

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES ▼

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Brussels, 28 July 1976.

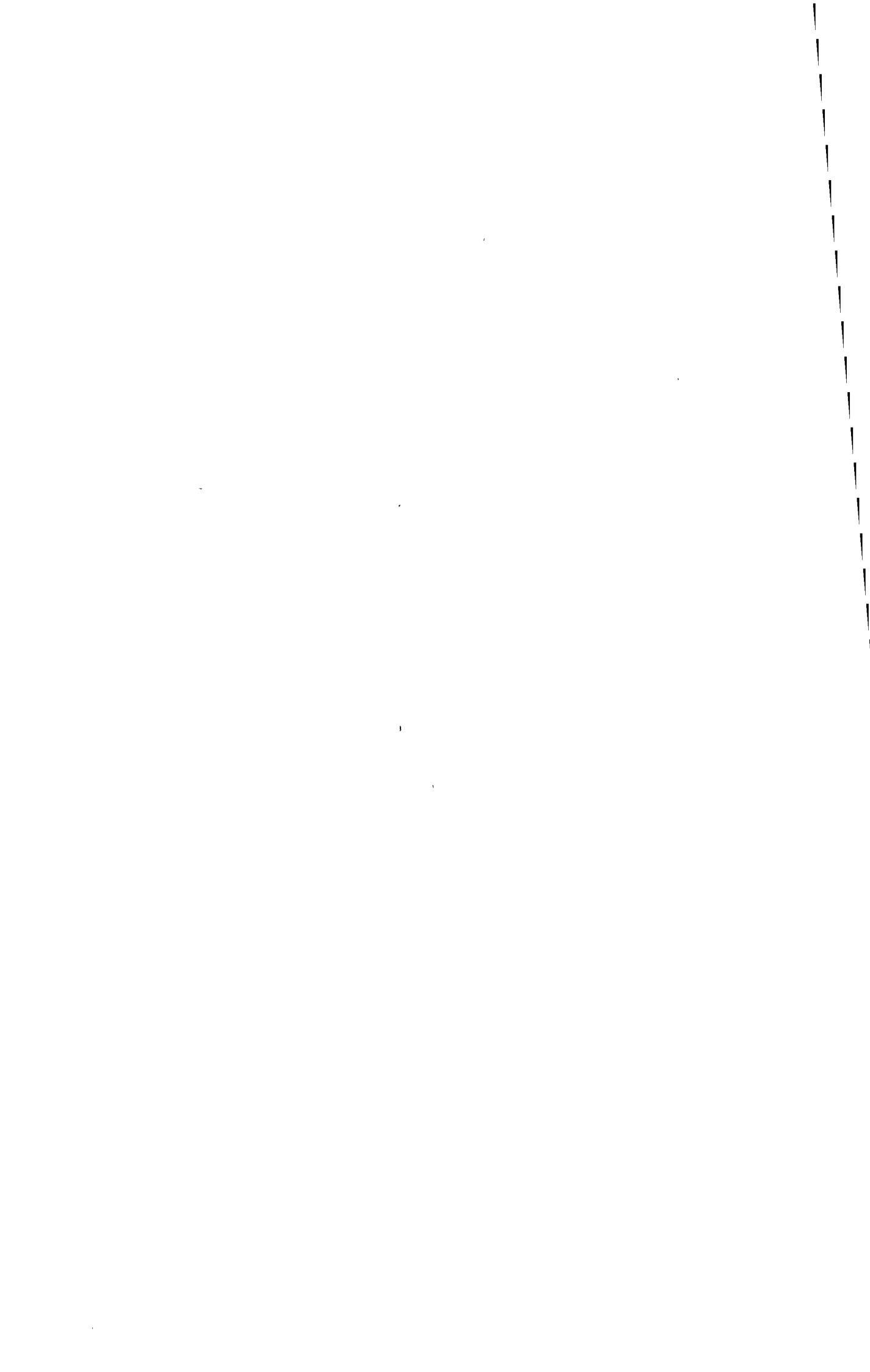
Draft

REGULATION (EEC) OF THE COUNCIL

on the organization of a
sample survey of manpower.

