

**ITALIAN STATISTICS LAW****Article 12*****Commission for the Protection of Statistical Information***

1. With a view to guaranteeing the principle of the impartiality and comprehensiveness of statistical information, a Commission for the Protection of Statistical information shall be established, attached to the Cabinet Office. In particular, this Commission shall watch over:
  - a) The impartiality and comprehensiveness of statistical information and compliance with the regulations governing the protection of the confidentiality of the information supplied to ISTAT and to other agencies of the National Statistical System;
  - b) The quality of the statistical methods and data-processing techniques used in the collection, storage and dissemination of data;
  - c) The compliance of the surveys with the directives of international and Community organizations.
2. In the exercise of the functions referred to in paragraph 1, the commission may address observations and comments to the President of ISTAT, who, having consulted the Committee referred to in Article 17, shall supply the necessary explanations within thirty days of the communication. If such explanations are not deemed sufficient, the commission shall report the matter to the Prime Minister. The Commission shall also give its opinion on the national statistical programme in accordance with Article 13.
3. The Commission shall comprise nine members, who shall be appointed by Decree of the President of the Republic, on a proposal from the Prime Minister, six months from the date this Decree takes effect. Six of these members shall be chosen among professors of statistics, economics and related subjects or directors of institutes of statistics or of statistical research that do not belong to the National Statistical System, and three shall be chosen among senior executives of public agencies and authorities who are of great renown and competence in the disciplines and fields connected with the production, dissemination and analysis of statistical information and are not in charge of offices belonging to the National Statistical System. Citizens of Community countries having the same qualifications may also be appointed.
4. The Commission members shall elect the Chairman of the Commission
5. The members of the Commission shall remain in office for six years and may not be reappointed.
6. The commission shall meet at least twice a year and shall draw up an annual report which shall be attached to the report on the activities of ISTAT that is submitted to Parliament.
7. The President of ISTAT shall take part in the meetings.
8. The General Secretariat- of the Cabinet Office shall act as secretariat to the Commission and shall establish for this purpose a special office which may also make use of outside experts in accordance with Law No. 400 of 23 August 1988.
9. The remuneration of Commission members within the meaning of Article 20 shall be charged to the ISTAT budget.