



**EUMEPS views on the extension of the European statistical program -
a response to the European public consultation**

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EUMEPS welcomes the European Commission efforts to establish European statistics. These statistics answer the strong need for robust and reliable data to underpin the evaluation and development of EU and national policies. We appreciate that the European Commission seeks views on evolutions in the field of technologies, statistics and methodologies that could affect the priorities of the European statistical program 2018-2020.

In that sense, we would like to focus the attention on fire safety. Fire safety is a topic of concern in all Member States. A significant number of people are killed and injured every year in fires. The material and non-material damage is substantial and prevention measures can have costly implications to national budgets. Just as in other areas, the expectations on the quality and comparability of statistics are increasing. Yet, at this moment there are virtually no European statistics.

Instead of continuing to produce national (or even regional) statistics for this domain, EUMEPS supports statistical systems at national and European level to move towards more integrated and comprehensive systems. EUMEPS proposes the development of a methodology to collect European fire safety statistics and implement it as a part of the European statistical program. National statistical authorities together with stakeholders such as fire fighter organizations and insurance companies should compile basic statistics. Indicators can be developed to reveal relative positions or show positive or negative changes, which can be the input into national and EU policies. For methodology and indicator development the EU could build up on the work done in the ISO committee 353084, where EU experts play a leading role.

We are confident that the establishment of European fire safety statistics can support the development of effective fire safety policies and therefore, hope that this proposal will be taken into careful consideration.

Yours sincerely,

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Secretary General EUMEPS

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