

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(76) 322 final

Brussels, 28 June 1976

Proposal for a
COUNCIL REGULATION

relating to the organisation of a survey on
the structure of agricultural holdings for 1977

(submitted by the Commission to the Council)

COM(76) 322 final



EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The Commission is submitting a proposal for a Regulation on the organization of a survey on the structure of agricultural holdings.

This survey is a sequel to the basic survey prescribed by Regulation n° 70/66/EEC (1), as amended by Regulation n° 35/67/EEC (2), to the general census of agriculture recommended by the FAO and prescribed by Directive n° 69/400/EEC (3) and to the structures survey for 1975 prescribed by Directive n° 75/108/EEC (4).

The present proposal provides for the continuation of the collection of data on the structure of agricultural holdings throughout the Community, in order to satisfy the requirements of the common agricultural policy. The proposed survey will permit the data already obtained in the course of the three previous surveys, to be updated, comparable data to be collected throughout the Member states and basic data for research on the structure of agricultural holdings to be provided.

In order to safeguard the comparability of the figures, the definitions used for the 1975 structures survey are in principle to be retained for the present survey, while however allowing the possibility of certain adaptations to the definitions for the specific needs of the 1977 survey.

The proposal for a Regulation contained in this document is based on the acknowledged interest of providing high quality information periodically on trends in agricultural structures, which is, moreover, one of the main conditions for the success of the measures agreed at Community level.

The development of the measures at regional level, particularly those envisaged for mountain and hill farming and certain less-favoured areas, makes it all the more necessary to collect data at regional or area level.

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- (1) OJ n° 112 of 24 June 1966, p. 2065/66
 - (2) OJ n° 33 of 24 February 1967, p. 524/67
 - (3) OJ n° L288 of 17 November 1969, p.1
 - (4) OJ n° L 42 of 15 February 1975, p.21.

In design and execution, this survey is similar to the 1969 general agricultural census; at the same time, however, it permits comparison with the results of the structures survey for 1975, which was the first survey to provide comparable information for the nine Member states. It is based on the annual or periodic surveys already carried out in most of the Member states and provides a Community schedule of tables for the purposes of analysis of the data at Community level. This survey basically covers the following characteristics: type of tenure, land use, livestock, machinery and equipment, and farm labour force.

Provision is made for applying for the first time on the occasion of this survey the community classification of agricultural holdings currently being developed by the Commission's services and the Member states.

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PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL REGULATION

on the organization of a survey on the structure of agricultural holdings for 1977

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Article 43 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission⁽¹⁾,

Having regard to the Opinion of the European Parliament⁽²⁾,

Whereas the findings of the structures survey for 1975 set up by Directive 75/108/EEC⁽³⁾ provided the Community for the first time with comparable information for the nine Member States on the structure of agricultural holdings; whereas the said Directive provided a programme of Community surveys necessary to the common agricultural policy;

Whereas any such programme should include, in particular a survey aimed at providing essential information for defining the structure of agricultural holdings;

Whereas trends in the structure of agricultural holdings are an important factor in determining the course to be followed by the common agricultural policy; whereas such trends cannot be recorded unless comparable data are available and it is therefore necessary for the survey to have the same scope as the structures survey for 1975;

(1)

(2)

(3) OJ No L 42, 15.2.1975, p. 21.

Whereas the definitions laid down in Commission Decision 75/682/EEC of October 1975 laying down for the purposes of a structures survey for 1975 as part of the programme of surveys on the structure of agricultural holdings, the definitions relating to the list of characteristics and the list of agricultural products⁽¹⁾, are in principle to be retained for the 1977 structure survey; whereas it is nevertheless necessary to introduce a procedure which allow certain adjustments to be made to the definitions for the specific needs of the present survey;

Whereas Council Directive 75/268/EEC of 28 April 1975 on mountain and hill farming in certain less-favoured areas⁽²⁾, as amended by Directive 76/400/EEC⁽³⁾, defined certain less-favoured farming areas and whereas it is appropriate to take account of them in the presentation of the results of this survey;

Whereas the proposed survey satisfies Community requirements and whereas the Community must therefore make a contribution towards the costs; whereas certain Member States already conduct annual or periodic surveys which may be used as the basis for the Community survey; whereas other Member States will have to bear a greater financial burden since their programme of surveys does not include a survey of this type; whereas it is therefore reasonable that the Community contribution should be related to the additional national expenditure arising out of this survey;

Whereas in order to facilitate implementation of the provisions specified, there should be close cooperation between the Member States and the Commission, within the Standing Committee for Agricultural Statistics set up by Decision 72/279/EEC⁽⁴⁾,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

(1) OJ No L 301, 20.11.1975, p. 8.

(2) OJ No L 128, 19.5.1975, p. 1.

(3) OJ No L 108, 26.4.1976, p. 21.

