INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES OF TURKSTAT

Technical assistance programs have been implemented by the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) on the basis of needs and requirements of transition countries, priority has been given to the Caucasus and Central Asian Turkish Republics, since 1994 with the financial support of the Turkish International Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TICA). Our main partners in these programs are Turkish International Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TICA), international organizations (UN, WB, OECD, ILO, etc.), regional organizations (Organization of Islamic Countries–OIC, Economic Cooperation Organization–ECO, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries–SESRIC).

International cooperation activities provided by TurkStat are in forms of technical assistance programs, cooperation with international organizations, bilateral cooperation activities and cooperation with regional organizations.

COMPLETED PROGRAMS

- 1996-1999 Bosnia and Herzegovina
- 1997-1998 Georgia
- 1998-1999 Mongolia
- 1997-2001 Macedonia
- 2001-2004 Georgia
- 2002-2004 Bosnia and Herzegovina
- 2005-2009 Kyrgyzstan
- 2005-2009 Kazakhstan
- 2005-2009 Mongolia
- 2008-2011 Turkmenistan
- 2010-2011 Moldova
- 2011-2012 Azerbaijan

STRENGTHENING THE STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES PROJECTS

- Azerbaijan
  Kazakhstan
  Kyrgyzstan
  Uzbekistan
  Turkmenistan
- **Activities Realized**: Consultancy Services, Courses, Workshops, Training Programs
- **Total number of consultants**: 99
- **Total number of participants**: 142


- **Activities Realized**: Consultancy Services, Training Programs
- **Total number of consultants**: 21
- **Total number of participants**: 11


- **Activities Realized**: Consultancy services, Training Programs
- **Total number of consultants**: 9
- **Total number of participants**: 6

**Mongolia (1999), (2005-2009)**

- **Activities Realized**: Consultancy Service, Training Programs
- **Total number of consultants**: 19
- **Total number of participants**: 23
- **Subjects**: Purchasing Power Parities, National Accounts, Data Processing, Information Technologies, Population Census, Sampling Techniques

**Kyrgyzstan (2006-2007)**

- **Activities Realized**: Consultancy Service, Training Programs
- **Total number of consultants**: 4
- **Total number of participants**: 6
- **Subjects**: Industrial Census, Price Indices

**Turkmenistan (2008-2011)**

- **Activities Realized**: Consultancy Service, Training Programs
- **Total number of consultants**: 30
- Total number of participants: 41
- **Subjects:** Agricultural Statistics, National Accounts, Population Censuses, International Classifications, Tourism Statistics

**Moldova (2010-2011)**

**Activities Realized:** Consultancy Service, Training Programs
- Total number of consultants: 1
- Total number of participants: 10
- **Subjects:** Statistical Classifications, Sampling Techniques

**Azerbaijan (2011-2012)**

**Activities Realized:** Consultancy Services, Training Programs
- Total number of consultants: 4
- Total number of participants: 9

**ONGOING PROGRAMS**

**Palestine (2011-2013)**

**Activities Realized:** Training Programs
- Total number of participants: 38

**Planned Activities:** Training programs
- **Subjects:** Population Censuses

**Tunisia (2012-...)**

**Activities Realized:** Training Programs
- Total Number of Participants: 10
- Regional Statistics, October 2012, Ankara
- Improving Official Statistical Program and organization structure, February 2013, Ankara

**Activities Realized:** Study Visits
- Total number of participants of TurkStat: 5
• Review of Tunisian Statistical System, May 2013, Tunisia,
• Review of Statistical Dissemination System of Tunisia, May 2013 Tunisia

Planned Activities
• Population and Housing Census, 2013, Tunisia, Ankara
• Statistical publications and data dissemination, 2013, Ankara

Mongolia (2013-2014)

Within the framework of the memorandum of understanding signed among TurkStat, TICA and the National Statistical Office of Mongolia, a delegation of 3 Mongolian experts visited TurkStat on 5-7 June 2013 in order to get information about TurkStat’s "Training Center". The cooperation studies will go on.

COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

WORLD BANK PROJECTS

Tajikistan (2005-)

9 training programs were organized at TurkStat between the years of 2005 and 2010 with participation of 80 Tajik experts in total.

• Total number of TurkStat experts assigned for consultancy service in Tajikistan: 2

Palestine (2010):

5 experts from the Central Statistical Office of Palestine visited TurkStat on 8-12 March 2010 on the use of mobile devices in data compilation.

Iraq (2011):

A mission comprising of 3 experts from Iraq visited TurkStat in April 2011 on Water Accounts and Environmental Expenditures.

Iran (2011-ongoing)

UNITED NATION PROJECTS

Syria (2006):

A committee consisting of a Vice President and two Heads of Departments from the Central Statistical Office of Syria visited TurkStat.

Subjects: Application and development of statistical strategies in Turkey, organization of statistical activities at TurkStat, relations with other institutions and private sector, TurkStat's legal framework, foundation and statistical methods.

Afghanistan (2007):

4 Afghan experts and 2 UNFPA consultants participated in a training program organized at TurkStat in 2007 on methods and approaches for population censuses.

Pakistan (2008):


Syria (2009):


Eastern European Countries (2012):

27 experts from 13 Eastern European Countries participated in the Workshop on “Seasonal Adjustments” held in TurkStat between 20-23 February 2012.

Iran (2013):

Within the framework of a project of UNFPA, a mission from the Statistical Office of Iran will visit TurkStat in July 2013 in order to get information on “Register Based Censuses”.

ILO PROJECTS

Egypt (2012):

Within the framework of an ILO project, a mission from Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) of Egypt visited TurkStat on 13-15 February, 2012 in order to get information about General Census of Industry and Establishments, 2011 Population and Housing Survey and Turkey’s Income and Expenditure Surveys.
BILATERAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES

South Korea:

Officials from the Statistical Office of South Korea visited TurkStat in 2007 in order to get information about the official statistics program, regional statistics, cooperation and coordination between headquarters and regional offices.

Kosovo:

Officials from the Statistical Office of Kosovo visited TurkStat in May 2009 in order to get information about population census studies.

Jordan:

A delegation of Statistics Jordan visited TurkStat in May 2009 in order to get information about address based population register system implemented in Turkey.

Indonesia:

High level executives of Statistics Indonesia visited TurkStat in 2010 in order to get information about Population Census and related information technologies.

Bosnia and Herzegovina:

Directors from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia visited TurkStat in 2010 in order to get information about “2000 Turkish Population Census and Planned 2011 Turkish Population Census”, “Migration Statistics” and “Information and Communication Technologies”.

Norway:

A Memorandum of Understanding between the NSOs of two countries was signed on January 9, 2012. The aim is designing statistical cooperation schemes to provide technical assistance on capacity development to the selected countries and realizing the share of information and experience for developing statistical methodologies and researches.

Pakistan:

Within the framework of a program financed by German International Cooperation Agency (GIZ), 9 experts from Pakistan Bureau of Statistics visited TurkStat on November 19, 2012 in order to get information about TurkStat’s “Training Center”.

**Tajikistan:**

A mission consisting of 10 experts from the State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Tajikistan visited TurkStat on **10-14 December 2012** in order to get information about Agricultural Censuses.

**Kazakhstan:**

Two experts from the Agency of **Statistics** of the Republic of **Kazakhstan** visited TurkStat on **18-21 December 2012** in order to get information about Science and Technology Statistics and Transportation statistics.

**Mauritania:**

A high-level delegation of four officials from the National Population and Secure Title Registration Agency of Mauritania visited TurkStat on **April 10, 2013** in order to get information about population registers and creation of voters lists.

**Niger:**

A mission consisting of ten experts from the National Statistical Office of Niger visited TurkStat on **22-24 Mai 2013** in order to get information about Population and Housing Censuses.

**South Korea:**

Two officials from the Statistical Office of South Korea visited TurkStat on **11-13 June 2013** in order to get information about register based population censuses.

**Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC)-Ongoing**


Between **2005-2013**, 70 experts from TurkStat carried out 35 consultancy services in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. 3 experts from TRNC participated in 2 trainings in TurkStat.

A cooperation protocol was signed with TRNC State Planning Organization (SPO) in **May 2011** in order to share the experience gained from the studies of Acquis Communitaire implemented in TurkStat.
COOPERATION WITH REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Organization of the Islamic Countries (OIC)

TurkStat has been involving in bilateral and multilateral cooperation activities with the OIC countries in collaboration with the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC).

- Training program on Population Census in Ankara between 6-10 December 2004 (14 experts from related countries participated).

- Training program on Price Statistics and Indices between 20-22 February 2006 at TurkStat’s Headquarters (12 experts from 10 OIC member countries participated).

- Between 2005 and 2013, within the framework of cooperation with SESRIC, 16 experts of TurkStat gave 14 trainings in Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Egypt, Oman, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Yemen, Kazakhstan, Uganda, Syria, Jordan and Kuwait.


Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)

"6th National Focal Points (NFPs) meeting on Economic Research and Statistics" was hosted by TurkStat on 17-18 November 2008 at TurkStat’s premises and 25 experts (except from Turkey) from the member countries and related organisations participated in the meeting.

"5th ECO High Level Expert Group Meeting on Statistics" was hosted by TurkStat on 4-5 December 2012 in Ankara and 13 experts (except from Turkey) from the member countries and related organisations participated in the meeting.
Statistics at CrossRoads

Volume 1, Issue 1

Editorial

International cooperation is a long tradition in TurkStat. Being member of several international organizations for years, a considerable amount of interactions and valuable partnership arrangements have been established with international statistical community. Since 2001, TurkStat staff have benefited from the experiences of European partners through participation in technical meetings, study visits and trainings; and above all these we have had the honor of welcoming peers from other countries' statistical offices, hosting many high level and technical meetings. Official statistics are not taught in schools or universities, and not need to. Besides meeting the requirement of current users with the methodology in place, statistical offices should be in a position to search for new techniques, new ideas to increase both the variety and quality of the statistical data. This is the incentive which leads statistical offices to cooperate with each other. We should learn from each other to better reflect the situation of our countries and present the policy makers correct data for efficient resource allocation, poverty reduction, good governance and building democracy.

ECO Meeting in Ankara

The "5th High Level Expert Group Meeting (HLEGM) on Statistics" of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) was held on 4-5 December 2012 in Ankara. A total of 13 representatives from Member States and relevant organizations participated in the meeting. The meeting mainly focused on subjects such as improvement of statistical cooperation and training activities, setting up the "Committee on Regional Harmonized Statistical Methodology" and statistical capacity building programmes within the region.
Interview with Mr. Enver TAŞTİ- Vice President of TurkStat

Mr. Enver Taştı, who has been appointed as Vice President of TurkStat on 5th October 2012; also become responsible for all the international relations and cooperation activities in TurkStat.

Before his recent post, he was acting as Head of Social Statistics Department for many years where he had the opportunity to take part in many international events and as being an expert in social statistics, he visited several countries to give consultancy services.

In the following interview, we would like to receive his attitude towards international cooperation activities and TurkStat's vision about relations with international counterparts.

"We have to interact and cooperate with the peers in the world to catch up new developments and update our processes and methodology..."

Mr. Taştı, TurkStat has been involved in international cooperation activities for many years. You have welcomed several delegates from different statistical offices and also participated in both technical and high level international events. How do you assess the effect of these kinds of activities in TurkStat?

Statistical data is of crucial importance for policy makers especially in today’s conditions. Everlasting renovation in socio-economic life forces updates on both production methods and scope of official statistics. New data demand areas emerge as result of diversities in environmental and natural qualities, consumption of natural resources, migration models and economic activities. Besides, globalization promotes comparable data among countries. It is very important to have timely and comparable data for countries in contribution or trying to integrate in any kind of economic and social international formations like United Nations and European Union.

