



European Economic and Social Committee

ECO/208
Bulgaria and Romania
(NUTS)

Brussels, 30 May 2007

OPINION

of the

European Economic and Social Committee

on the

**Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council
amending Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 on the establishment of a common classification
of territorial units for statistics (NUTS) by reason of the accession
of Bulgaria and Romania to the European Union**

COM(2007) 95 final – 2007/0038 (COD)

On 25 April 2007 the Council of the European Union decided to consult the European Economic and Social Committee, under Article 262 of the Treaty establishing the European Community, on the

Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 on the establishment of a common classification of territorial units for statistics (NUTS) by reason of the accession of Bulgaria and Romania to the European Union
COM(2007) 95 final – 2007/0038 (COD).

The Committee Bureau instructed the Section for Economic and Monetary Union and Economic and Social Cohesion to prepare the Committee's work on the subject.

Given the urgent nature of the work, the European Economic and Social Committee appointed Mr Burani as rapporteur-general at its 436th plenary session, held on 30 and 31 May 2007 (meeting of 30 May 2007), and adopted the following opinion by 63 votes none with no abstentions.

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council established a common classification of territorial units for statistics (NUTS) for the Member States.
- 1.2 An initial amendment was made in 2005 following the accession of 10 new Member States. A further amendment has become necessary following the accession of Bulgaria and Romania, in order to insert tables concerning these new Member States into the annex to the regulation.

2. Comments and conclusions

- 2.1 The EESC takes note of the Commission's proposal. Given that the need for the proposal has arisen following the accession of new Member States, and that it is of a purely technical nature, the Committee gives its full agreement.

Brussels, 30 May 2007.

The President
of the
European Economic and Social Committee

The Secretary-General
of the
European Economic and Social Committee

Dimitris Dimitriadis

Patrick Venturini