(submitted to the Council by the Commission)

COM(76) 421 final.



Explanatory Memorandum

1. In order to obtain comparable statistics on employment and unemployment in the Community, the Commission organized the first labour force sample survey in 1960 and it was carried out in the six original Member States.

The survey was then repeated annually from 1968 to 1971 but without the participation of all Community countries; for various reasons Luxembourg did not take part in the 1968 survey and the Netherlands did not participate in the three subsequent surveys. Since the harmonized and synchronized Community sample survey of the labour force represents the most valid means of ascertaining the level and structure of employment and unemployment throughout the Community, the Council of Ministers decided, in 1971, to continue this project, but agreed that the annual schedule should be interrupted and that the survey should be conducted in 1973 and 1975 in all the Member States, in view of the practical difficulties encountered by certain countries, in holding the survey annually (1).

2. The programme of statistics on employment stipulated that the labour force sample survey should continue to be held, and the Commission decided to approve the programme in October 1975 and to forward it to the Council.

The Council took note of the programme at its meeting of 19th July 1976, approved its broad lines, and confirmed the importance that it attached to its effective implementation (2).

(1) The survey in spring 1973 was carried out in pursuance of Regulation (EEC) n° 2723/72 of the Council of 19 December 1972. The repetition of the survey in 1975 was sanctioned by Regulation (EEC) n° 2640/74 of the Council of 15 October 1974.

3. The labour force sample survey plays a decisive part in the work to be carried out under the programme of statistics on employment.

This is because it provides information at regular intervals on the employment situation and developments in the structure of employment and unemployment, between the dates of general population censuses.

It is of dual value. From the qualitative point of view, it constitutes the only source of Community data on employment that are harmonized, that is, obtained using uniform methods and based on standardized definitions.

From the quantitative point of view, it provides a range of information on aspects of employment that is required not only for the Commission's social policy but also for economic, regional, industrial, agricultural, education and environmental policy.

4. The results of the survey refer, in each country and at certain regional levels, to:

- a) the structure of the population, according to the main criteria of economic activity (employed persons, unemployed persons, persons not economically active);
- b) the structure of employment, according to the individual characteristics of the persons concerned (sex, age, civil status, etc.) and the occupational characteristics of these persons (status, sector, branch of activity, etc.);
- c) the structure of working hours;
- d) the structure of unemployment and the situation of other persons seeking work, broken down according to individual characteristics, and taking into account the type of employment sought, reasons for seeking it, method used and the length of time spent seeking it.

The survey also makes it possible to analyse certain specific aspects of economic activity about which little information is available from other sources. These include regional and occupational mobility, casual or supplementary employment, secondary employment, full-time and part-time work, etc.

Finally, the incorporation of supplementary surveys or questions on matters strictly linked with employment in the basic surveys, made it possible to carry out a specific survey in 1973 on occupational training, the results of which were used to determine the relations existing between economic activity and the level of training.

In 1975, supplementary questions on working conditions were included in the survey, primarily to situate these aspects in a Community socio-economic context.

5. The following principles were decided upon for the 1977 survey, in agreement with the experts of the nine Member States:

- 1) the basic labour force survey should not be substantially changed compared with the 1973 and 1975 surveys;
- 2) a supplementary survey should be carried out in connection with the basic survey. It should refer to:
 - persons not economically active who have withdrawn from the labour market, having failed to find employment;
 - persons receiving one or more pensions (stating the category, type and number of pensions; the year of and reasons for retirement; the principal means of subsistence).

6. As provided for in Article 10 of the draft regulation, Member States will, for the conduct of this survey, receive lump-sum payments proportional to the number of households surveyed. These payments are covered by the budget of the European Communities. On the basis of funds made available for previous surveys and having regard to the number of households, the cost of the basic survey including the supplementary survey may be estimated, for the nine Member States, at 1,300,000 u.a. This comprises a fixed payment per household covered by the survey as a whole, as well as the expenses connected with the processing of the results by the Community.

