**Follow up to the European Parliament non-legislative resolution on**

**EU islands and cohesion policy**

1. **Rapporteur:** Younous OMARJEE (GUE/NGL / FR)
2. **Reference numbers:** 2021/2079 (INI) **/** A9-0144/2022 / P9\_TA(2022)0225
3. **Date of adoption of the resolution:**  7 June 2022
4. **Competent Parliamentary Committee:** Committee on Regional Development (REGI)
5. **Brief analysis/ assessment of the resolution and requests made in it:**

The COVID-19 crisis, on top of Brexit, which has particularly shaken the Atlantic area in many sectors, such as fisheries, has had a severe impact on the islands of the European Union, whose economies are inherently vulnerable because of their insularity and other permanent structural challenges. Tourism has been one of the most fragile sectors, and the islands’ growing hyper-specialisation in tourism needs to be counterbalanced by the development of other activities in the primary and secondary sectors and other service activities, including those related to the digital sector. The EU islands are also on the frontline of climate change, particularly with rising water levels and coastal erosion and the warming and acidification of seas and oceans posing huge risks to population centres and to marine and terrestrial biodiversity. Furthermore, islands are more exposed and vulnerable to natural disasters, such as volcanic eruptions, forest fires and cyclones. The resolution calls for a better response to the challenges faced by EU islands, whether demographic, economic or environmental. In addition, the resolution calls for the implementation of a European strategy for islands. The resolution also calls for EU policies to take account of the specific characteristics of islands and of their sea basins, in particular through better management and collection of statistical information or a revision of the regional state aid scheme. Lastly, the European Parliament calls for the creation of an Islands Pact, modelled on the Urban Pact, with a view to defining a common EU policy on island matters.

1. **Response to the requests and overview of the action taken, or intended to be taken, by the Commission:**

(**Paragraph 15**)The Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) and cohesion policy are two complementary instruments. The RRF is an extraordinary recovery instrument, with a specific and limited implementation period and, unlike cohesion policy, it is not designed to address social and territorial cohesion in the mid-to-long term. Member States have included a wide array of measures to reduce disparities in their insular territories and outermost regions. Although RRF reforms and investments are designed at national level, Member States with overseas territories have made sure that the interests of these regions are adequately projected in their respective plans and that the impact of the facility is felt evenly throughout the EU regardless of distance or size of the region. The European Commission has been providing support to the Member States via the Technical Support Instrument (TSI) to implement the Recovery and Resilience Plans (RRPs). Horizontal TSI support for the overall implementation of the RRPs has been provided to 18 Member States, including the EU’s three Member States that are islands.

(**Paragraph 16**)Under the EU Biodiversity Strategy[[1]](#footnote-2) for 2030, the target to strictly protect 10% of all EU land area could be broken down according to the EU bio-geographical regions and sea basins or at a more local level. Recognising the different biodiversity of each country Member States have the flexibility to determine their contribution to this target based on objective ecological criteria and taking into account socio-economic feasibility and other public interests. Biodiversity and ecosystems dependent on agriculture and forestry can be maintained, protected or enhanced through the use of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) specific instruments such as agri-environmental measures funded by the European agricultural fund for rural development (EAFRD) which may target the specific environmental needs of the islands.

(**Paragraph 18**)Territorial focus is at the heart of cohesion policy. Cohesion policy offers Member States high flexibility in terms of financial allocations, thematic concentration, co-financing rates and programming within each country to promote place-based approaches. The flexibility allowed in the use of cohesion policy funds makes it possible for the Member States to target the specific needs of those regions within the context of regular programmes or via territorial tools such as Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI), Community led local development (CLLD) or tools supporting initiatives designed by the Member States. The Commission, in order to help climate adaptation and mitigation, has established The Clean energy for EU islands secretariat, an initiative that offers a platform for the clean energy transition of the more than 2,200 inhabited European islands. Several islands are already being supported to prepare their green transition strategies that will then be able to finance via Cohesion Policy.