We have to interact and cooperate with the peers in the world to catch up new developments and update our processes and methodology for better reflecting the economic and social situation in our country. International activities provide a forum for discussing how to progress in this way and we do not have the chance to avoid engaging in these facilities.

What is the perception of TurkStat staff in international cooperation activities?

TurkStat has been engaged in international cooperation activities for many years even before the EU relations have begun. We have welcomed delegates from Middle Eastern and Caucasians, our staff offered their expertise in several technical areas. Turkish colleagues also visited these countries’ statistical offices to give consultancies on major areas of official statistics. International cooperation activities are positively welcomed by TurkStat staff and most of them are willing to share their expertise and knowledge with their peers.

On the other hand, participation in technical meetings, study visits and trainings especially those conducted in EU countries are acting as supportive instruments for improving current jobs and motivating our staff to align their work with EU standards. Eurostat meetings also help to establish networks among technical staff where they are able to discuss problems and find solutions.

Are there any priority areas, countries or regions determined by TurkStat for international cooperation?

International cooperation policy of a governmental organization is shaped by foreign policy of the government. Statistical offices are usually not at the centre of decision-making mechanisms when the states are establishing their foreign policies. Turkey is an EU candidate and as responsible from Statistics Chapter in EU Negotiation Process, we have commitments to align our statistics to EU standards. In this route, we are implementing a couple of EU financed projects and getting assistance from our
Interview with Mr. TAŞTI (cont’d)

European partners. We will continue to participate in Multi-Beneficiary Programmes launched by Eurostat and also apply IPA funds for specified projects.

Secondly, we are receiving cooperation requests from different countries in Asia and Africa. They demand TurkStat’s assistance in major areas of official statistics. Turkey is preferred by these countries due to both geographical proximity and cultural ties which date back to Ottoman Empire era. We welcome these demands with respect and try to meet their requirements of trainings and consultancy in major areas of official statistics. In the future, we also plan to continue to support these partners.

With which countries does TurkStat cooperate currently?

In addition to the activities we carry out in EU - EFTA Countries under EU funded projects, several cooperation programmes have been realized; these are Turkmenistan (2011-2012), Azerbaijan (2011-2013), Palestine (2011-2012), Turkmenistan (2011-2012), Palestine (2011-2012). Two other programmes are on the way; Tunisia (2012-2014) and Mongolia (2012-2014).

TurkStat also takes part and supports other countries statistical offices in the frame of projects funded by international and regional organizations; such as World Bank, UN, ECO, SESRIC.

We understand that TurkStat is fond of international cooperation activities and has already become an important actor in the international statistical environment.

Of course, these activities help to increase the appreciation of TurkStat in the international arena. However, this is not the primary motive for TurkStat while facilitating cooperation activities. Our concern is to share knowledge and practices and produce high quality statistical data for our international and local users.

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Cooperation Visit to DESTATIS

A high-ranking official delegation of Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) paid a visit to Federal Statistical Office of Germany (DESTATIS) in Welsbaden, GERMANY on 6-7 September 2012.

During the visit, Turkish delegation headed by TurkStat President Mr. Birol AYDEMİR have attended several high level meetings and discussed significant issues in statistical area in order to discover possible cooperation areas between two institutions.

As a consequence of the visit, both sides agreed on improving the cooperation activities between two institutions. Moreover, exchange of information, acting together in international projects if necessary, carrying out close cooperation with a view to preventing the repetitions in technical assistance programs to third countries were the other issues that were agreed on.

“Our concern is to share knowledge and practices and produce high quality statistical data for our international and local users.”
TurkStat Represented in High-Level Meetings

4th OECD World Forum in New Delhi

Four senior executives including Mr. Brol AYDEMIR, President of TurkStat participated in the 4th OECD World Forum on Statistics, Knowledge and Policy under the theme "Measuring Well-Being for Development and Policy Making" which was organized jointly with the Government of India on 16-19 October 2012 in New Delhi, India. Building on the “Better Life Initiative”, the main objectives of the Forum were to further the discussions on the different aspects that make for a good life today and in the future in different countries of the world and to promote the development and use of new measures of well-being for effective and accountable policy-making.

