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)

REGULATION (EU) 2017/2391 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

of 12 December 2017

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THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 338(1) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

After transmission of the draft legislative act to the national parliaments,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee[(1)],

Having regard to the opinion of the Committee of the Regions[(2)],

Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure[(3)],

Whereas:

(1) Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council[(4)] establishes a common statistical classification of territorial units (Nomenclature of territorial units for statistics, referred to as 'NUTS') in order to enable the collection, compilation and dissemination of harmonised regional statistics in the European Union.

(2) The Commission, in collaboration with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, has defined a number of basic and most relevant territorial typologies to classify the statistical units established by Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003.

(3) The European Statistical System already uses those typologies, in particular the degree of urbanisation, which includes the definition of cities.

(4) The codification of the typologies is necessary in order to set out unambiguous definitions of and conditions for territorial types, ensuring their harmonised and transparent application and making the typologies stable in order to support the compilation and dissemination of European statistics. Those statistical typologies are without prejudice to the identification of specific areas for Union policies.

(5) A system of statistical grids should apply to calculate and attribute the territorial types to the regions and areas in question, since those types depend on the population distribution and density in grid cells of one square kilometre.

Changes to legislation: *Regulation (EU) 2017/2391 of the European Parliament and of the Council is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 24 December 2020. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(6) A number of minor aspects of the local administrative units (LAU) should also be clarified to simplify terminology and the delivery mechanism of the lists of LAU from the Member States to the Commission (Eurostat).

(7) In order to adapt to corresponding developments in the Member States, the power to adopt acts in accordance with Article 290 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union should be delegated to the Commission in respect of amending, in accordance with the information communicated by Member States, the NUTS classification in Annex I, the list of existing administrative units in Annex II and the list of LAU in Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003. It is of particular importance that the Commission carry out appropriate consultations during its preparatory work, including at expert level, and that those consultations be conducted in accordance with the principles laid down in the Interinstitutional Agreement of 13 April 2016 on Better Law-Making[(5)]. In particular, to ensure equal participation in the preparation of delegated acts, the European Parliament and the Council receive all documents at the same time as Member States' experts, and their experts systematically have access to meetings of Commission expert groups dealing with the preparation of delegated acts.

(8) In order to ensure uniform conditions for the implementation of this Regulation, implementing powers should be conferred on the Commission in respect of the application of territorial typologies and the time series the Member States are to transmit to the Commission in case of any amendment to the NUTS classification. Those powers should be exercised in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council[(6)].

(9) Since the objective of this Regulation, namely the harmonisation of regional classification, cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States but can rather be better achieved at Union level, the Union may adopt measures, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity as set out in Article 5 of the Treaty on European Union. In accordance with the principle of proportionality, as set out in that Article, this Regulation does not go beyond what is necessary in order to achieve that objective.

(10) Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 should therefore be amended accordingly,

HAVE ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 is amended as follows:

(1) Article 1 is replaced by the following:

Article 1

Subject matter

1 This Regulation establishes a common statistical classification of territorial units (NUTS), in order to enable the collection, compilation and dissemination of European statistics at different territorial levels of the Union.

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2 The NUTS classification is set out in Annex I.

3 Local administrative units (LAU), as referred to in Article 4, shall complement the NUTS classification.

4 Statistical grids, as referred to in Article 4a, shall complement the NUTS classification. Those statistical grids shall be used to calculate population-based territorial typologies.

5 Union territorial typologies, as referred to in Article 4b, shall complement the NUTS classification by attributing types to the territorial units.;

(2) in Article 2, paragraph 5 is deleted;

(3) Article 3 is amended as follows:

(a) paragraph 4 is replaced by the following:

4. The existing administrative units used for the NUTS classification are set out in Annex II. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 7a to amend Annex II on the basis of the changes in the administrative units that have been communicated to it by the Member State concerned in accordance with Article 5(1).;

(b) in paragraph 5, the third subparagraph is replaced by the following:

Some non-administrative units may, however, deviate from those thresholds because of particular geographical, socioeconomic, historical, cultural or environmental circumstances, especially in the islands and the outermost regions.;

(4) Article 4 is replaced by the following:

Article 4

Local administrative units

1 In each Member State, local administrative units (LAU) shall subdivide NUTS level 3 into one or two further levels of territorial units. At least one of the LAU levels shall be an administrative unit as defined in Article 3(1) and as set out in Annex III. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 7a to amend the list of LAU in Annex III on the basis of the changes in the administrative units that have been communicated to it by the Member State concerned in accordance with Article 5(1).

2 Within the first six months of each year, Member States shall transmit to the Commission (Eurostat), with reference to 31 December of the previous year, the list of LAU indicating any changes and the NUTS 3 region to which they belong. In doing so it shall follow the electronic data format requested by the Commission (Eurostat).

3 The Commission (Eurostat) shall publish the list of LAU in the dedicated section of its website by 31 December of each year.;

(5) the following Articles are inserted:

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Article 4a

Statistical grids

The Commission (Eurostat) shall maintain and publish a system of statistical grids at Union level in the dedicated section of its website. The statistical grids shall conform to the specifications laid down in Commission Regulation (EU) No 1089/2010[7].

Article 4b

Union territorial typologies

1 The Commission (Eurostat) shall maintain and publish in the dedicated section of its website Union typologies composed of territorial units at the levels of NUTS, LAU and grid cells.

2 The grid-based typology shall be established at the 1 km^2 grid resolution level as follows:

— ‘urban centres’,
— ‘urban clusters’,
— ‘rural grid cells’.

3 The following typologies shall be established at LAU level:

a degree of urbanisation (DEGURBA):
  — ‘Urban areas’:
    — ‘Cities’ or ‘Densely populated areas’,
    — ‘Towns and suburbs’ or ‘Intermediate density areas’,
  — ‘Rural areas’ or ‘Thinly populated areas’;
b functional urban areas:
  — ‘Cities’ plus their ‘Commuting zones’;
c coastal areas:
  — ‘Coastal areas’,
  — ‘Non-coastal areas’.

If there is more than one administrative level of LAU in a Member State, the Commission (Eurostat) shall consult that Member State to determine the administrative level of LAU that shall be used for the attribution of typologies.

4 The following typologies and labels shall be established at NUTS level 3:

a urban-rural typology:
  — ‘Predominantly urban regions’,
  — ‘Intermediate regions’,
  — ‘Predominantly rural regions’;
b metropolitan typology:
  — ‘Metropolitan regions’,
  — ‘Non-metropolitan regions’;
c coastal typology:
  — ‘Coastal regions’,
  — ‘Non-coastal regions’.