(**Paragraph 20**)The EU Solidarity Fund (EUSF) was created specifically to provide post-disaster relief in the event of exceptional and severe natural disasters as an expression of EU solidarity as a core value of the EU enshrined in the Treaty. This concept has been embedded in the nature of the instrument - the EUSF is financed outside the multiannual financial framework (MFF). The Fund is used only when the exceptional nature of a disaster puts a particularly heavy burden on the country or region affected. Since 2014, the approval rate of applications for regional disasters has increased from 31% to 85%. In addition, by the latest amendment of the EUSF Regulation[[2]](#footnote-3) in 2020, the maximum level of advance payment was raised from EUR 30 million to EUR 100 million. Furthermore, in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, the scope of EUSF was extended as of 1 April 2020 to encompass also major public health emergencies. Despite improvements[[3]](#footnote-4) and adaptations to reflect current challenges, the MFF 2021-2027 agreement and the new Solidarity and Emergency Aid Reserve (SEAR) cap the maximum amount available under the instrument to be shared between the EUSF and the Emergency Aid Reserve (EAR), which impacts the scope and size of support available to respond to the growing intensity and frequency of natural disasters caused by climate change.

(**Paragraph 21**) The Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) can be activated in the situation when natural disaster overwhelms the capacity of the national authorities to provide emergency response. In case activated, other EU Member States and UCPM Participating States can offer requested in-kind assistance as well as expertise. If necessary, the Emergency Response Coordination Centre can also mobilise rescEU[[4]](#footnote-5) reserve. In addition to these rapid response instruments, the EUSF helps cover the expenditures for the damaged public infrastructures from natural disasters (including volcano eruptions). Spain has submitted its application for EUSF support in response to the volcano eruptions in La Palma and received an advance payment accordingly, pending an ongoing assessment of the total solidarity aid to be mobilised.

(**Paragraph 25**)The Commission has in place several tools aiming to increase water efficiency in water stressed areas such as the EU Water Scarcity and Droughts Policy[[5]](#footnote-6) and the Water Blueprint[[6]](#footnote-7) of 2012, which set out water efficiency measures. Cohesion policy can support desalination plants and other techniques to help island, coastal and other communities facing water scarcity. Member States are best placed to select the most suitable measures to improve water efficiency, in line with their 2014-2020[[7]](#footnote-8) programmes under the European Regional Development Fund and Cohesion Fund. The Common agricultural policy provides support for increasing efficiency in water use through the EAFRD[[8]](#footnote-9), and the environmental framework for fruit and vegetables[[9]](#footnote-10). EAFRD also supports investments in afforestation, restoration of damages to forests caused by droughts, and improvement of the climate change mitigation potential of forests. LIFE funds[[10]](#footnote-11) are available to address environmental and economic concerns such as high energy requirements and greenhouse gas emissions[[11]](#footnote-12). The European Fund for Strategic Investments can also contribute, provided that the projects are bankable and involve private partners.The above policies and funds enable Member States to allocate support to address water scarcity in a strategic manner, according to local conditions.

(**Paragraph 41**)Aim Learn Master Achieve (ALMA) complements existing programmes supporting mobility of young people like the Erasmus Plus or the European Solidarity Corps, whose target group and objectives are different; ALMA targets disadvantaged young people aged 18-29 not in employment, education or training (NEETs). ALMA will be implemented under the ESF+, which is under shared management. The Commission encourages the Member States to make full use of ALMA, in the whole EU territory of the Member State concerned, to make sure that disadvantaged NEETs in more remote or outermost regions can benefit from the ALMA initiative as well. The responsibility for this lies with the Member State concerned, however. Inclusion is a transversal priority of the Erasmus Plus and European Solidarity Corps programmes 2021-2027, and an improved access of the programmes to people with fewer opportunities is one of the main objectives of both programmes. In particular, Erasmus Plus contributes to fostering inclusion and equality, in all the sectors it addresses, thereby empowering people of all backgrounds with the knowledge, skills and attitudes - including leadership skills - they need for employment, social integration and active citizenship. The difficulty to navigate EU funds for rural areas will be addressed in the Toolkit on the use of EU funds for rural areas to be published in 2023. It should be recalled that individuals and organisations from and to outermost regions as well as Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT) are eligible to participate in Erasmus Plus Programme[[12]](#footnote-13) and the European Solidarity Corps on a Programme Country status[[13]](#footnote-14). In addition, Erasmus Plus provides travel support to students and recent graduates from remote regions (mainly from islands) and to students and recent graduates with fewer opportunities. For DiscoverEU[[14]](#footnote-15) participants from outermost regions and OCTs, an additional top-up travel is granted before the participants can travel by rail on the European continent. In the frame of these European programmes, a strategic cooperation called AREA (Alliance for Remote EU Areas) was launched in 2020 by National Agencies with ultra-marine regions.

