



with EU aggregates. The overview will cover the period until the end of the year 2020 and will be finalized by Monday, 23 March 2020.

Following this, at the beginning of the week, Eurostat will analyse the overview results and suggest a list of statistics to be prioritised. I am confident that you will all share the opinion of the PG that, together as a system, we should not spare any effort to provide data and statistics needed to take decisions aimed at saving human lives and overcoming the adverse economic and social implications of the crisis.

I will then send you a letter containing the prioritised list. The letter will launch a consultation process to understand in more detail the challenges related to the timeliness and quality of each prioritised statistics as well as to identify the right course of joint actions to overcome them. This consultation will involve directors' groups as well.

Currently, Eurostat is analysing how the risks of not meeting legal demands in terms of deadlines and quality of data could be addressed within the existing legal framework. In addition, we are developing a common approach across statistical domains to address the risks of not finishing the activities within the timelines defined in the ongoing grants. We will also adjust the timeline for opening calls for new grants to take into account the implications of the Covid-19 outbreak. I will inform you about the updated approach to ongoing grants and the timeline for launching calls for new grants next week.

Finally, I am very pleased to inform you that yesterday the PG agreed that the ESS had to be able to provide additional statistics to support decision-making during this crisis – also by using new data sources. The PG put forward the proposal to have a teleconference on Monday to do the first brainstorming on possibilities to produce new statistics in case Eurostat/ESS get access to data from mobile phone operators. Discussions with mobile phone operators to get access to their data for the sake of overcoming the crisis are currently taking place at EU level. I am very grateful to X, X, X, X, X and X for their willingness to take part in this brainstorming.

To get access to mobile phone operators' data for statistical purposes has been high on our agenda for some time. We have an unique window of opportunity to get such an access but only if we will be able to provide outputs quickly, so they could be used in the combat against Covid-19. I will come back to you after the meeting on Monday to report on the ideas, which have emerged during the meeting and suggests next steps to identify together possible new insights to the crisis based on existing statistics and statistics using new data sources.

I will stop here.

Thank you very much for your cooperation in these challenging times.

Take care and stay safe,

X