

Chief Statistician and Director
STATISTICS AND DATA DIRECTORATE

National Assembly
Republic of Bulgaria

SDD/DO(2025)30

Paris, 09 October 2025

Dear Assen Vasilev and Nadezhda Yordanova,

Thank you for reaching out to us on the proposed amendments to the Bulgarian Statistics Act (the Act).

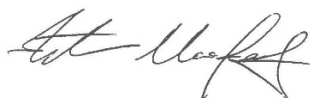
The Recommendation on Good Statistical Practice [OECD/LEGAL/0417] adopted in 2015 is the first OECD legal instrument on statistics (the Recommendation). The Recommendation is aligned with other international guidelines, including the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics of the United Nations, and the European Statistics Code of Practice. It is composed of twelve recommendations pertaining but not limited to putting in place measures to ensure the professional independence of National Statistical Authorities and measures to ensure the impartiality, objectivity and transparency of official statistics. The Recommendation provides a common reference for the best policies and practices used to assess the national statistical systems.

The Recommendation specifically calls upon countries that are adherent to the Recommendation to ensure that their National Statistical Authorities are professionally independent, have the exclusive authorities to decide on statistical methods and dissemination, and are protected, through the inclusion of explicit provisions in statistics legislation, from political and other interference in the development, compilation and dissemination of official statistics. It does not specify however whether the government or parliament should be responsible for appointing or dismissing the heads of National Statistics Authorities.

The integration into the statistical legislation of sound and transparent procedures for appointing and dismissing the head(s) of National Statistical Authorities is therefore considered best practice. This would include a clear indication of grounds for their dismissal ahead of term (including resignation, death, effective crime conviction, conflict of interests, etc.).

Regarding the dismissal of the President of the National Statistical Institute, the criteria for the termination of the mandate are defined in Article 8 of the Statistics Act, which we understand is not subject to revision by the draft amendments. These criteria and grounds for dismissal are in the Secretariat's preliminary view aligned with international good practices. The transitional provision, which we understand would supersede the grounds for termination ahead of term of the mandates of the President and the Deputy Presidents which are set out in the Statistics Act, do not provide any further sound grounds and in the Secretariat's preliminary view, may not fully align with OECD Members' best policies and practices and the Recommendation in terms of measures to support the professional independence of Bulgaria's National Statistical Institute.

With best regards



Steve MacFeely
OECD Chief Statistician and
Director of the Statistics and Data Directorate