

DELIBERATION NO 344 OF THE CONSELHO SUPERIOR DE ESTATÍSTICA (STATISTICAL COUNCIL)

Restricted session of the Standing Section of Territorial Base Statistics for the review of the Typology of Urban Areas

Whereas the *Linhas Gerais da Actividade Estatística Nacional e respectivas prioridades* (General Guidelines of National Statistical Activity and relevant priorities) approved by the *Conselho Superior de Estatística* (Statistical Council) (hereinafter referred to as the Council) for the 2008-2012 period, which recognised as a strategic objective "To ensure the statistical production in areas of special interest for understanding present societies, focusing in particular on their territorial breakdown" and, in this context, the pursuit of initiatives aiming at:

"Developing statistics paving the way for a better assessment of issues related to development asymmetries (...)";

Whereas the competences of the *Secção Permanente de Estatísticas de Base Territorial* (Standing Section of Territorial Base Statistics), especially those envisaged in Annex F, II (b) of Deliberation No 286 of the Council:

"To define new requirements for territorial base statistics, namely as regards pertinent information in socio-economic and demographic terms, as well as the respective (regional and local) breakdown, intended to support the monitoring of territorial base policies";

Considering that the Standing Section has defined, in its Action Plan, as one of its key features, "*Monitoring the development of markedly territorial statistical projects*", and thus this Section should discuss "*The development of territorial classifications to be approved by the Secção Permanente de Planeamento, Coordenação e Difusão (Standing Section of Planning, Coordination and Dissemination)*";

Whereas also the above-mentioned Action Plan envisaged the possibility of the Section conducting restricted sessions "*for analysing issues whose nature and scope fall clearly within the scope of action of some of the entities represented (...)*", without prejudice to the agendas and the conclusions of these sessions being disclosed to the remaining representatives;

Whereas, in turn, the Typology of Urban Areas in force, defined by Statistics Portugal and the *Direcção-Geral do Ordenamento do Território e Desenvolvimento Urbano - DGOTDU* (Directorate-General of Spatial Planning and Urban Development for Mainland Portugal and approved at the Council in 1998 (Deliberation No 158 of the Statistical Council), and approved in 2000 for the Autonomous Regions of Açores and Madeira, following the criteria and assumptions adopted for the Mainland (Deliberation No 185 of the Statistical Council):

- is based on statistical and administrative criteria and spatial planning and development criteria, “the latter of a markedly qualitative nature” (Statistics Portugal/DGOTDU, 1998), and was drawn up on the basis of 1991 (and 1981) census data, on the *Código da Divisão Administrativa* (Administrative Area Code) and on the spatial planning instruments in force on the date of the approval;
- only classifies communes existing on the date of the 1991 General Population Census, presenting a provisional classification for subsequently established communes.

Whereas also:

- the *Diagnóstico do Sistema de Informação Estatística de Base Territorial* (Diagnosis of the Territorial Base Statistical Data System) (DOCT/1835/CSE/BT), approved by the Council – Decision No 1 of the Standing Section of Territorial Base Statistics, draws attention to the need to “strengthen statistical information disseminated to the usual geographical breakdown levels (municipality, commune and locality) but also to the breakdown by geographical delimitations playing an increasingly relevant role in the planning of sectoral and territorial interventions. (...) Against this background, it is important to stress the review of the Typology of Urban Areas”, also deemed necessary within the scope of the works of the Standing Section of Territorial Base Statistics undertaken by the entities represented therein;
- the *Indicator system to monitor the context in which public policies evolve – final activity report of the restricted session* (DOCT/2116/CSE/BT), approved by the Council - Decision No 3 of the Standing Section of Territorial Base Statistics, underlines “the excessive association between urban statistics and census data (of a decennial frequency), which precludes the appropriate monitoring of urban dynamics and regional asymmetries”, suggesting “a reinforcement of the urban statistical system, namely the adequacy of territorial limits to the different city-monitoring domains and a more frequent dissemination of data than on a decennial basis”.

The Standing Section of Territorial Base Statistics decided, at its meeting of 4 December 2007, within the scope of the powers laid down in Annex F of Decision No 286 of the Council, **to approve the setting-up of a restricted session for the revision of the Typology of Urban Areas**, under the following terms:

A. MANDATE:

1. To analyse the relevance of the version of the Typology of Urban Areas approved by the Council in 1998 for statistical purposes.

2. To devise and propose a methodology allowing for the distinction in the national territory of homogeneous units that reflect, through objective criteria, different degrees of urbanisation for different territorial scales. **Namely**, the proposal shall make it possible:
 - a) To delimitate urban spaces based on the outline of the 2001 Census statistical sub-sections;
 - b) To thoroughly classify the national territory communes in the categories “predominantly urban”, “medially urban” and “predominantly rural”;
 - c) To identify urban areas, with distinctive names, as isolated communes or groups of contiguous communes classified as predominantly urban;
 - d) To identify rural areas as groups of communes classified as predominantly rural;
 - e) To define how urban population and rural population will be calculated;
 - f) To ensure comparability with the previous version of the Typology of Urban Areas or, where this is not feasible, to assess other technical alternatives that may be adopted to avoid breaks in series.
3. To set out contributions to a broadly-based use of the Classification.

B. COMPOSITION AND FUNCTIONING:

1. Entities represented in the Standing Section of Territorial Base Statistics:
 - a) Permanent representation:
 - Council of Portuguese University Rectors (which will chair the Section)
 - Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Regional Development
 - Statistics Portugal
 - Directorate-General of Local Government
 - Directorate-General of Spatial Planning and Urban Development
 - Regional Government of Açores
 - Regional Government of Madeira
 - Regional Development Coordination Commission of the Norte region
 - Regional Development Coordination Commission of the Centro region
 - Regional Development Coordination Commissions of Lisboa e Vale do Tejo region
 - Regional Development Coordination Commission of the Alentejo region
 - Regional Development Coordination Commission of the Algarve region
 - National association of communes
 - National association of Portuguese municipalities
 - Financial Institute for Regional Development
 - Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries
 - b) Non-permanent representation:

Sectoral entities whose involvement in the ongoing work is deemed relevant.

2. The appointment of the representatives of the entities/structures mentioned in 1.b), as well as of other experts whose participation is deemed relevant, shall be requested under the terms and conditions of the Rules of Procedure of the Council.
3. Still in regulatory terms, the agendas of restricted sessions and the respective documents shall only be made known to the other members of the Council simultaneously with the summons. If they so decide, the members who do not integrate the composition of restricted sessions may participate in these meetings, but must, nonetheless, communicate that intent to the Council Secretariat at least five days in advance.
4. The Chairperson shall submit to the Standing Section of Territorial Base Statistics, up to November 2008, a final report in line with the above mandate, without prejudice to the preparation of a progress report by 30 June 2008.

Following approval of the final report, the Chairperson shall submit a recommendation to the Standing Section of Planning, Coordination and Dissemination for approval of the review of the Typology of Urban Areas.

Lisbon, 9 January 2008

The Chairman of the Section, *José Cadima Ribeiro*

The Secretary of the Statistical Council, *Maria da Graça Fernandes Caeiro Bento*