

Regulation (EC) No 638/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council  
of 31 March 2004 on Community statistics relating to the trading of goods  
between Member States and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 3330/91

REGULATION (EC) No 638/2004 OF THE  
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

of 31 March 2004

on Community statistics relating to the trading of goods between  
Member States and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 3330/91

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 285(1) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee<sup>(1)</sup>,

Acting in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 251 of the Treaty<sup>(2)</sup>,

Whereas:

- (1) Council Regulation (EEC) No 3330/91 of 7 November 1991 on the statistics relating to the trading of goods between Member States<sup>(3)</sup> introduced a completely new system of data collection, which has been simplified on two occasions. In order to improve the transparency of this system and to make it easier to understand, Regulation (EEC) No 3330/91 should be replaced by this Regulation.
- (2) This system should be retained, as a sufficiently detailed level of statistical information is still required for the Community policies involved in the development of the internal market and for Community enterprises to analyse their specific markets. Aggregated data also need to be available quickly in order to analyse the development of the Economic and Monetary Union. Member States should have the possibility of collecting information which meets their specific needs.
- (3) There is, however, a need to improve the wording of the rules on compiling statistics relating to the trading of goods between Member States so that they can be more easily understood by the companies responsible for providing the data, the national services collecting the data and users.
- (4) A system of thresholds should be retained, but in a simplified form, in order to provide a satisfactory response to users' needs whilst reducing the burden of response on the parties responsible for providing statistical information, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises.
- (5) A close link should be maintained between the system for collecting statistical information and the fiscal formalities which exist in the context of trade of goods

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*Status: Point in time view as at 31/01/2020.*

*Changes to legislation: There are outstanding changes not yet made to Regulation (EC) No 638/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council. Any changes that have already been made to the legislation appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)*

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between Member States. This link makes it possible, in particular, to check the quality of the information collected.

- (6) The quality of the statistical information produced, its evaluation by means of common indicators and transparency in this field are important objectives, which call for regulation at Community level.
- (7) Since the objective of the planned action, namely the creation of a common legal framework for the systematic production of Community statistics relating to the trading of goods between Member States, cannot be sufficiently achieved at national level and can be better achieved at Community level, the Community may adopt measures, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity as set out in Article 5 of the Treaty. In accordance with the principle of proportionality, as set out in that Article, this Regulation does not go beyond what is required to achieve this objective.
- (8) Council Regulation (EC) No 322/97 of 17 February 1997 on Community statistics<sup>(4)</sup> provides a reference framework for this Regulation. However, the very detailed level of information in the field of statistics relating to the trading of goods requires specific rules with regard to confidentiality.
- (9) It is important to ensure the uniform application of this Regulation and, in order to do so, to make provision for a Community procedure to help determine the implementing arrangements within an appropriate timescale and to make the necessary technical adaptations.
- (10) The measures necessary for implementation of this Regulation should be adopted in accordance with Council Decision 1999/468/EC of 28 June 1999 laying down the procedures for the exercise of implementing powers conferred on the Commission<sup>(5)</sup>,

HAVE ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

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- (1) [OJ C 32, 5.2.2004, p. 92.](#)
- (2) Opinion of the European Parliament of 16 December 2003 (not yet published in the Official Journal) and Council Decision of 22 March 2004.
- (3) [OJ L 316, 16.11.1991, p. 1.](#) Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1882/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council ([OJ L 284, 31.10.2003, p. 1.](#)).
- (4) [OJ L 52, 22.2.1997, p. 1.](#) Regulation as amended by Regulation (EC) No 1882/2003.
- (5) [OJ L 184, 17.7.1999, p. 23.](#)

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