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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto
on behalf of the European Commission
(15.7.2026)

The Commission acknowledges that there is scope to further improve the availability and granularity of statistical data on islands in order to support a more comprehensive assessment of their economic, social, demographic and environmental conditions. In particular, the current Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS) classification does not always allow islands to be distinguished from the wider regions to which they belong, which may limit the availability of island-specific data and analyses.

The importance of improving the availability of data on islands has been highlighted by EU institutions and island stakeholders in their opinions and position papers, as well as in the contributions submitted during the call for evidence¹ launched in the context of the preparation of the EU strategy for islands².

To address these challenges, the strategy sets out action to promote the use of existing data on the economic and social conditions of islands, as well as the production of more granular data, with a view to improving the understanding of island specificities. At this stage, it would be premature to determine how the results of these efforts may be presented, or whether they may require broader changes to the existing statistical framework.

¹ Call for evidence - Ares(2026)2435909: https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/16992-EU-strategy-for-islands_en.

² COM(2026) 520 final (adopted on 10 June 2026).