



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL  
AND THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

**on the implementation of Council Decision 96/411/EC on the  
improvement of Community agricultural statistics**

## FOREWORD

1. This report refers to the implementation of Council Decision 96/411/EC<sup>1</sup>, as amended by Council Decision 98/3/EC<sup>2</sup> of 18 December 1997.
2. Chapter II of this report summarises the actions undertaken during the period 1996-1999 in terms of the following three categories:
  - a) lightening of workload
  - b) improvement
  - c) new applications.
3. The progress of individual actions are described in detail in Chapter III. The summary tables in Annexes 1 to 3 supplement the information presented in the body of the report.
4. Chapter IV (Overall assessment) introduces considerations of a general nature. The result is a positive assessment. Nevertheless, there is an analysis and discussion of certain problems, in particular those relating to more targeted investment of Community contributions.
5. Chapter V (Future outlook) recommends continuing TAPAS actions during the period 2000-2002.

It also contains suggestions to guide the application of the tool in the future. These suggestions, in particular better medium-term programming of technical actions, are aimed at overcoming the difficulties noted in Chapter IV.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ No L 162, 1.7.1996, p.14

<sup>2</sup> OJ No L 1, 3.1.1998, p. 9

## **I. Introduction**

On 25 June 1996 the Council adopted Decision 96/411/EC<sup>3</sup> on the improvement of Community agricultural statistics, better known under the name of TAPAS. The aim of this Decision is to make Community agricultural statistics respond better to the information requirements resulting from the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy. To this end, provision has been made for the Member States to take all the measures necessary to adapt their national systems of agricultural statistics, taking account of the areas indicated in Annexes I and II of the Decision and the objectives, characteristics and criteria indicated in Annex 3 of this Decision. The actions to be carried out each year by the Member State in order to achieve these objectives are set out in technical action plans. These annual plans are drawn up by the Commission, after receiving the opinion of the Standing Committee on Agricultural Statistics. Participation in the actions provided for in the action plans is voluntary.

The Community provides a financial contribution to the expenses incurred by each Member State in adapting the national systems or in carrying out preparatory work relating to new or increasing requirements provided for under the technical action plan. This contribution is limited in time. It is aimed at facilitating experimentation with, or implementation of, collection methods and systems meeting the statistical information requirements indicated in the technical action plan. Once the plan has been implemented, Member States should, in principle, be in a position to transmit regularly to the Commission the requisite information according to the methods and systems put in place.

Article 11 of Council Decision 96/411/EC, as amended by Council Decision 98/3/EC<sup>4</sup> of 18 December 1997 provides that by 1 November 1999 the Commission shall present to the European Parliament and the Council, after consulting the Standing Committee on Agricultural Statistics, a progress report on the implementation of this Decision "accompanied, where appropriate, by proposals to extend it". This report is presented in accordance with this provision. It provides an overall view of the progress of the various actions undertaken under the Council Decision as at 31 March 1999, and initial assessment of the results obtained, together with guidelines for pursuing the action.

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<sup>3</sup> OJ No L162/1.7.1996. p14

<sup>4</sup> OJ No L 1, 3.1.1998, p. 9

## II. Implementation of the Council Decision

As part of the implementation of Council Decision 96/411/EC, as at 31 January 1999, the Commission had approved in total three technical action plans, spread over five parts (see Table in Annex 1). In addition, several decisions had been taken to lighten the workload on national statistical bodies in those areas where savings had been considered possible.

Below is a review of the main adaptations of the system of Community agricultural statistics which were introduced under TAPAS.

### *a) Lightening of workload:*

The following areas were concerned (see also Annex 2):

- Surveys on the structure of agricultural holdings, simplification and restructuring of the list of characteristics;
- Surveys of vine-growing areas; application of a more flexible approach regarding, in particular, the date of the basic survey, the use of data, the vineyard register and, in certain cases, the information obtained;
- Surveys of fruit trees: optional transmission of certain data;
- Surveys of animals; application of the "agriflex" concept, i.e. adapting the frequency and timetable of surveys to the level of livestock in each Member State;
- Pig surveys: exemptions granted to certain Member States regarding the number of surveys and the flexibility of the survey dates;
- Index of agricultural income; elimination of the initial October estimates and details of secondary importance;
- Milk statistics: elimination of weekly statistics; elimination of casein statistics; production of certain annual statistics and simplification of statistics on the structure of dairies.

