



EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON
QUALITY IN OFFICIAL STATISTICS
2024 ESTORIL - PORTUGAL



Independence of official statistics – declarative abstraction versus political reality

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Outline

- Independence of official statistics
- De facto status?
- Dismissal of director-general in Slovenia
- What next?



Independence of official statistics

- Official statistics = public service
- **Fundamental Principles** of Official Statistics
 - **Principle 1**: Relevance, Impartiality, and Equal Access
 - **Principle 2**: Professional Standards, Scientific Principles, and Professional Ethics
 - **Principle 3**: Accountability and Transparency
- European Statistics **Code of Practice**
 - **Principle 1**: Professional independence

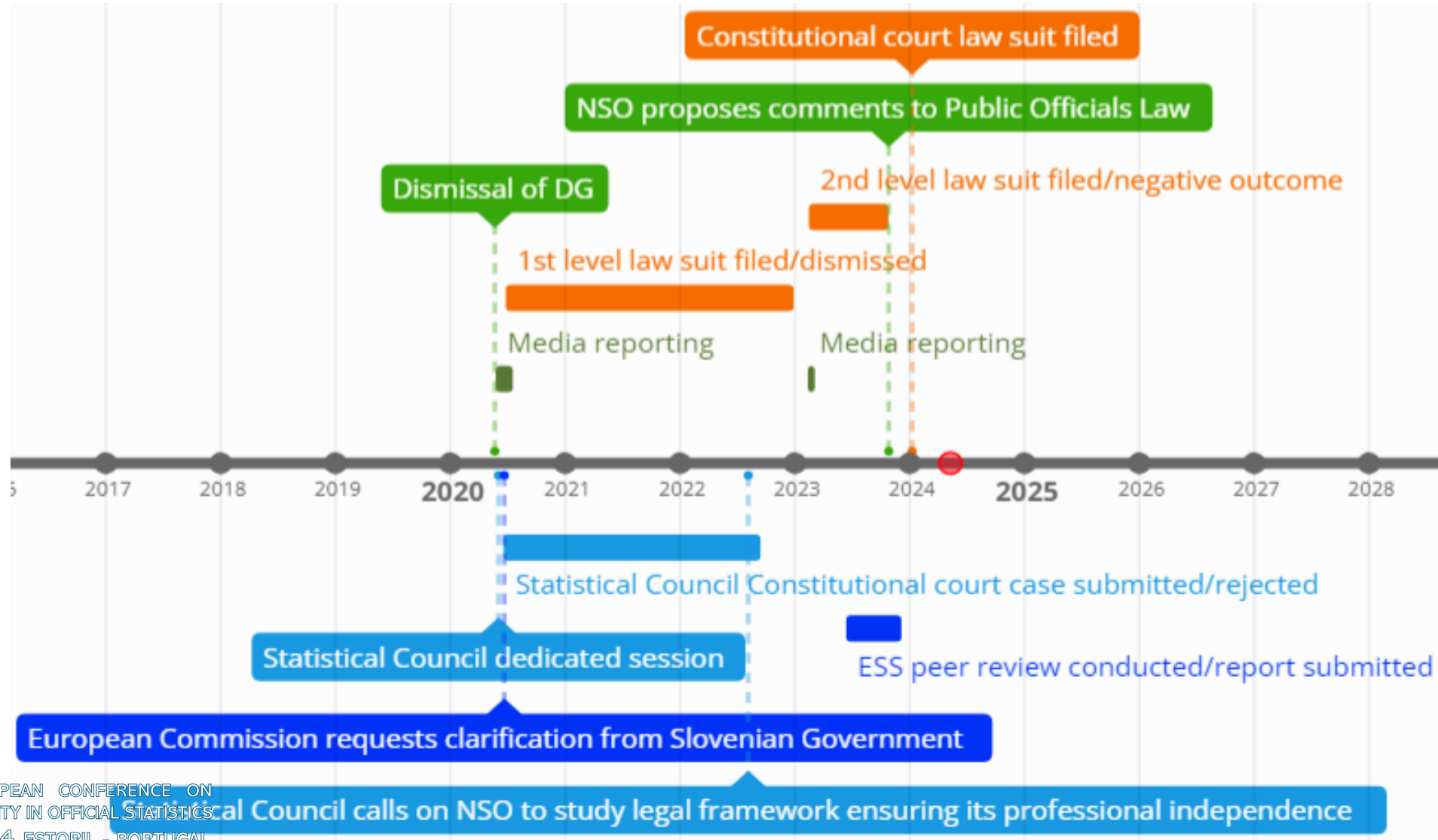


De facto status?

- Valuable and trusted source for informed decision-making
- **SDG indicator 17.18.2**: national statistical legislation complies with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics
 - 37/61 comply, 9 do not comply
 - Missing data!
- Seven countries indicated in 2022 that contrasted to previous years, their legislations are no longer compliant with the Principles



Dismissal of director-general in Slovenia

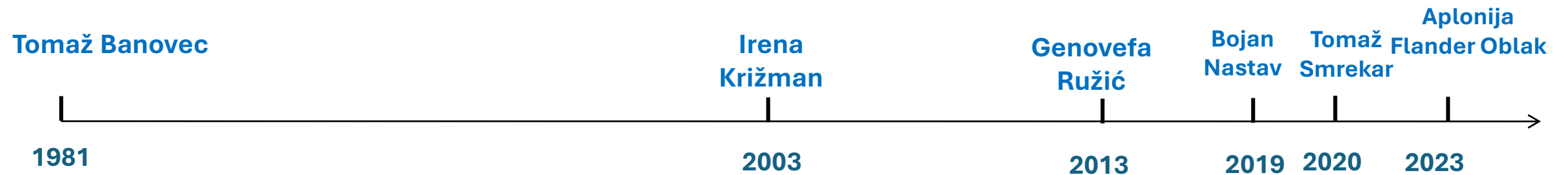


Dismissal of director-general in Slovenia

- May 2020
- Legal steps taken
- Current reading by the court:
 - Use Statistics Act for dismissal for professional reasons
 - Use Civil Servants Act for political discretion to dismiss director-general
- ESS Peer Review 2023: compliance-relevant recommendation



Slovenia - timetable of changes of the general director



What next?

- Current tools sufficient?
 - Not really in concrete situations
- **Maturity model** of official statistics
- **International review board**
- Enhance **capacity** and raise **awareness**
- **Case database**
- **Enforce national legislation**





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Thank you for your attention



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