special successor in the rights and obligations of the Greek State arising from the contracts, the object of which falls or applies to the activity, responsibilities or work of the repealed, by the present, General Secretariat of NSSG.
5. The expenses for the operation of the General Secretariat of NSSG entered in the budget of the Ministry of Finance are carried forward to the budget of EL.STAT.
6. Pending trials of the Greek State concerning issues of the General Secretariat of NSSG are going on in the name of EL.STAT. as special successor of the Greek State without being required any other formality or discontinuation of trial or any declaration for their re-opening.
8. EL.STAT. enjoys all substantial and procedural privileges of the Greek State.

## **Article 22**

### **Repealed provisions**

As soon as the present Law enters into force the following are repealed:

- a) The General Secretariat of the National Statistical Service of Greece established by the Presidential Decree 224/1986,

- b) The National Statistics Board established by Article 8 of Law 1819/1988 (Government Gazette 256 A’).
- c) Articles 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 and 11 of Law 2392/1996 (Government Gazette 60A’) and Article 8 of Law 1819/1988 (Government Gazette 256 A’) and
- d) Any other general or special provision which is contradictory to the provisions of the present Law or which regulates issues different from those regulated by this Law with the exception of the provisions laid down in Articles 8, 9 and 10 of the Law 2392/1996, which shall continue to apply until the establishment of the Regulation on the Operation and Administration of EL.STAT.

### **Article 23**

#### **Transitional and other provisions**

1. The Secretary General of the Minister of Finance shall perform the duties of the President of EL.STAT., provided by this Law, until the appointment of the President and other members of EL.STAT., in accordance with article 12.
2. Issues concerning the transfers of EL.STAT.’s personnel will be regulated by Presidential Decree 208/1996 (Government Gazette 165 A’) until the organization of EL.STAT. has been established.
3. Where the provisions in force refer to the General Secretariat of the National Statistical Service of Greece or the National Statistical Service of Greece (NSSG) these shall henceforth mean EL.STAT.
4. Where the provisions in force refer to the Minister of Finance, Minister of Economy and Finance, Minister of National Economy or Minister of Coordination as the person competent for the issue of administrative acts or for the performance of duties relating to the services, internal organization, personnel issues and the operation in general of NSSG, these shall henceforth mean the President of EL.STAT.
5. The competences of the Bank of Greece concerning the collection of statistical data and information in accordance with the provisions of articles 2 and 55C’ of its Constitution Paper ratified by Law 3424/1927 (Government Gazette 298 A’) in force and of Article 5 of Protocol (number 4) concerning the Charter of the European System of Central Banks (ESCB) and European Central Bank (EEC 115/201 of 9-5-2008) are not affected by the provisions of the present law.
6. Article 14(4) of Law 3470/2006 and Article 21(12) of Law 3144/2003 shall be supplemented as follows:  
 “The Hellenic Statistical Authority (EL.STAT.) may award a contract for work for a specific project to companies or sole trader enterprises or, for a specific time period not exceeding 8 months, to natural persons in order to provide services such as the transfer of materials, the handling of equipment and related work, and other services not expressly referred to herein, in order to meet needs arising from its operations”.
7. Until 31.12.2012 the expenditures of EL.STAT. shall be included in the budget of the Ministry of Finance and any kind of expenditure shall be cleared by the Minister of Finance pursuant to the clearance procedure provided for in the provisions in force, until the present Law enters into force. Pursuant to a Decision of the Minister of Finance, by

way of derogation from the provisions laid down in Article 17 of the Law 3871/2010 (Government Gazette 141 A'), the necessary appropriations for covering the expenditures of ELSTAT until 31.12.2012 shall be registered in a Special Category of the Budget of the Ministry of Finance. In order to cover the aforementioned expenditures, the appropriations intended for subsidies to ELSTAT shall be reduced accordingly.

8. By decision of the President of ELSTAT the 2011 Population Census results for the de facto population of the municipal communities of Article 2, paragraph 4, of law 3852/2010 are ratified and published in the Government Gazette. By the same decision any population, which is not possible to be allocated to these municipal communities due to missing settlement data, is proportionally allocated.
9. The reimbursement of the staff employed by ELSTAT in 2012 for the processing of the questionnaires of the 2011 Population and Housing Census, which have not been reimbursed so far by another decision, is determined by decision of the President of ELSTAT. This decision is issued within two (2) months from the publication of this provision. The expenditure incurred by this decision shall be covered by the budget of ELSTAT and cannot exceed ten thousand five hundred (10,500) euro.

#### **Article 24** **Entry into force**

The present Law enters into force as soon as it is published in the Government Gazette.