(**Paragraphs 46, 48 and 53**)Article 108 (d) of the CAP Strategic Plan Regulation[[15]](#footnote-16) (CSP) requires that Member States in their Plans analyse “the needs of specific geographical areas, such as the outermost regions as well as mountain and island areas”. In case needs are identified regarding e.g. competitiveness, environmental or social, Member States can address them in the Plans with interventions that can be adapted such as investments or cooperation. Besides, the CSP Regulation also contain a range of flexibilities for the outermost regions/Aegean Islands such as higher co-financing rates. On this basis, and considering that areas most affected by remoteness are already covered by POSEI (programme of options specifically relating to remoteness and insularity), there is no need for further specific measures under the CAP. The Commission established a Mechanism on Food Security crisis (EFSCM) that aims at improving preparedness to respond to events threatening food security. The specific case of islands with regards to food security has been recognised in the preparatory work. The Commission will carry out a thorough review risks and vulnerabilities for the EU food supply chains that will pay particular attention to the islands and other remote or marginal areas.

(**Paragraph 56**)Cohesion policy recognises the challenges facing islands. Insular regions benefit from a series of specific measures in the regulations governing the implementation of European Structural and Investment Funds. Recent analysis suggests that the 2014-2020 cohesion policy programmes have contributed to significantly increasing the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of a number of insular regions, including North Aegean and Crete, where the policy contributed to increasing GDP by more than 2%. Further analysis on accessibility and cost of essential services (in particular for education and health) have been conducted by the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission in collaboration with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. These and other studies – elements of the upcoming Rural Observatory – provide input for reflection on the connectivity with and within EU islands.

(**Paragraphs 60 and 61**)The Commission recognises the outermost regions’ specific transport needs. Consequently, the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) 2021-27 includes more generous eligibility conditions for projects located in the outermost regions with a co-financing rate of up to 70 % as well as specific attention to the outermost regions in the award criteria. The legislative proposal to revise the trans-European transport network (TEN-T) Regulation, presented in December 2021, seeks to reinforce measures contributing to enhanced accessibility and connectivity, including accessibility to outermost regions. The proposal also intends to modernise the “motorways of the sea” concept, which will support maritime connectivity in the outermost regions. The Commission recalls that the current European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) already provides a dedicated, tailored approach to address the specificities of the outermost regions and ring-fenced financial resources, including for compensation of additional costs in these regions. Regarding economic partnership and free trade agreements, outermost regions are part of the negotiations process, mandate and consultations via their Member States and the Commission has further encouraged the concerned Member States to involve the outermost regions when shaping their position on trade agreements in the Communication ‘Putting people first, securing sustainable and inclusive growth, unlocking the potential of the EU’s outermost regions’[[16]](#footnote-17). The Commission is committed to taking into account the interests of the outermost regions as regards their more traditional productions when negotiating or renegotiating trade agreements. These sectors, especially bananas, sugar and rum, are treated as sensitive in trade negotiations.

(**Paragraph 62**)The Commission recalls that the outermost regions benefit from the highest co-financing rates under the EAFRD - 85% for less developed outermost regions and 80% for other outermost regions. The EAFRD also provides specific conditions for these regions including that Member States must adapt their CAP strategic plans to the specificities of their outermost regions, as also highlighted in Commission recommendations.