### *b) Improvements*

The following areas were concerned:

- Statistics on the production of fruit and vegetables: improvement and rapid transmission of production data for certain fruits and vegetables;
- Supply and feeding balances.

### *c) New applications*

The Commission provided a financial contribution to the development work undertaken by Member States in the following areas:

- Early estimates of sowings
- Protein content of milk products
- Estimates of meat production
- use of pesticides

Below is a summary progress report on these various actions. Annex 3 contains summary tables for each action.

## **III. Progress of individual actions**

### **1) Early estimates of sowings**

There is very widespread recognition of the necessity of having at a very early stage, at Community level, estimates of winter and spring sowings for the main crops and, more particularly, for cereals and oil seeds. Information which is reliable and above all available early is necessary for the proper management of agricultural markets and drawing up reliable budgetary forecasts. Prior to the application of TAPAS Decision, this information was only available for the European Union as a whole during the autumn.

In order to bridge this gap, a TAPAS action was launched under the first part of the 1996/1997 action plan. The vast majority of Member States participated in this action, with 14 Member States presenting an action under this action plan. Moreover, the remaining Member State, Luxembourg, although not presenting an action, nevertheless provided early estimate data within the deadlines. In order to consolidate the tools put in place during this first action plan, it was decided to extend Community support under the 1998 action plan.

The appended table gives an overall view of the actions undertaken in this context. It can be seen that most Member States implemented traditional statistical investigations with interviews of a restricted sample of farmers. Only one Member State made use of regional panels. Another carried out interviews of branch experts.

Comparing the TAPAS figures of February and May 1997 with the official data of October 1997 reveals entirely satisfactory results concerning the main survey crops (soft wheat, barley, maize, rape, sunflower), for 12 out of the 14 countries which participated in the action. In relation to the traditional data, figures are now available at least five months earlier. In 1998, these positive results were achieved for all of the 14 participating Member States.

## **2) Improvement and rapid transmission of statistics in the area of fruit and vegetables**

The statistical information available at Community level in the area of fruit and vegetables is not sufficiently adapted to the requirements for managing this market. This situation is due, in part, to the special features of this sector, the multiplicity and diversity of the products it covers, the perishable nature of most of these products, the direct marketing of a good part of production, and the high number of small holdings, etc.

In order to improve the quality and early availability of the statistical information in this sector a TAPAS action was launched under the 1996/97 action plan, with the following objectives, which are summarised below:

- a) Supply of data by Member States which provided no production estimates or which provided it several years later;
- b) Shortening of the deadlines for the transmission of production data by the Member States;
- c) Improving the reliability of area statistics.

Since 1997 11 countries have completed actions to improve the quality or accelerate the transmission of data concerning fruit or vegetables. Five of these countries have proposed separate actions for fruit and for vegetables, three countries have focused on fruit and three countries on vegetables. In total, 19 actions have been undertaken.

Of the 19 projects on fruit and vegetables, 12 concerned adaptations of existing surveys of holdings (nine of which were supplemented in part by the use of other sources of information such as interviews with trade organisations), four concerned panels and one concerned remote sensing. In four cases, administrative sources were used.

TAPAS has enabled 11 countries to improve:

- a) the provision of data in terms of time and quantity, in order to bridge the statistical gaps,
- b) the methods of investigation.

The disparity in the methods proposed and tried out, the different ranges of products surveyed in the various countries and the need to carry out several surveys during the same agricultural year in the Mediterranean countries pointed to spreading the development of this TAPAS action over a period of two to three years.

## **3) Supply and feeding balances**

Supply balances constitute an essential instrument in the management of agricultural markets under the Common Agricultural Policy. Numerous decisions with a direct, non-negligible impact on the market (like, for example, the activation of certain

market support measures) are taken on the basis of the forecast balances drawn up by the Commission for the whole of the European Union for the current year, or the following year, on the basis of the information which it has available

However, drawing up good forecast balances requires reliable supply balances for the past and sufficiently early estimates for the current year. The situation at European Union level as a whole is far from satisfactory, especially as regards feeding balances: in 1997, the latest years available went back to 1984/85 for one Member State and 1988/89 for two others.

This is why, since its inception, a TAPAS action was launched in this area, with the following objectives, which were summarised below:

- a) balances concerning cereals and the other main crops, fruit and vegetables and milk products:
  - updating or drawing up of supply balances,
  - work and surveys for a better assessment of certain items in the balance (stocks, consumption, etc);
- b) feeding balances:
  - updating or drawing up feeding balances,
  - greater knowledge of supplies and consumption of market products for animal feed,
  - methodological work for a better assessment of certain items in the balance.

