

Statement by

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Mr Chair

At the outset allow me to congratulate you for your appointment as Chair of this Session of the Statistical Commission.

Malta aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Netherlands on behalf of the EU and its Member States, and thanks the Intersecretariat Working Group for the progress made on Price Statistics. We also wish to highlight the importance to establish harmonised methodologies for the compilation of real estate and commercial property price indices, since these are crucial for policy making. The use of administrative data, or innovative methods for collecting raw data for the compilation of these indices is important especially for small countries that generally, due to small sample counts, cannot rely on traditional sample based surveys to collect reliable statistics for this purpose.

In this respect, it is important that NSI's are empowered to collect data using also 'non-traditional' and innovative methods, and that they are given access to high quality data sources to ensure that the desired quality standards are met.

I thank you