



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR RESEARCH
DIRECTORATE A
DIVISION FOR INTERNATIONAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

FACTSHEET

THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Chapter 12 - Statistics

1. The *acquis* ¹

The *acquis* under this chapter is not in itself problematic, and all countries have accepted it. In general terms there is a good level of alignment to basic principles. The main issue is whether the candidate countries are able to produce accurate and harmonised data in a permanent and sustainable way. The quality of statistics depends very much on the general administrative capacity of a country, on the performance of its public service and on the ability to recruit and retain qualified staff. Statistical cooperation with the candidate countries has been increasing in recent years, bilaterally with Eurostat, and also in the framework of international organisations such as the UN, IMF and OECD.

2. The negotiations

The negotiations have been closed with ten countries and provisionally closed with Bulgaria and Romania. There are no transitional arrangements.

Chapter opened March 1999

Status Closed December 2002 (provisionally closed in June 1999)

Transitional arrangements: none

¹ Information largely drawn from the European Commission, DG Enlargement
<http://europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/negotiations/index.htm>

3. Latest Assessment by the European Commission ¹

In its 1997 Opinion, the Commission concluded that the Czech Republic should be able to comply with EC requirements within the next few years provided that continuing progress was made.

Since the Opinion, the Czech Republic has made good further progress in most areas of statistics; in addition, a population and housing census and an agricultural census were conducted in 2001 and 2000 respectively. Overall, the Czech Republic is well advanced in this field of statistics. The commitment and high level of competence of staff as well as the newly developed planning system and quality approach constitute a good basis for *acquis* implementation that still has to be undertaken before accession.

Negotiations on this chapter have been provisionally closed. The Czech Republic has not requested any transitional arrangements in this area. The Czech Republic is generally meeting the commitments it has made in the accession negotiations in this field.

In order to complete preparations for membership, the Czech Republic's efforts should now focus on further improving the quality of the business register and the corresponding surveys among business operators. In general the accuracy and coverage of data needs to be improved further along the lines set out above. The full operation of INTRASTAT at the date of accession needs to be ensured.

January 2003

¹ European Commission, Regular Report on the Czech Republic 2002, p. 82:
http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/report2002/cz_en.pdf