



TOPICS:

ESG Risk

SOURCE:

European Banking Authority

EBA Launches Consultation on Amendments to Guidelines on the Systemic Risk Buffer

- The EBA launched a **public consultation** on draft amendments to its Guidelines (EBA/GL/2020/13) to enhance the effectiveness of the SyRB as a macroprudential tool for addressing **systemic risks arising from climate change**. The deadline for the submission of comments is 30 April 2026.
- The EBA recognises that **climate-related risks** - both transition and physical - **are inherently systemic** due to their cross-sectoral reach, geographic concentration, uncertainty and potential for second-round effects. **The existing Guidelines**, adopted in 2020, **were not designed to identify or target climate-sensitive exposures** with sufficient granularity. As a result, authorities risk either applying overly broad buffers that may generate unintended consequences or deviating from the Guidelines to address climate risks.
- To address **climate transition risks**, the proposed amendments allow authorities **to identify exposures based on more granular economic activity classifications**, notably at NACE level 2 or lower where necessary.

This enables targeted treatment of high-risk activities, such as fossil fuel-related sectors, while limiting adverse effects on transition financing. For **climate physical risks**, the amendments **expand geographic granularity by introducing Local Administrative Units (LAUs)**, in addition to existing NUTS levels, reflecting the localised nature of hazards such as floods and wildfires. The Guidelines also allow greater flexibility in combining dimensions such as counterparty type, economic activity, geography, and collateral type.

- Beyond climate risk considerations, **the amendments incorporate lessons learned from national authorities' experience with SyRB activation**. These include clarifying that a single SyRB measure may cover multiple exposure subsets, allowing identification of exposures by credit risk approach (Standardised or IRB) and strengthening provisions on information sharing and use of harmonised data to support cross-border reciprocity.