

DELIBERATION NO 198 OF THE CONSELHO SUPERIOR DE ESTATÍSTICA (STATISTICAL COUNCIL)

**HARMONISATION OF THE NOMENCLATURE OF COUNTRIES - ISO ALPHA 2
WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM**

According to the *Conselho Superior de Estatística* (Statistical Council) (hereinafter referred to as the Council) "*reliability, consistency, opportunity and integration (...) of official statistics are based on pertinent statistical methods and rules, mandatory for all statistics producers within the scope of the Sistema Estatístico Nacional (National Statistical System).*" (*Linhas Gerais da Actividade Estatística Nacional - 1998-2002* (General Guidelines of National Statistical Activity 1998-2002));

In the same context, it is important to focus on "*... adopting common statistical definitions and concepts, to be mandatory for all parties intervening in the process of production and dissemination of official statistics...*";

Whereas Portugal does not have an harmonised Nomenclature of Countries for statistical purposes;

Whereas the country nomenclature used by Statistics Portugal has been based since 1995 on the External Trade Geonomenclature annually updated and published in the Official Journal of the European Communities;

Whereas, as of 1 January 2000, under a Community Regulation, the base of the External Trade Geonomenclature moved permanently to the ISO Alpha 2, which forms an integral part of ISO 3166;

Whereas the Eurostat recommendations to other statistical areas to adopt the ISO Alpha 2;

Whereas, also, the ISO Alpha 2 is an internationally widely-used code, regularly updated by the International Standard Organization (ISO);

Whereas, finally, Statistics Portugal, within the scope of the National Statistical System, shall ensure the dissemination of the Nomenclature of Countries - ISO Alpha 2 presently used, as well as its correspondence with the External Trade Geonomenclature annually published;

1. The *Secção Permanente de Planeamento, Coordenação e Difusão* (Standing Section of Planning, Coordination and Dissemination) at its meeting of 24 October 2000 and within the scope of its powers, as laid down in sub-paragraph e) and g) of Deliberation No 140 of the Council, decides:

- **to approve for statistical purposes the Nomenclature of Countries - ISO Alpha 2**, in annex to this Deliberation and forming an integral part thereof;
- **to inform general government bodies and to make them aware of the need to use this Nomenclature in administrative data, with a view to its maximum utilisation for statistical purposes, pursuant to the National Statistical System's legislation;**
- **to publish the approval of this Deliberation in the Official journal**, in line with the provisions of the Rules of Procedure of the Council.

2. Statistics Portugal will be responsible for managing the Nomenclature, publishing any necessary future updates.

Concordance tables between ISO Alpha 2 and the Geonomenclature are available at Statistics Portugal either in hard copy or in file format.

Lisbon, 26 October 2000

The Chairman of the Section, *Virgílio Caeiro Chambel*

The Executive Secretary of the Statistical Council, *Pedro Jorge Nunes da Silva Dias*