The actions proposed by the Member States for the 1996/1997, 1998 and 1999 technical action plans were aimed at improving the least reliable items in the balance. This led to different actions in the various countries: stocks, conversion coefficients, and diversification of sources used, etc.

As regards feeding balances, the actions proposed by the Member States were aimed essentially at understanding the resources side of the balance (estimates of wholesale feed production, surveys of the manufacture sale of concentrated feed, etc). Some Member States which did not have or no longer had the resources to calculate a feeding balance proposed putting or putting back in place a method derived from Eurostat's instructions for drawing up this feeding balance and adapted to the national structures. Some of these "new" feeding balances have already been transmitted to Eurostat.

Of the 13 Member States which introduced one or more actions concerning balances, five have already transmitted a full file describing the implementation and conclusions of the action carried out. France carried out a survey of the consumption of concentrated feed by type of animal and these results could be used to calculate these items of animal feed for the various supply balances. France also proposed modelling

the production of grass. Portugal carried out eight surveys, four of which concerned supply balances and four concerned the feeding balance. The results could be used directly in the relevant balances. Finland and Sweden calculated an initial feeding balance in accordance with Eurostat's instructions.

Sweden also carried out a survey of farms, combined with a checking of sources.

The complexity of the subjects concerned pointed to spreading this action over a three year period, following which it would be possible to assess the results at Community level.

#### **4) Improving the forecasts of meat production**

In order to ensure the proper management of meat markets and draw up budgetary estimates, it is essential to have, at regular intervals, reliable statistical information on the livestock trend and forecasts of gross domestic production for the various types of meat. For some time now, the experts responsible for drawing up these forecasts in the Member States have come up against increased difficulties in obtaining the necessary basic information in this area.

At the request of certain Member States, a study was initiated of the manner in which the production forecasts were carried out, in particular from the results of the livestock surveys.

The Commission considered that it would be useful to improve this situation through actions carried out in all Member States. These actions should enable, according to the terms of the various Council Directives involved, a reliable estimate of gross domestic production in the various Member States of the European Union. The forecasts should be drawn up on the basis of all the available information (livestock, prices, slaughterings, artificial inseminations, etc).

The Commission wished to achieve an improvement in this area according to the following lines of action:

- incorporation of sources of information other than livestock surveys,
- boosting of existing surveys,
- refinement of the forecasting methodology

In order to achieve the above-mentioned objectives, Member States proposed various actions:

- a) use of administrative data from national and Community sources,
- b) improving existing models,
- c) analysis of data from previous years in order to develop an econometric model for estimating and forecasting livestock, slaughterings, external trade figures and, finally, gross domestic production,



- d) replacing some of the livestock surveys by estimates based on data from other sources, particularly data on slaughterings, and from trade associations
- e) searches for correlations between economic data and data on slaughtering.

Nine Member States presented TAPAS actions on forecasts of animal production: six concerned livestock and in particular gross indigenous production in the pig, cattle and sheep and goat sectors and three focused only on the pig sector.

At this stage, only two Member States (Sweden and Italy) had transmitted their results, which prevented any assessment of this action at Community level.

#### **5) Protein content of milk products**

In view of the increasing importance of the protein component of milk, it was becoming increasingly important to have, in the future, statistical information on the protein content of the various milk products. Council Directive 96/16/EC thus stipulated that, in the three years following the entry into force of the Directive, Member States should carry out pilot surveys or studies aimed at analysing the scope for extending the annual statistical information to cover the protein content of the main milk products.

At the end of this period, it could be decided whether to include on a definitive basis this new information in the transmission tables of annual data.

The Commission considered it important to support the national statistical institutes in putting in place a system for collecting statistical information on the protein content of milk products by financing a part of the costs deemed necessary to supplement the existing data, particularly through methodological work aimed at collecting the missing data.

Four Member States did not wish to transmit a TAPAS report but provided an annual report on protein under Article 4(2) of Directive 96/16/EC.

The 11 countries which did not participate in the action pointed out that there were numerous difficulties, ranging from technical problems of measuring the survey variables to protecting manufacturing secrets of companies processing milk products.

