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THE COMPLIANCE OF TURKISH STATISTICAL SYSTEM WITH EUROPEAN NORMS AND STANDARDS HAS BEEN ASSESSED

Peer Reviews are carried out to determine the level of compliance of the countries with the European Statistics Code of Practice by the Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat).

The basic foundation of the Peer Reviews is the European Statistics Code of Practice, adopted in 2005 by the European Commission. These principles regulate the quality and ethical norms in the statistical production and dissemination process of the statistical offices and systems. In addition, these principles guarantee the independence and accountability of the national statistical offices.

The Peer Reviews are conducted by independent experts and the representative of Eurostat for the statistical offices of the European Statistical System (EU and EFTA member states and Eurostat) and enlargement countries.

In Turkey, the first round of Peer Review was conducted in 2011 and the second round of Peer Review was realised in 2015. Turkey was decided as a pilot country for the second round of Peer Reviews for enlargement countries. In this respect, Turkish Statistical System was evaluated as a whole. The Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey and the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs, which were selected from the institutions and organisations producing official statistics, were examined as well as Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) in this exercise.

The Peer Review team visited Turkey on November 3-6, 2015 and interviewed with directors and personnel of the TurkStat at all levels. Furthermore, they met with representatives of the international organisations, the non-governmental organisations and the institutions producing statistics, academicians, and media to discuss TurkStat and Turkish Statistical System.

According to the Peer Review team, the development level achieved by TurkStat was impressive. The Peer Review team concluded that TurkStat was highly compliant with the European Statistics Code of Practice and compared favourably with other NSIs. Furthermore, they indicated that the Statistics Law of Turkey provides a comprehensive legal basis for the whole Turkish Statistical System in terms of coordination. In the report, they identified a number of issues and challenges with regard to TurkStat and Turkish Statistical System and for these, appropriate recommendations were put forward by the Peer Review team.

The final report can be accessed from the website of TurkStat and Eurostat http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/45004/6182541/Peer+Review+Report+of+Turkey_final.pdf/30f1c0d3-0000-4c4a-83e0-cc4187bb76a3.

Respectfully announced to the public.