Policy Group Meeting on Statistical Cooperation (PGSC) Tirana

Policy Group on Statistical Cooperation (PGSC) is one of the highest level meetings in the context of European Union Statistical System. This year PGSC was in Tirana with the participation of Eurostat, EU candidate countries (Turkey, Croatia, Macedonia, Iceland, Montenegro), Western Balkan Countries (Albania, Bosnia, Serbia, Kosovo), EFTA and SIDA. TurkStat was represented by Mr. Alper GUCUMENGLI and Metin EROL, from International Relations Department. The purpose of this meeting was to share information on statistical cooperation activities, Light Peer Reviews (LPR) and Population Censuses 2011.

USST Programme Phase III - Technical Assistance Component

"USST Programme Phase III is a follow up technical assistance Programme with a budget of 3 million Euros."

Upgrading The Statistical System of Turkey Programme - Phase III is being implemented under 2009 Programming of Instrument for Pre-Accession 1.Component (IPA-I) Transition Assistance and Institution Building Component.

USST III with a budget of 3,016,410 Euros is planned as complementary to previous national programmes USST I (2003 - 2007) and USST II (2007 - 2009).

The Programme consists of two components; Training Grant component has been started in July 15th, 2011 and since then several training activities, have been realized.

The second component which aims to provide consultancy services to TurkStat has entered into force on December 28, 2012.

GOPA Consortium which consists of GOPA Consultants, Destatis, Statistics Netherlands and Umweltbundesamt Austria (Austrian Environment Agency) has been awarded and the long term consultant Mr. Ulrich Eichler has started his work on 10th January 2013.
TurkStat Staff in Technical Consultancy

Mongolia

In order to initiate the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) procedures, experts from TurkStat paid a fact-finding visit to the National Statistical Office of Mongolia in June 2012. An activity programme was prepared along with technical departments of TurkStat within the framework of envisaged studies of the protocol. The MoU was signed on 27 February 2013.

Tunisia

Within the framework of “Turkey-Tunisia Development Cooperation Programme” implemented under the coordination of Ministry of Development (MoD) of Turkey, a programme on regional statistics was organised by MoD. A five-person delegation of Tunisia visited TurkStat on October 15, 2012 in order to get information about the work carried out in this respect.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is planned to be signed between TurkStat, Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TICA) and National Institute of Statistics of Tunisia (NIST) in early 2013. As a part of the planned MoU, four experts of NIST visited TurkStat in order to obtain information about organizational and legal structure of TurkStat and the official statistical program in February 2012.

Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC)

A cooperation protocol, aiming at supporting statistical services of TRNC, was signed between Undersecretariat of State Planning Organization of TRNC and TurkStat in April 2011. TurkStat experts provided consultancy service on “General Census of Industry and Business” on 2-7 September 2012 in TRNC.

Azerbaijan

A training on quality assurance, metadata and Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM) was given to four experts from State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan on 19-21 December 2012 in Ankara.

Kazakhstan

Two experts from the Agency of Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan participated in the training programme on science and technology statistics and transportation statistics on 18-21 December 2012 in Ankara.

Pakistan

Within the framework of a programme funded by the German Technical Cooperation Agency (GIZ), nine experts of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics visited TurkStat on November 19, 2012 to obtain information about the training activities of TurkStat.

Tajikistan

Within the framework of cooperation with the Statistical Agency under President of the Republic of Tajikistan, a Tajik delegation of ten experts visited TurkStat for a training programme on “General Census of Agriculture” on 10-14 December 2012.

Cooperation with SESRIC

Within the framework of cooperation studies with Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), two consultancy services were provided.

A training on “Supply-Use and Input-Output Tables” was provided by an expert from TurkStat to Department of Statistics of Malaysia on 17-19 October 2012.

A training on “Price Statistics and Indices” was provided by an expert from TurkStat to National Statistical Office of Oman on 10-13 November 2012.

“TurkStat is willing to continue technical support for sister organizations in Middle Asia.”
Turkish Experts participated in abroad activities.

"TurkStat expresses its gratitude to all its partners hosted the activities."

