



Press release

Date : 2 December 2019

Adaptation of the bilateral agreement in the area of statistics with the European Union

During its 5th meeting held at Luxembourg on 2 December 2019, the Swiss-EU statistics committee adopted a decision concerning the revision of Annex A of the bilateral agreement in the area of statistics. This revision, which results from a decision of the Federal Council from 22 May 2019, thus makes it possible to continue the good statistical collaboration between Switzerland and the EU. The new Annex A comes into force with immediate effect.

The main changes concern social security statistics, population and housing censuses, demographic statistics, environmental economic accounts and the European system of national and regional accounts 2010 (SEC 2010). Due to changes in EU statistical legislation, a revision of Annex A was necessary in order to maintain the consistency and comparability of statistics between Switzerland and the EU.

The 2004 bilateral agreement came into force in 2007. It defines rules intended to ensure the development, production and dissemination of harmonised statistical data in Switzerland and the EU. It therefore allows comparisons to be made in the fields of cooperation, especially those covered by the different bilateral agreements. Thanks to the publication of "euro-compatible" Swiss data by the European Statistical Office, Eurostat, Switzerland can also look forward to increased international visibility, for example, as an economic centre. During international negotiations, Switzerland will be able to rely on statistics that are recognised by European standards, thus reinforcing its position.

The Federal Council approved the revision of Annex A of the bilateral agreement in the area of statistics with the EU during its session of 22 May 2019.

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