

12. May 2022

To: European Statistical Advisory Committee (ESAC)

Subject: FENStatS statement on ESAC position on the Data Act Initiative

Under the light of the current Data Act proposal, dated 23 February 2022, and the feedback provided by the European Statistical Advisory Committee (ESAC) on the matter to the European Commission, the FENStatS Executive Committee comes hereby to express itself.

Our democracies rely on the quality and trustworthiness of data in the public domain. Evidence must be taken seriously in decision making and for the public discourse; official statistics should continue to be at the heart of policy debate.

Business-to-Government data-sharing might produce significant benefits in official statistics. Indeed, the recent COVID-19 outbreak challenged, for instance, National Statistical Offices and affected the timeliness of regular statistics. Thus, facilitating the dissemination of Business-to-Government data becomes vital for official statistics and scientific research activities once these data might proxy and complement traditional data, improving official estimates.

Considering the above, FENStatS fully supports the ESAC position toward the Data Act proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Walter J. Radermacher'.

Walter J. Radermacher, PhD
President FENStatS