(**Paragraph 66**)The Commission notes that tourism ecosystem can be supported by several EU funds under the multiannual financial framework 2021-2027. For example, the 2021-2027 cohesion funds introduce specific objectives to support tourism. Businesses and destinations can benefit from available EU funding in order to improve their sustainability, digitalisation, skills and resilience. The online guide on EU funding for tourism helps to navigate the multiple sources and find the adequate support[[17]](#footnote-18). The Transition Pathway for Tourism[[18]](#footnote-19)recognises the diversity of EU regions and specific needs. Furthermore, it encourages to boost research and innovation in tourism by establishing large-scale pilots on sustainable tourism, for example on islands and remote regions, including the outermost regions.

(**Paragraph 71**) The TEN-T guidelines includes transport infrastructures, in particular ports, in EU major islands and outermost regions with a priority on improving connectivity of those areas. Such infrastructures are eligible for CEF support. Further, under CEF a specific higher co-financing rate of 70% for works actions in outermost regions applies[[19]](#footnote-20). The European Structural and Investment Funds have been an important source of funding for connectivity projects specifically relating to islands.

(**Paragraph 73**)The Commission acknowledges the importance of digital skills for employment, access to public services and in everyday life. The Digital Decade Communication and the related legislative proposal for a Digital Policy Programme sets the targets by 2030 of (i) at least 80% of the population with basic digital skills (as also set out in the Action Plan on the European Pillar of Social Rights) and (ii) 20 million employed Information and Communication Technologies specialists with gender convergence. On 26 January 2022, the Commission proposed the European Declaration on Digital Rights and Principles, with the objective of promoting and upholding EU values in the digital space and ensure that digitalisation delivers benefits to all Europeans. The Commission is also working to make digital literacy available for everyone with initiative such as the Digital Skills & Jobs Platform where Europeans can consult diverse resources to better understand how technologies are working and affecting their life. The Commission supports the uptake of digital skills with several initiatives such as the digital crash courses for employees of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) or the digital volunteers’ pilot project. Moreover, the Digital Education Action Plan (2021-2027) encompasses a holistic approach to inclusion addressing the “building blocks” needed to provide a truly inclusive digital learning experience as well as the equally important skills dimension. The Commission launched a Structured Dialogue with Members States on digital education and skills in October 2021 to support education and training institutions with the know-how to adapt and digitise in an inclusive manner. The Council Recommendation on online and distance learning, published in August 2021 outlines a vision for primary and secondary education to increase the inclusiveness and flexibility of school education and to improve the broad competence development of all learners based on the lessons learnt during the COVID-19 crisis. The Commission will encourage Member States to make the most of available EU support with regard to internet access, purchase of digital equipment and e-learning applications and platforms for schools and in particular for students from disadvantaged groups and for students and educators with disabilities. In addition, the Digital Europe Programme supports, among others, the creation of new educational programmes, both specialised education programmes at master level and short term training programmes for ICT experts. These programmes should be designed by consortia and the Commission encourages institutions from remote regions and countries ranking low in the Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI) to join these consortia. Synergies between Cohesion policy and the EU digital strategies are established so that the ERDF and the ESF+, along with the Digital Europe, the Connecting Europe Facility and the Horizon Europe programmes could provide funding to achieve the EU’s digital policy goals and address the digital divide. Cohesion policy funding helps fill investment gaps in areas not served by fast connectivity and enabling with these investments all regions, including rural and remote areas to have access to the internet and to the various technological learning tools for closing digital skills gaps, leaving no person and no region behind.

