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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 2)/Council
No. prev. doc.:	17113/14 STATIS 143 ECOFIN 1218 CODEC 2556 + COR 1 + COR 2
No. Cion doc.:	9122/12 STATIS 29 ECOFIN 354 CODEC 1071 (COM (2012) 167 final
Subject:	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No. 223/2009 on European Statistics (1st reading)  - Adoption of the political agreement with a view to an early second reading agreement with the European Parliament

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1. On 17 April 2012, the Commission submitted its proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No. 223/2009 on European Statistics.
2. EU policy frameworks rely on timely and high quality socio-economic statistics. The development of the EU economic governance needs the production of reliable statistics, which play an essential role in the planning, decision making and monitoring of all EU policy initiatives. The amendment of Regulation 223/2009, which has been under discussion for more than two years, constitutes an important building-block in the process whose aim is to reinforce the reliability of European statistics.

3. On 6 November 2012, the European Central Bank adopted its opinion on the proposal<sup>1</sup>. On 21 November 2013, the European Parliament adopted its opinion at first reading<sup>2</sup>.
4. Previous Presidencies engaged in multiple attempts to find common ground on a text that could be agreed in the Council, but also be acceptable to the European Parliament and the Commission. On behalf of the European Parliament, the newly appointed Rapporteur, Mr. Hugues Bayet, indicated recently his institution's readiness to engage in a common effort to find an approach that could be acceptable to both legislators.
5. On 3 December 2014, a second conclusive Trilogue took place between the European Parliament, the Commission and the Italian Presidency. The compromise reached on that occasion constituted a balanced solution without, however, changing the essential elements of the February 2014 Coreper mandate<sup>3</sup>. On 19 December 2014, the Permanent Representatives Committee approved the compromise text<sup>4</sup> by a qualified majority.
6. Subsequently, on 9 January 2015, the Chair of the European Parliament's the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs sent a letter to the President of Coreper stating that the European Parliament would approve the Council's position without amendments at its second reading.
7. In view of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee could therefore invite the Council to:
  - approve the political agreement as set out in 17113/14 STATIS 143 ECOFIN 1218 CODEC 2556 + COR 1 + COR 2.
  - agree that the political agreement will be subject to legal-linguists' revision before the formal adoption by the Council of its position at first reading.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C 374, 4.12.2012, p.2 (15976/12 + COR 1)

<sup>2</sup> 16317/13

<sup>3</sup> 6919/14

<sup>4</sup> 17113/14 + COR 1 + COR 2.