



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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

FACTSHEET

Estonia

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 chapter has 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

3. Latest Assessment by the European Commission ²

In its 1997 Opinion, the Commission concluded that Estonia would need to make a sustained effort to comply with EU requirements.

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

² European Commission, Regular Report on Estonia 2002, p. 75:
http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/report2002/ee_en.pdf

Since the Opinion, Estonia has made impressive progress in all areas of statistics; in particular, a population and housing census and an agricultural census were conducted in the last two years. The legal, institutional framework and administrative capacity of the Estonian statistical system is now well established and complies with the *acquis* requirements.

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

In order to complete preparations for membership, Estonia's efforts now need to focus on the excessive deficit procedure and calculating the local governments' debts; the preparation for the implementation of INTRASTAT; improving the use of administrative sources for the production of statistics; and developing economic accounts for forestry.

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