



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Brussels, XXX
[...] (2025) XXX draft

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

of XXX

**amending Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council
as regards the NUTS classification and the lists of existing administrative units and local
administrative units**

This draft has not been adopted or endorsed by the European Commission. Any views expressed are the preliminary views of the Commission services and may not in any circumstances be regarded as stating an official position of the Commission.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. CONTEXT OF THE DELEGATED ACT

Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹ established a common classification of territorial units for statistics (NUTS), serving as a framework for the systematic collection, compilation, and dissemination of harmonised regional statistics within the European Union. This classification broadly reflects the territorial structure of the Member States.

Under 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, as a general rule, must not occur more frequently than every three years.

The most recent amendment to the NUTS classification was affected by Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/674².

Based on information communicated to the Commission by the Member States, certain changes have occurred in the territorial structures of several Member States since the adoption of that amendment.

To reflect these changes, in December 2024 the Commission (Eurostat) invited the Member States to submit reasoned proposals for the revision of the current NUTS classification by March 31, 2025.

This Regulation aims to amend Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 on the basis of the proposals submitted by the Member States and in accordance with the provisions laid down in that Regulation, in particular its Article 5.

2. CONSULTATIONS PRIOR TO THE ADOPTION OF THE ACT

In the course of the preparatory work for this act, the Commission conducted consultations, including at expert level. This process involved, among others, members of the expert group on Regional, Urban and Rural Development Statistics, as well as the Directors of Sectoral and Environmental Statistics and Accounts (DIMESA), who were consulted through a written procedure conducted in June–July 2025.

Subsequently, the expert group comprising representatives of the National Statistical Institutes within the European Statistical System (NSIs ESS) were consulted in xxx 2025 and expressed their agreement with the proposed amendments.

Furthermore, both the European Parliament and the Council have been informed of the results of the consultations and the intention to adopt this act.

¹ 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) (OJ L 154, 21.6.2003, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2003/1059/oj>).

² Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/674 of 26 December 2022 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 87, 24.3.2023, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2023/674/oj).

3. LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE ACT

The basis for this Regulation is the empowerment granted to the Commission in Article 3(4), Article 4(1), Article 5(4) and Article 7a of Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 as last amended by Regulation (EU) 2017/2391 of the European Parliament and of the Council³.

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

Annex I sets out the NUTS classification, including the codes and names of territorial units.

Annex II refers to the existing administrative units corresponding to NUTS levels.

Annex III relates to smaller administrative units below the NUTS level.

The changes to the NUTS classification set out in Annexes I, II and III are based on the proposals submitted by the Member States to the Commission (Eurostat) and are adopted in accordance with the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003, in particular its Article 5.

This act does not entail any impact on the budget of the European Union.

³ 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, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2017/2391/oj>).

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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)¹, and in particular Article 3(4), Article 4(1) and Article 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) The NUTS classification was last amended by Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 2023/674².
- (4) 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.
- (5) Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 should therefore be amended accordingly,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

The Annexes to Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 are replaced by the text set out in the Annex to this Regulation.

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*.

It shall apply for the transmission of data to the Commission (Eurostat) from 1 January 2027.

¹ OJ L 154, 21.6.2003, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2003/1059/oj>.

² Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/674 of 26 December 2022 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 87, 24.3.2023, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2023/674/oj).

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

Done at Brussels,

For the Commission
The President
Ursula VON DER LEYEN

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