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European Commission
Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
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| Reference | V/Communication | N/ Reference | Date |
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| | | 04/2026 | 23/01/2026 |

Subject: Eurostat study on the risk of poverty in European Union regions – absence of Mayotte

Dear Ms. Charlina Vitcheva,

Considering the recent publication, by Eurostat (the Statistical Office of the European Union), in November 2025, of the study entitled “[*In which EU regions are people at risk of poverty?*](#)”, which presents statistical data on the proportion of people at risk of poverty in different regions of the European Union at the level of the Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics – level 2 (NUTS 2), the Advisory Council for the Outermost Regions (CCRUP) hereby wishes to express its concern regarding the absence of an assessment of Mayotte — a region that has been an integral part of the European Union since 2014 — in this statistical exercise and in the associated cartographic representation of the study.

This study identifies French Guiana (Guyane Française) as the region with the highest proportion of people at risk of poverty in the European Union. However, several official documents of the European Commission, notably the Commission Communication (COM (2022) 198 final) “[*Putting people first, securing sustainable and inclusive growth in the EU’s outermost regions*](#)”, explicitly recognise that Mayotte presents even higher levels of socioeconomic vulnerability, and is frequently identified as the territory with the most unfavorable social and economic indicators among European regions.

The absence of Mayotte from statistical studies and analyses such as the one recently published by Eurostat may lead to an incomplete and potentially distorted representation of the European socioeconomic reality, with direct implications for data interpretation, regional comparability, and the evidence base underpinning European Union public policies, including those

related to economic, social and territorial cohesion, particularly in the Outermost Regions. In this context and given the central importance of Eurostat data as a reference for policymakers, public authorities and stakeholders, the CCRUP considers it essential to ensure that all European regions, including Mayotte, are duly included and consistently represented.

Considering the above, we hereby request that the European Commission ask Eurostat to revise the study in question to explicitly include Mayotte in the statistical analysis. We further request that coherence be promoted between Eurostat statistical data and the analytical work carried out by other Commission services, notably the Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO), as well as the technical work of the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF), within the framework of Working Group 24 (WG24).

We are available for any clarifications.

Best regards,

The President of the Executive Committee of the CCRUP,

(Ruben Farias)