Three Member States (F, NL, S) had completed the TAPAS action by October 1998. The results sent by six Member States between December 1998 and January 1999 were being assessed, which prevented, for the time being, an assessment at Community level.

#### **IV. Overall assessment**

It is too early to draw definite conclusions from the experience of implementing the Council Decision on the improvement of Community agricultural statistics. Though Decision 96/411/EC was adopted in 1996, the actual period of application of this Decision has only been about two years, owing to the periods required to draw up the first technical action plan at Community and national level. However, at this stage, none of the actions undertaken under the technical action plans approved so far can be considered really completed. Nevertheless, the following points can already be noted:

- following a somewhat laborious start-up, owing to the delay in adopting the Council Decision in relation to the timetable initially planned, and to the natural difficulties in implementing new actions, the TAPAS actions can now be considered as being up to speed and are being carried out under conditions which can be considered as relatively satisfactory;
- the availability of the TAPAS tool has enabled Member States to undertake a certain number of adaptations to their system of agricultural statistics, which would not have been possible without a contribution, albeit partial, from the Community;
- the approach which has so far been followed in drawing up the technical action plans in order to select Community requirements in defining the priority areas has avoided spreading the financial resources over too large a number of actions, which might lead to lower value added at Community level;
- the implementation of TAPAS has enabled, or should enable, the system of agricultural statistics to be redirected towards the real needs of users at Community and national level, cutting out what is no longer essential and taking better account of the new needs arising from the reform of the CAP.

Despite these rather positive results, note must also be taken of the certain number of problems and considerations which may influence future decisions. These concern, in particular, the following aspects:

- consolidation of the progress achieved under the TAPAS actions, once the action plan has been carried out and the Community support is no longer provided. This is a fundamental point for the future of TAPAS, since it would be inconceivable for the Commission to maintain a tool facilitating experimentation and the implementation of new collection systems or the adaptation of systems in place, if the Member States were not in a position to ensure that the results obtained were consolidated;
- it is not enough to ensure the quality, reliability and, as the case may be, early provision of the results obtained through TAPAS actions, it must also be done in a way that is satisfactory from a cost-benefit point of view. It is true that the cost-benefit of the sums invested in TAPAS is generally fairly high. Nevertheless the lack of adequate information on the methods used in each Member State and the lack of human resources required to assess in-depth the results communicated by the Member States have so far not enabled this assessment to take place;

- the participation of the Member States in technical action plans has so far been fairly widespread as regards new actions of a horizontal nature (for example, early estimates of areas under cereals). On the other hand, it has been less widespread as regards improvements to existing systems and actions in more specific areas (such as the protein content in milk products and forecasts of meat production). In the future, therefore, there should be a reconsideration of the approach so far followed in drawing up the action plans and an examination of the extent to which it would be possible to target the use of available resources towards objectives which, while retaining their Community interest, could, to a certain extent, be varied from one Member State to another. This would avoid a situation where a part of the resources allocated to the various actions remained unused owing to a reduced rate of participation by the Member States. However, it should be borne in mind that a change such as this would not only raise the problem of allocation of resources among Member States but would also considerably complicate the management of the various actions undertaken. Moreover, it would require a planning effort on the part of the Member States.

## **V. Future outlook**

The Community system of agricultural statistics faces important challenges in the coming years (enlargement to the East, incorporation of the environmental dimension in agricultural policy, consideration of the "multifunctional" role of agriculture in rural development, launching a new round of multilateral trade negotiations, reduction in resources allocated to agricultural statistics at Member State level, technological development of new tools for data collection, etc.). Moreover, the process of adapting national statistical systems to the needs arising from the reform of the CAP is far from being complete. Consequently, it would be appropriate to ensure, at least for some years, that a tool such as TAPAS be maintained, which would facilitate the development of the agricultural statistical systems to meet the needs of users.

Nevertheless, when it comes up for renewal, it should be examined whether improvements or adaptations should be made in the light of the experience obtained and taking account of developments in the Common Agricultural Policy.

