



Brussels, 8.8.2019  
C(2019) 5841 final

**COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) .../...**

**of 8.8.2019**

**amending the Annexes to Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 of the European Parliament  
and of the Council on the establishment of a common classification of territorial units  
for statistics (NUTS)**

## EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

### **1. CONTEXT OF THE DELEGATED ACT**

Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 May 2003 on the establishment of a common classification of territorial units for statistics (NUTS)<sup>1</sup> established the common classification of territorial units for statistics. The classification makes it possible to collect, compile and disseminate harmonised regional statistics in the Union, and largely mirrors the territorial structure of the Member States.

In accordance with the provisions of Article 5(4) of this Regulation, amendments to the NUTS classification shall be adopted in the second half of the calendar year, and usually not more frequently than every three years.

The NUTS classification was last amended by Commission Regulation (EU) No 2016/2066 of 21 November 2016<sup>2</sup>.

According to the information provided to the Commission by Member States, the territorial division of several Member States has changed since the NUTS classification was last amended.

To capture these changes, the Commission (Eurostat) asked the Member States in August 2018 to send by February 2019 their reasoned proposals for changing the current NUTS classification. This draft delegated regulation would amend Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 in accordance with the proposals of the Member States concerned.

### **2. CONSULTATIONS PRIOR TO THE ADOPTION OF THE ACT**

The Commission carried out consultations, including at expert level, during the preparatory work for this delegated act.

The parties consulted include the members of the expert group ‘on regional, urban and rural development statistics’ and the directors of ‘sectoral and environmental statistics and accounts’ (DIMESA), consulted by written procedure in March 2019.

Finally, the expert group “national statistical institutes of the European Statistical System” was consulted in July 2019, and agreed to the changes as well.

Both the European Parliament and the Council have been duly informed.

### **3. LEGAL ELEMENTS OF THE DELEGATED ACT**

The basis for this delegated act is the empowerment granted to the Commission in Articles 3(4), 4(1) and 5(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 as last amended by Regulation (EU) 2017/2391 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>3</sup>.

The aim of this Delegated Regulation is to amend the annexes to Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 154, 21.6.2003, p. 1.

<sup>2</sup> Commission Regulation (EU) 2016/2066 of 21 November 2016 amending the annexes to Regulation (EC) NO 1059/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the establishment of a common classification of territorial units for statistics (NUTS) (OJ L 322, 29.11.2016, p.1).

<sup>3</sup> Regulation (EU) 2017/2391 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2017 amending Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 as regards the territorial typologies (Tercet) (OJ L 350, 29.12.2017, p. 1).

Annex I concerns the NUTS classification (code — name), Annex II the existing administrative units and Annex III the smaller administrative units.

The changes to the NUTS classification (Annexes I-III) are in accordance with the proposals submitted to the Commission (Eurostat) by the Member States.

The delegated act has no implications for the EU budget.

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 May 2003 on the establishment of a common classification of territorial units for statistics (NUTS)<sup>4</sup>, and in particular Articles 3(4), 4(1) and 5(4) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 establishes a common classification of territorial units to enable the collection, compilation and dissemination of harmonised regional statistics in the Union.
- (2) The Annexes to Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 list the territorial units to be used for statistics.
- (3) In accordance with Article 5(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003, amendments to the NUTS classification are to be adopted in the second half of the calendar year, and usually not more frequently than every three years.
- (4) The NUTS classification was last amended by Commission Regulation (EU) No 2016/2066<sup>5</sup>.
- (5) According to the information provided to the Commission by Member States, the territorial division of several Member States has changed since the NUTS classification was last amended.
- (6) Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 should therefore be amended accordingly,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

*Article 1*

Annexes I,II and III to Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 are replaced by the text in the Annex to this Regulation.

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<sup>4</sup> OJ L 154, 21.6.2003, p. 1.

<sup>5</sup> Commission Regulation (EU) 2016/2066 of 21 November 2016 amending the annexes to Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the establishment of a common classification of territorial units for statistics (NUTS) (OJ L 322, 29.11.2016, p. 1).

*Article 2*

This Regulation shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

In accordance with Article 5(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003, it shall apply for the transmission of data to the Commission (Eurostat) from 1 January 2021.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 8.8.2019

*For the Commission*  
*The President*  
*Jean-Claude JUNCKER*