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Chapter 21 – Regional Policy and Coordination of Structural Instruments



EUROPEAN COMMISSION



EUROSTAT

The Director General

Luxembourg, 29 April 2003 ESTAT/G-0-DG/TC-sk D (2003) 40112

> национален стативленовен мнолитут при НС п. код 1°344. София ул. "Панайот Re-man" №2 № 99-70-62//4.05.03

Mr Alexander HADJIISKI President National Statistical Institute 2, P. Volov Str. BG-1504 Sofia

Re.: Statistical Regions level 1

Dear Mr Hadjiski,

Eurostat and the Commission is increasingly called on to carry out statistical and spatial analyses on a pan-European scale, for which there is a need for a comparative basis. This basis is in many instances the level 1 of the NUTS classification in the EU-15 member States. Accordingly, our data users also increasingly request data on this aggregated scale. We have noted that level 1 is not defined in any accession country despite the fact that 5 accession countries have a population exceeding what is considered appropriate for NUTS level 1. The main reason for introducing a level 1 now is to have a basis for comparative presentations on the European scale. With the NUTS regulation that was recently approved by the European Parliament, we have a firm basis for the appropriate size of regions at different NUTS levels.

For the reasons mentioned above, Eurostat would like to adjust the Statistical Regions for candidate countries in a number of cases. May I kindly ask you to propose a division of your country into an appropriate number of statistical regions on level 1. For your country, we foresee 2 regions at level 1 as a target. They should be defined in terms of existing statistical regions on level 2 (see the Eurostat publication "Statistical Regions in the EFTA countries and the candidate countries", 2001, only PDF) and comply with the principles set out in the regulation on NUTS. The current regional division for your country is enclosed in the form of a map and a list.

EUROSTAT: 50 YEARS

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I would very much appreciate to receive your proposal by 6^{th} June 2003. It would be of great assistance to us in the subsequent discussion with you on the proposal if you would supply us with:

- A map showing the proposed Level 1 regions
- A list of each of the Level 2 regions making up each of the proposed Level 1 regions
- A table with the total populations in each proposed Level 1 region
- Any geographic or cultural arguments supporting the boundaries chosen, especially if the breakdown proposed results in level 1 regions of different sizes in population terms

Sincerely yours,

ves FRANCHET

Enclosure: Map and list of existing Statistical regions at level 2.

Cc: Mr Sergey Tsvetarskiy, RESCO