From the Commission's point of view, any study of the future of TAPAS should take into account the following considerations:

### **1) Guidelines**

- The next Council Decision on the extension of TAPAS would relate to the period 2000-2002 (i.e. a period of three years) in order to incorporate it in the 1998-2002 Community statistical programme;
- adaptations which might be introduced to the Council Decision should not entail an excessive extra burden in the management of the actions;

- the voluntary nature of Member States' participation in the various actions should not be called into question;

## **2) Optimisation of resources**

- The financial resources available at Community level would be relatively limited. They should therefore be concentrated, as far as possible, on those actions and Member States with the most pressing needs;
- if the situation is to be avoided where a growing part of resources were not used, owing to a lack of interest in the Member States or because in certain areas the situation is fairly satisfactory for most Member States, there should be an examination of the extent to which elements of flexibility could be introduced into the allocation of funds to each Member State;
- even if there were to be a reorientation towards a more targeted use of TAPAS resources at Member State level, all the projects financed in this context should retain a definite Community interest;
- where it concerns pilot projects to try out new techniques or develop more effective means of meeting statistical information requirements, coverage should be limited to a few Member States or a single one in order to avoid wasting the available resources;

## **3) Work programming and assessment**

- The above points would suggest the need to coordinate the scheduling of the TAPAS actions between the Commission and the Member States;
- In this regard, specialised working parties in Eurostat should play a more important role in the choice of actions to be undertaken and in the assessment of the results obtained;
- The Commission should be in a position to assess the quality of the projects submitted to it and the reliability of the results obtained. Moreover, there should be greater transparency in the methodological progress achieved in the various Member States under TAPAS actions.

**ANNEX 1**

**1996-1999 TAPAS ACTIONS - Legal framework**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Part(s)</b>	<b>Decision</b>	<b>OJ</b>	<b>1. ACTIONS PLANNED</b>
1996/97	1 + 2	97/19/EC (16 December 1996)	L 6, 10/01/1997	1st part: early estimate of sowings. 2nd part: improvement and rapid transmission of statistics in the area of fruit and vegetables.
1996/97	3	97/599/EC (30 July 1997)	L 240, 2/09/1997	Supply balances. Improving the forecasts of meat production. Protein content of milk products: methodological studies to meet the request to supply regular statistics on this topic.
1998	1	98/186/EC (25 February 1998)	L 70, 10/03/1998	Early estimate of sowings. Improvement and rapid transmission of statistics in the area of fruit and vegetables. Supply balances.
1999	1	1999/41/EC (21 December 1998)	L 11, 16/01/1999	Improvement and rapid transmission of statistics in the area of fruit and vegetables. Supply balances. Use of pesticides.

## ANNEX 2

Area	Basic legal act	OJ	Amendments to legal act	OJ
Structural surveys	Council Regulation (EEC) No 571/88	L 56 2/3/1988	Commission Decision (EC) No 377/98	L 168 13/6/1998
Wine-growing areas	Council Regulation (EEC) No 357/79	L 54 5/3/1979	Council Regulation (EEC) No 2329/98	L 291 30 /10/1998
Fruit trees	Council Directive (EEC) No 625/76	L 218 11/8/1976	(*)	
Animal surveys	Council Directive (EEC) No 23/93	L 149 21/6/1993	Commission Decision (EC) No 718/98	L 342 17/12/1998
Milk statistics	Council Directive (EEC) No 280/72	L 179 01/08/1972	Council Decision (EC) No 16/96	L 78 28/03/1996

(\*) Legal procedure under way

### ANNEX 3

#### SUMMARY TABLES FOR EACH ACTION

##### Action : Early estimate of sowings

Participating countries	Transmission dates of initial results to Eurostat	Statistical tools developed or improved	Payment made (ECU)
Belgium	March 1997 - June 1997	Postal survey. Improvement of this instrument from January 1998 onwards	13 000
Denmark	March 1997 - May 1997	Postal survey. Information drawn from the sale of seeds	10 000
Germany	February 1997 - July 1997	Sample survey	75 000
Greece	March 1997 - May 1997	Expert estimate (1997). Sample survey (1998)	22 000
Spain	March 1997 - June 1997	Specific regional panel	75 000
France	February 1997 - May 1997	Sample survey. Information drawn from the sale of seeds Administrative information	90 000
Ireland	April 1997 - July 1997	Sample survey Checking through comparison with other sources	13 000
Italy	March 1997 - June 1997	Telephone sample survey	50 000
Netherlands	May 1997 - February 1998	Sample survey	12 000
Austria	April 1997 - January 1998	Expert panel	16 000
Portugal	March 1997 - July 1997	Survey + national panel of experts (1997) Regional panels of experts (1998)	16 000
Finland	February 1997 - May 1997	Sample survey	14 870
Sweden	February 1997 - May 1997	Telephone survey on sowings and the sale of seeds	20 000
United Kingdom	March 1997 - July 1997	Sample survey	2 010