(**Paragraphs 79 and 83**)The Commission acknowledges the importance of air and maritime connectivity in EU island territories. This is reflected in EU State aid rules, which contain several provisions allowing for funding of air or maritime transport under certain conditions while taking into account regional connectivity needs and financing constraints. In addition, current EU State aid rules (i.e. Aviation Guidelines and General Block Exemption Regulation “GBER”) already include more flexible rules for support to transport in remote regions (i.e. outermost regions, Malta, Cyprus, Ceuta, Melilla, islands which are part of the territory of a Member State, and sparsely populated areas). For investment and operational aid to regional airports the conditions are set out in the 2014 Aviation Guidelines as well as in the GBER. These guidelines aim at ensuring that airports located in regions with a genuine transport need get access to the public funding that they need while also maintaining a level playing field for airports and airlines irrespective of their business models. As remote regions are disadvantaged by their poor accessibility, the criteria for granting start-up aid for routes from these regions are more flexible. Start-up aid for routes linking an airport located in a remote region to another airport can be approved under the Aviation Guidelines irrespective of the size of the airports concerned. Member States may also grant discounts on air transport services to residents under the conditions set out for aid of a social character. These forms of social aid should benefit final consumers and must be granted without discrimination towards the airline providing the service. Finally, for isolated areas, as far as airports are concerned, the Commission considers that it is possible for the overall management of an airport, in exceptional, well-justified cases, to be considered a service of general economic interest. As regards the *de minimis* rule, the regulation will be revised upon its expiration – end-2023.

(**Paragraphs 85**) The Commission has developed a number of composite indicators to measure areas such as regional competitiveness and social progress, which are valuable for Member States and regions in their programming and implementation work. The newly created Annual Regional Database of the European Commission contains a set of long time-series indicators for EU regions, as well as for regions in some EFTA (European Free Trade Association) and candidate countries, at various statistical scales (NUTS1, NUTS2 and NUTS3). The Rural Observatory will also contribute to having more and better data for islands as well the Action Plan of the Long-term vision for rural areas (LTVRA) plans the establishment of a rural observatory. While the observatory’s scope will be rural, it will naturally contribute to the analysis of diverse territories, including islands, to reflect the multiple dimensions of rural areas and their links with other territories. Rural-focused research and innovation activities funded under Horizon Europe will also support the rural observatory with strengthened evidence. In this context, the Commission will establish a common approach for the use of Geospatial Information Systems. This will increase the publication of georeferenced statistics and geospatial information will be included in statistical production. As a result, the Commission will be able to produce more detailed regional, local and cross border level statistics in areas such as demography, health, education, tourism and agriculture. In addition, the Maritime Strategy Framework Directive, which is very important for islands and coastal areas, was tested on 13C June against territorial impacts.

(**Paragraph 86**) The NUTS (Nomenclature of territorial units for statistics) Regulation[[20]](#footnote-21) establishes the common statistical classification of territorial units in the EU that covers the economic territory of the Member States, including all islands within that territory. Not all islands constitute a separate NUTS region. With the Tercet (Territorial typologies) amendment in 2017, the Commission expanded the NUTS classification with territorial typologies to produce statistics for regions and areas with specific characteristics, such as urban, rural, metropolitan or coastal. Methodologies for Island, Broder and Mountain regions were also established[[21]](#footnote-22) (though not legally codified in the NUTS Regulation). Over the past years, the Commission has expanded the range of statistics published on territorial typologies to address EU policymakers’ increasing need for such data in the context of cohesion and territorial development policies. These typologies are already in use in European Union legislation, for instance in Regulation (EU) No. 522/2014[[22]](#footnote-23), which refers to the degree of urbanisation of local administrative units to define eligibility for European Regional Development Fund support to carry out innovative actions in cities or towns and suburbs. Specific data analyses on insular regions are facilitated by the Eurostat methodology for defining islands.

(**Paragraph 87**) The Commission is aware of a series of studies on the challenges faced by insular regions and whenever possible takes them into account in policy discussions, noting that often such studies are conclusive on specific cases, rather than applicable to the whole group of insular regions or islands in general. For instance, the costs of insularity are a real problem for small islands but much less for large islands. As a result, cohesion programming allows for sufficient flexibility to tailor funding and investment to the specific needs of islands, taking into account their particular contexts. Certain studies are expressly taken into account, for example one such study leading to the specific outermost allocation under the ESF.

