



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



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Council strengthens rules on statistics for excessive deficit procedure

The Council today¹ adopted a regulation aimed at strengthening the rules concerning statistical data used under the EU's excessive deficit procedure.

The aim is to allow the Commission and the member states to work together more effectively in improving the quality and reliability of statistical data used to determine government deficit and debt figures.

This follows recurrent discrepancies and shortcomings in figures notified to the Commission by Greece in relation to its public finances, and repeated calls by the Council for it to improve the collection and processing of its statistical data.

Existing provisions, laid down in regulation 479/2009, enable Eurostat, the EU's statistical office, to regularly assess the quality both of data reported by the member states and of underlying government sector accounts. Quality of data implies compliance with accounting rules, as well as the completeness, reliability, timeliness and consistency of statistical data.

The new regulation, amending regulation 479/2009, is intended to strengthen the role of Eurostat when verifying the quality of data in cases where significant risks or problems with respect to the quality of the data have been clearly identified.

Adoption of the regulation follows an agreement reached at the Council's meeting on 8 June.

¹ The decision was taken without discussion at a meeting of the General Affairs Council.

P R E S S

