



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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*Mr Eduardo Ferrero Rodrigues
President of the
Assembleia da República
Palácio de S. Bento
P – 1249-068 LISBOA*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Assembleia da República for its Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 as regards the territorial typologies (Tercet) {COM(2016) 788 final}.

The proposal aims to update Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 on the establishment of a common classification of territorial units for statistics (NUTS)¹. This harmonisation is intended to improve the comparability and stability of the typologies with the objective of having a positive impact on the compilation and dissemination of European regional statistics.

As the Assembleia da República observes, a number of bodies involved in the European Statistical System, such as the responsible working group, the directors group (Directors of Sectorial and Environmental Statistics and Accounts - DIMESA) and the European Statistical System Committee (ESSC), were consulted on the initiative and provided valuable input.

The Commission agrees with the principle that the proposed Regulation may only be amended by the European Union and the typologies need to be harmonised in order not to cause distortions in the statistics used as the basis for decision-making.

The Commission looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Marianne Thyssen
Member of the Commission*

¹ OJ L 154, 21.6.2003, p. 1–41.