



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 10.01.1997  
COM(96) 719 final

97/ 0015 (ACC)

Proposal for a

COUNCIL REGULATION (EC)

amending, with respect to statistical territory, Council Regulation (EC) No 1172/95 on the statistics relating to the trading of goods by the Community and its Member States with non-member countries,

(presented by the Commission)



## EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

**Subject:** Proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1172/95 on the statistics relating to the trading of goods by the Community and its Member States with non-member countries, concerning the statistical territory

1. In accordance with Article 3(1) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1172/95 the statistical territory for statistics relating to external trade corresponds to the customs territory defined by the Community customs code.

2. The second paragraph of the same Article, however, states that the French overseas departments and the Canary Islands form an exception to this rule and are therefore excluded from the statistical territory.

3. However, France and Spain have requested that these territories be included in the Community statistical territory further to similar national decisions. This is a measure which, by reducing the number of exceptions, improves the harmonisation of concepts.

4. By implementing this amendment, the French overseas departments and the Canary Islands will no longer be considered non-member countries for the purpose of external trade statistics; trading of goods between these territories and Member States other than France and Spain respectively become intracommunity trade with these Member States; trading between the French overseas departments and France or the Canary Islands and Spain disappear from Community statistics and finally, trading between these territories and non-member countries will be considered trading between France and Spain and non-member countries.

5. It is therefore necessary to amend Article 3(2) and Article 4(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1172/95 by deleting the parts referring to the French overseas departments and the Canary Islands.

**[REDACTED]**

**PROPOSAL FOR  
COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) N° ..... /96  
of .....**

amending, with respect to statistical territory, Council Regulation (EC) No 1172/95 on the statistics relating to the trading of goods by the Community and its Member States with non-member countries,

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 113 thereof,

having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

whereas the decision by the French Republic to include the overseas departments in France's statistical territory as from 1 January 1997,

whereas the decision by the Kingdom of Spain to include the Canary Islands in Spain's statistical territory as from the same date,

whereas the definition of the statistical territory of the Community set out in Article 3 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1172/95<sup>1</sup> and the field of application of the statistics relating to the trading of goods by the Community and its Member States with non-member countries as defined in Article 4 of the above-mentioned Regulation need to be adapted accordingly,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION

**Article 1**

Council Regulation (EC) N° 1172/95 shall be amended as follows:

1) Article 3(2) shall be replaced by the following:

"By way of derogation from paragraph 1, the statistical territory of the Community shall include Helgoland."

2) The second paragraph of Article 4(1) shall be deleted.

**Article 2**

This Regulation shall enter into force on 1 January 1997.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ N° L 118 of 25.05.1995, p.10.



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

**Done at Brussels, .....**

**for the Council**

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