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THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,
and in particular Article 213 thereof,

Having regard to the draft Regulation submitted by the Commission,

Whereas in order to carry out the tasks which are assigned to it by the
Treaty, in particular in Articles 2, 117, 118, 122 and 123 thereof, the
Commission must know the situation and the development in employment and
unemployment;

Whereas the statistical information available in each of the Member States
does not provide a suitable basis for comparison, particularly because of
the differences between the laws, rules and administrative practices of the
Member States on which these statistics are based;

Whereas by reason of the considerable changes which take place in the field
of employment and unemployment, it appears necessary to make available at
regular intervals statistics permitting proper comparisons between Member
States;

Whereas the best method of knowing the level and the structure of employment
and unemployment consists in carrying out harmonized and synchronized
Community sample surveys of the labour force; whereas only the repetition
in 1977 of the survey already carried out previously in 1968, 1969, 1970,
1971, 1973 and 1975 enables this information to be obtained;

Whereas, as a result of the accession of the new Member States to the European Communities, certain special problems arise in these States concerning their participation in such a survey and whereas this situation should be taken into account,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION :

Article 1

The Commission shall undertake in the spring of 1977 a manpower survey based on a sample of households in each of the Member States.

Article 2

This survey shall be carried out in the form of personal interviews in each of the Member States in a sample of households whose residence is in the territory of these States at the time of the survey. The information shall be collected for each of the persons in the households included in the sample.

Article 3

The sample shall cover between 60,000 and 100,000 households in Germany, France, Italy and the United Kingdom; between 30,000 and 50,000 in Belgium, the Netherlands and Ireland; between 30,000 and 40,000 in Denmark, and approximately 10,000 households in Luxembourg.

Article 4

The basic survey shall cover:

- a) the individual characteristics of all the persons in the households questioned;
- b) the occupational characteristics of these persons (status, branch of activity, hours of work, etc.) at the time of the survey and one year prior to it;
- c) the search for work, taking into account the type of employment sought, reasons for seeking it and the length of time spent seeking it.

Article 5

A supplementary survey shall be conducted within the framework of the basic survey referred to in Article 4. It shall relate to:

- a) persons not economically active who have withdrawn from the labour market, having failed to find employment;
- b) persons receiving one or more pensions (stating the category, type and number of pensions; the year of and reasons for retirement; the principal means of subsistence).

Article 6

The information shall be gathered by the statistical authorities of the Member States on the basis of a list of questions drawn up by the Commission in cooperation with the said authorities.

The Commission shall determine, in collaboration with these authorities, the technical details of the survey (basic survey and supplementary survey). It shall establish in addition, under the same conditions, the starting and closing dates of the survey and the deadlines for answers to the questionnaires.

Article 7

The statistical authorities of the Member States shall check the replies collected. They shall forward to the Commission the results of the survey for each person interviewed, while observing anonymity.

Article 8

The individual items of information provided in the context of the survey may be used only for statistical purposes. They may not be used for fiscal or other purposes and may not be communicated to third parties.

The Member States shall take appropriate measures:

- a) to ensure that the information requested is furnished truthfully and in its entirety within the times specified;
- b) to punish any infringement of the obligation to keep the information gathered confidential, in accordance with the provisions of the first sub-paragraph.

Article 9

In order to take account of the special difficulties experienced by new Member States who participated in the Community labour force sample survey for the first time in 1975, the technical aspects referred to in Articles 1 to 3 may be adapted to specific circumstances and shall be decided upon on the basis of agreement between these States and the Commission.

Article 10

For the conduct of the survey, Member States shall receive lump-sum payments proportional to the numbers of households included. These payments shall be set off against the credits provided for this purpose in the budget of the European Communities.

Done at

For the Council,
The President