(4) OJ No L 179, 7.3.1972, p. 1.

Article 1

Member States shall carry out a survey, hereinafter referred to as "the survey", of the agricultural holdings in their territories covering one crop year, the crop of which will be harvested in 1977.

Article 2

The survey shall be conducted in one or more stages between 1 December 1976 and 31 January 1978.

The survey shall be carried out by means of a full survey or by random sampling.

Article 3

1. For the purposes of these provisions:

(a) agricultural holding shall mean a single unit, both technically and economically, which has a single management and the out of which is agricultural products;

(b) agricultural area utilized for farming shall mean the total area taken up by arable land, permanent pasture and meadow, land used for permanent crops and subsistence plots.

2. The survey shall cover:

(a) agricultural holdings where the agricultural area utilized for farming is one hectare or more;

(b) agricultural holdings where the agricultural area utilized for farming is less than one hectare, if they market a certain proportion of their products or if their standard gross production exceeds certain physical units.

3. The agricultural area utilized for farming shall be allocated between the various crops surveyed in such a way that the area actually devoted to each one is known.

Article 4

Member States shall carry out the survey on the characteristics listed in the Annex hereto. The definitions relating to them shall be determined according to the procedure laid down in Article 6.

Article 5

Member States shall:

(a) prepare the results of the survey in the form of a schedule of tables drawn up in accordance with a Community outline. The Community schedule of tables shall be drawn up in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 6;

(b) prepare the results of the survey at national level. The following Member States shall also prepare the results at the regional level indicated below:

GERMANY : Federal "Lander"
FRANCE : regions "de programme"
ITALY : regions
UNITED KINGDOM: Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales, agricultural regions
of England.

The results extrapolated at regional level by Member States which conduct the survey by random sampling must have a degree of accuracy corresponding at least to that obtained at district survey level in the structures survey for 1975;

(c) with the exception of the Netherlands, give the results of the survey by a breakdown of less-favoured agricultural areas, within the meaning of Article 3 of Directive 75/268/EEC, or by groups of such areas, and by favoured agricultural areas or by groups of such areas. The Commission shall decide, in cooperation with the Member States, the groupings of less-favoured and favoured agricultural areas;

(d) transcribe the results of the survey mentioned in (a), (b) and (c) onto magnetic tape using a standard programme for all Member States. This standard programme shall be drawn up in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 6;

(e) submit the magnetic tapes provided for in (d) to the Statistical Office of the European Communities. They shall be submitted within 12 months of completion of the field work and at the latest by 31 December 1978. However, data which would make it possible to identify an individual agricultural holding shall not be forwarded to the Statistical Office of the European Communities.

Article 6

1. Where the procedure laid down in this Article is invoked, the Standing Committee for Agricultural Statistics, set up by the Council Decision of 31 July 1972, hereinafter called "the Committee", shall give an Opinion, the votes of Member States being weighted as laid down in the first subparagraph of Article 148 (2) of the Treaty. The Chairman shall not vote.
2. In such cases, the Chairman shall refer the matter to the Committee, either on his own initiative or at the request of the representative of a Member State
3. The Commission representative shall submit a draft of the measures to be taken. The Committee shall give its Opinion on these measures within a time limit to be set by the Chairman according to the urgency of the matters concerned. It shall act by a majority of 41 votes.
4. The Commission shall adopt measures which shall take immediate effect. However, if these measures are not in accordance with the Committee's Opinion the Commission shall submit them forthwith to the Council; in this case, the Commission may defer application of the measures it has adopted for not more than one month from the date of their submission to the Council.

The Council, acting by a qualified majority, may take a different decision within a period of one month.

Article 7

Member States shall receive a contribution towards the costs of drawing up the Community schedule of tables. This contribution shall take into account the additional expenditure arising out of this survey. This sum shall be charged to the appropriations set aside for this purpose in the budget of the European Communities.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member states.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council

1)

LIST OF CHARACTERISTICS FOR THE COMMUNITY SCHEDULE OF TABLES FOR 1977

<u>Number</u>	
	Geographical situation of the holding
1	Region
2	Farm type ⁽²⁾
	Type of tenure (C)
	Agricultural area utilized
3	for owner farming (C/01)
4	for tenant farming (C/02)
	Land use (3)
	Arable Land (E) (figures in m/a)
	Cereals for the production of grain (including seeds) :
5	Common wheat and spelt (E/01)
6	Durum wheat (E/02)
7	Barley (E/04)
8	Grain maize (E/06)
9	Total cereals including rice (E/01-E/08)
10	Pulses (including seed and mixtures of cereals and pulses)(E/09)
11	Potatoes (including new potatoes and sets)(E/10)
12	Sugar beet (excluding seed)(E/11)
13	Forage roots and brassicas (excluding seed)(E/12)
14	Forage crops (E/18)
15	Fresh vegetables, melons, strawberries - outdoor (market gardening) (E/14b)
16	Crops under glass (E/15, E/17, H/07)
17	Fruit and berry plantations (H/01)
18	Vineyards (H/04)
19	Total area of holding (E,F,G,H,I)
20	Woodland (I/02)
21	Unutilized agricultural area (I/01)
22	Other land (I/03)
23	Agricultural area utilized (E,F,G,H)
24	Arable land (E)
25	Permanent pasture and meadow including mountain pastures (G/01)
26	Permanent crops (H)

(1) The reference numbers are those used in the list of characteristics given in Directive n° 75/108/EEC; headings without a reference number indicate a change in relation to this list of characteristics.