(**Paragraph 88**)Member States can decide to allocate more resources to their insular regions within their financial envelopes. They can also offer increased co-financing to islands regional programmes. The ESF+ Regulation introduces a specific additional allocation of EUR 370 million to the outermost regions to support employment, education, inclusion and meet the specific challenges identified in Article 349 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. This additional allocation can cover all measures supported through the ESF+ programmes and its primary purpose is to offset costs and disadvantages linked to remoteness, such as mobility of students, trainees and job-seekers, in the context of insularity, geographical isolation and lack of economies of scale in relation to continental Europe.

(**Paragraph 89**)The cohesion policy allocation methodology is based mostly on measuring regional and national prosperity, while also taking into account levels of employment and unemployment. For 2021-2027, new indicators have been added to reflect disparities and ensure fair and balanced remedies in areas such as climate change and migration. Given the shared management mode of cohesion policy, regions – including islands – can make sure that this support is tailored to their needs and synchronised with their overall development policy.

(**Paragraphs 90 and 91**)The Commission established transnational programmes for each specific sea basin level - all islands and coastal areas are covered. The transnational programmes add an important dimension to regional development, leading to agreed priorities and a coordinated strategic response within the countries in the programme area, including those that are not members of the EU. In particular, the principles of shared ownership and cooperation on equal footing will remain at the core of the 2021-2027 cooperation programmes on the external borders of the European Union. Member States have, or can create, national strategies in order to support their islands; at the same time, the Commission can provide support with funds and exchange of best practices. In addition, the Territorial Agenda 2030 provides orientation for strategic spatial planning and calls for strengthening the territorial dimension of sector policies at all governance levels. On 3 May 2022, the Commission adopted a renewed Strategy for the outermost regions[[23]](#footnote-24) aiming to unlock their potential through appropriate investment and reforms.

1. . <https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/strategy/index_en.htm> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. . [Regulation (EU) No 2020/461](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2020.099.01.0009.01.ENG&toc=OJ:L:2020:099:TOC) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Also recognised in the *ex post* evaluation [https://ec.europa.eu/regional\_policy/en/information/
publications/evaluations/2019/ex-post-evaluation-of-the-european-union-solidarity-fund-2002-2016](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/information/publications/evaluations/2019/ex-post-evaluation-of-the-european-union-solidarity-fund-2002-2016) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. . <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/union-civil-protection-mechanism-resceu_en> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. . <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52012DC0672> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. . <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/blueprint/index_en.htm> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. . Covering waste water treatment, water reuse, drinking water supply and other priorities, in line with their programmes [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. . OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p.487, Regulation (EU) 1305/2013 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
9. . Under the Common Market Organisation [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
10. . [LIFE (europa.eu)](https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/life_en) [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
11. . [Resource.html (europa.eu)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:32ebb05c-7e0a-46d1-86a1-a8209b3d9a50.0001.04/DOC_1&format=PDF) [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
12. . [Erasmus+ programme guide 2022](https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/document/erasmus-programme-guide-2021-version-2) page 32 [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
13. . [European Solidarity Corps programme guide 2022](https://europa.eu/youth/sites/default/files/european_solidarity_corps_guide_2021.pdf) page 15 [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
14. . [DiscoverEU spring call 2022](https://europa.eu/youth/discovereu/rules_en) – rules point 2 [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
15. . Regulation (EU) No 2021/2115 [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
16. . COM (2022)198 final [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
17. . [Guide on EU funding for tourism (europa.eu)](https://ec.europa.eu/growth/sectors/tourism/funding-guide_en) [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
18. . [Transition Pathway for Tourism](https://ec.europa.eu/growth/sectors/tourism/tourism-transition-pathway_en) [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
19. . Please refer to the following website for projects supported under CEF 2014-2020: <https://ec.europa.eu/inea/en/connecting-europe-facility>. For the publication of new calls under CEF 2021-2027, please refer to the following website: <https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/funding-opportunities/calls-proposals_en> [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
20. . OJ L 154 21.6.2003, p. 1 [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
21. . <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-manuals-and-guidelines/-/ks-gq-18-008> [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
22. . [Regulation (EU) No. 522/2014](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:32014R0522&qid=1487861756140) [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
23. . COM (2022)198 final [↑](#footnote-ref-24)