**Action : Improvement and rapid transmission of statistics in the area of fruit and vegetables**

<b>Participating countries</b>	<b>Transmission dates of initial results to Eurostat</b>	<b>Statistical tools developed or improved</b>	<b>Payment made (ECU)</b>
Belgium	May 1998	Administrative sources Postal survey	15 106
Denmark	February 1988	Sampling of holdings	13 000
Germany	March 1997	Panels of experts	32 000
Greece	January 1998	Panels of experts	37 000
Spain	January 1998	Regional panel + area survey	77 000
France	January 1998	Extension of existing surveys	44 000
Italy	January 1998	Telephone survey	88 000
Netherlands	April 1998	Panels of experts	28 000
Austria	February 1998	Extension of existing survey	14 000
Portugal	June 1998	Extension of existing surveys	22 000
Sweden	July 1997	Extension of existing surveys	13 000



**Action : (supply and feeding) balances**

<b>Participating countries</b>	<b>Transmission dates of initial results to Eurostat</b>	<b>Statistical tools developed or improved</b>	<b>Payment date (ECU)</b>
Belgium		Sample survey concerning cereal stocks	
Denmark		Better definition of items; improvement of stocks; analysis of consumption. New sample survey on cereal stocks	
Germany		Improvement of the methodology and quality of the data especially concerning stocks	
Greece		Better use of existing data	
France	January 1998	Survey on the consumption of animal feed: which improves the "animal feed" items in the various balances (1997) Modelling of grass production (1998)	115 000
Italy		Organisation of a panel of farmers on feeding balances	
Netherlands		Better use of existing data	
Austria	September 1998	Putting in place a feeding balance according to Community Regulations	18 500
Portugal	June 1998	Supply balances: 4 actions, using the consumption data in the IAA, panel of farmers and analysis of conversion coefficients (1997) Feeding balance: monitoring the processing of animal feed and calculation of balance (1997)	35 000
Finland	January 1998	Initial calculation of items in the feeding balance (1997)	9 390
Sweden	September 1998	Improvement of the methodology Survey of holdings and industries on cereals stocks Initial calculation of items in the feeding balance	25 000
United Kingdom		Improvement of an existing survey concerning cereals for animal feed	

**Action : Forecast of meat production**

<b>Participating countries</b>	<b>Transmission dates of initial results to Eurostat</b>	<b>Statistical tools developed or improved</b>	<b>Payment date (ECU)</b>
Belgium	June 1999	Quality and speed of forecasts in the pig, cattle and sheep and goat sectors through the use of administrative data	
Denmark	June 1999	Quality of the forecasts in the pig and cattle sectors through better use of existing data	
Germany	June 1999	Reduction of the cost of these surveys, but maintenance of the quality of the forecasts in the pig sector	
Spain	April 1999	Quality of the forecasts through analysis of the monthly series on the slaughter of pigs, cattle and sheep and goats	
Ireland	June 1999	Quality of the forecasts in the pig, cattle and sheep and goat sectors through better use of existing and administrative data	
Italy	January 1999	Quality of the forecasts in the pig, cattle and sheep and goat sectors through an econometric model	
Netherlands	June 1999	Reduction of the costs of the pig surveys through a model based on existing data (different sources)	
Sweden	June 1998	Quality and speed of data on slaughtering and forecasts in the pig, cattle and sheep and goat sectors; development of forecasting methods	15 000
United Kingdom	June 1999	Quality of the forecasts in the pig sector through better/more comprehensive recording of agricultural holdings	

**Action : Protein content of milk products**

<b>Participating countries</b>	<b>Transmission dates of initial results to Eurostat</b>	<b>Statistical tools developed or improved</b>	<b>Payment date (ECU)</b>
Belgium	January 1999	Special survey 1998 Regional results Calculation and estimation method	
Denmark	January 1999	Calculation and estimation method	
Greece	December 1998	Special survey 1997-1998	
Spain		Survey of dairy industries and analysis of products at each stage of processing	
France	October 1997	Survey and calculation and estimation method	15 000
Netherlands	June 1998	Calculation and estimation method	15 000
Austria	January 1999	Calculation and estimation method	
Portugal	January 1999	Special survey Calculation and estimation method	
Sweden	June 1998	Survey Calculation and estimation method	15 000
United Kingdom	January 1999	Survey Calculation and estimation method	

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