(2) The basic figures used in determining the farm type are those relating to the crop and livestock headings given in the Annex to Directive n° 75/108/EEC.

Number

		Number belonging to the holding	Use tick
	Livestock (K)		
27	Holdings with livestock (K/01-K/16)		
28	Bovine animals (K/02-K/08)		
29	Dairy cows (K/07)		
30	Other cows (K/08)		
31	Sheep (K/09)		
32	Total pigs (K/11-K/13)		
33	Breeding sows (K/12)		
34	Other pigs (K/13)		
35	Total poultry (K/14-K/16)		
36	Broilers (K/14)		
37	Laying hens (K/15)		
	Machinery and equipment (L) ⁽¹⁾		
	Tractors (L/02)		
38	- less than 51 hp		
39	- 51 hp and over		
40	Combine-harvesters (L/04)		
41	Potato-harvesters (fully mechanized)(L/06)		
42	Sugar beet-harvesters (fully mechanized)(L/07)		
43	Milking machinery (fixed or movable)(L/08)		
44	Ground area covered by green-houses in use (L/10,L/11)		
	Farm labour force (M)		
	Holder (M/01)		
45	- age		
46	- male/female		
47	- full-time / 50 - < 100% / < 50%		
	Members of the holder's family (M/02,M/03)		
48	- total		
49	- male		
50	- full-time		
51	- 50 - < 100% ⁽²⁾		
	Non-family labour regularly employed (M/04)		
52	- total		
53	- male		
54	- full-time		
55	- 50 - < 100% ⁽²⁾		
56	Non-family labour not regularly employed (M/05,M/06) hours worked ⁽³⁾		

(1) Optional for Germany.

(2) Optional.

(3) For the Netherlands, Belgium, the United Kingdom, Ireland and Denmark
yes/no.

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NOTE

Proposal for a Council Regulation on the organization of a survey on the structure of agricultural holdings for 1977.

Financial effect of the proposal on the budget of the European Communities.

Expenditure arising out of Article 7.

For seven Member states expenditure is related to the additional cost of analysing the data, which may be estimated at 20,000 u.a. per Member state. One of these Member states has specific data analysis problems in adapting its statistics, based on the ownership of the holdings, to the Community method of the total area cultivated in the current year; an additional sum of 10,000 u.a. is earmarked for this purpose, thus making a total of 150,000 u.a. for these seven Member states.

One Member state does not have a system of continuous surveys; the additional expenditure must therefore cover the cost of the organization as well as of the analysis of the survey.

This Member state is in a position to make certain savings on the cost of the structures survey for 1975, because :

- (i) the basic analysis file has recently been updated;
- (ii) it is not necessary to conduct the survey in all local areas (only regional figures are required);
- (iii) the results of the survey for 1977 can be compared with those of the survey for 1975, at the same time increasing the efficiency of the sample;
- (iv) other Community surveys for 1977 can be combined with the structural survey for 1977; costs can thus be shared;
- (v) the scope of the survey for 1977 is narrower, thus affording greater possibilities for introducing questions of purely national interest; the national administration should therefore make a contribution to the total costs.

The number of holdings is reduced from 270,000 in 1975 to 60,000 and the all-in rate per holding from 12 u.a. to 10 u.a. Total expenditure will therefore be $10 \text{ u.a.} \times 60,000 = 600,000 \text{ u.a.}$

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The ninth Member state is currently setting up as an integrated structure for carrying out regular surveys, partly intended to meet Community requirements. In view of the possibility of combining this survey with other Community surveys, such as the cattle survey (70% of all holdings have some cattle) and in view of the possibility of making certain savings on the cost of the survey for 1975, it seems possible to reduce the all-in rate per holding from 12 u.a. to 6 u.a.. The all-in rate is therefore set at 6 u.a. per holding for 25,000 holdings, making a total of 150,000 u.a.

Total expenditure for the nine Member states is therefore 150,000 + 600,000 + 150,000 = 900,000 u.a.

This expenditure will be charged to the appropriations set aside for this purpose in the budget of the European Communities for 1976 (Article 264 "Surveys and studies of a statistical nature").

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