**Study Visits**
- Integration of Enterprise Groups Into Business Registers in Statistics Denmark—July 2012
- Quality of EDP Tables in Statistics Denmark—August 2012
- Exchanging Information and Experience about Preparation and Implementation of Theoretical and Technical Training Programmes in Statistics Denmark—October 2012
- Labor Input Indicators in Industry in The Italian National Institute of Statistics
- Statistics Finland—October 2012
- Project implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Process in Statistics Italy—October 2012
- Time Use Survey in Statistics Netherlands—November 2012
- Quarterly National Accounts In Statistics Denmark—November 2012
- Health Expenditure Survey in FSO of Germany (Destatis) - November 2012
- Supply-Use Tables in Statistics Denmark—November 2012
- OFATS In National Institute of Statistics (INS) of Romania—November 2012
- Agri-Monetary Statistics in Hungarian Central Statistical Office—November 2012
- Sampling methodologies and grossing-up techniques for Prodcom Survey in INSEE of France—November 2012

**Traineeships (September—December 2012)**
- Waste Statistics, Data Center on Waste in Eurostat
- International Trade-In goods and Services Statistics in Eurostat
- Farm Structure Survey in Statistics Hungary
- Geographical Information System in Statistics Portugal
- Agricultural Statistics in INS Romania

**Training Courses**
- Air Emissions Account in Austria—September 2012
- Questionnaire Development and Testing In Netherlands—September 2012
- Structural Business Statistics in Luxembourg—October 2012
- Dissemination and Communication in Denmark—October 2012
- Statistical Metadata in Czech Republic—October 2012
- Quality Management in statistical Agencies in Finland—October 2012
- User-friendly dissemination of statistics in Norway—November 2012
- National Accounts in Practice in Netherlands—November 2012
- DEMETRA+ for advanced users in Luxembourg—November 2012

"TurkStat Staff members participated in several seminars in 2012 within the context of ESTP"
Impressions of Some Turkish Experts Participated in Various International Activities

“Participating in this activity enabled me to be informed about the Commission’s 2013 Statistical Work Programme together with the revisions on Regulation. Many interesting topics like combining R&D and CIS and synergies with ICT and other enterprise surveys were discussed.”

Salim GÜRBÜZ
Working Party on Statistics on Science, technology and innovation
20-23 November 2012- Luxembourg

“The seminar provided overall information about the components of the European Statistical System, such as, administrative registers, statistical classifications which will be used for provision of the correct code and clear identification of statistical production processes. I learned that all phases of production of statistics are equally important and the disruption of any phase may have negative influences on the whole process.”

İbrahim ESENKAR
ESTP Course on Environment Protection, Expenditure, Accounts and related topics,
24-27 September 2012- Austria

“Participating in this meeting has enabled me to see the developments in other National Statistics Institutes in Europe and recent trends in Regional Statistics. The experience has also helped me expand my knowledge in the field of Regional Statistics and Rural Development. Overall, I believe the meeting has been extremely useful for my work.”

Elif Özlem PAKSOY
Working party on Regional Statistics and Rural development,

“Several European country delegates participated in the meeting and each delegate explained their own ongoing works. We had the opportunity to discuss many interesting topics such as ; what kind of cheese is mostly consumed in Italy, which is the most expensive one for Portugal and which diesel fuel is forbidden for special cars in Greece etc.. Also, it was very beneficial to discover how close is Turkey’s market situation and consumer behaviours to those in European countries and how different from them.”

Yasin İŞIK
PPP South Group Meeting
13-14 September, 2012- Lisbon, Portugal

“As a staff member from a national Institute and working for realizing the EU requirements, it is good to observe how the processes are going in Eurostat. The knowledge I attained will be beneficial to me in my future works.”

Rukiye YILMAZ
Traineeship on Business Registers
26 March, 2012-22 Jun 2012 - Luxembourg
# People to contact in TurkStat on International Relations and Cooperation Issues

## Who is Who?

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## International Project Management Group

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## International Cooperation and EU Coordination Group

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