

**CMFB opinion
on the format of EDP pre-notification questionnaire (Article 8a of Regulation
2103/2005)**

1. Eurostat requested a CMFB consultation on the above mentioned subject on 15 February 2006 in accordance with Article 8a of Regulation 2103/2005. The deadline for returning comments on the eight annexes constituting the pre-notification questionnaire was Thursday 23 February 2006. Nineteen (19) national statistical institutes and nine (9) national central banks from the Member States replied. The ECB also provided a reply.
2. A number of national institutions considered that the questionnaires were seeking a considerable degree of new additional detail that would require extra resources. There was some support for asking certain questions only if the need arose following examination of the EDP returns or where significant changes occurred. In any event, it would not be possible for many respondents to provide all of the detail required on a voluntary basis.
3. It was also recommended that these pre-notification questionnaires should be returned on as close a date as possible to the EDP returns to ensure consistency and to be of greatest value.
4. Accordingly, the CMFB suggests that Eurostat takes account of the concerns expressed and questions raised in organising future pre-notification rounds. It also suggests that Eurostat takes account of specific items raised by respondents that would help clarify the data requests.
5. In addition to this opinion, the following has been transmitted to Eurostat and will be kept in the records of the CMFB secretariat: all the original answers from the CMFB Members.

(Signed)

Bill Keating
CMFB Chairman

Dublin, 1 March 2006