

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(80) 335 final

Brussels, 19 June 1980

Proposal for a
COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC)

relating to the organization of a survey on the
earnings of permanent workers employed in agriculture

(submitted to the Council by the Commission)

COM(80) 335 final

Explanatory Memorandum

In order to perform certain tasks assigned to it under the Treaty, the Commission must have information on the current status and trends of earnings in the Community countries. It therefore requires comparable statistics on these matters for all sectors of economic activity.

As a result of the activities of the Working Party for Statistics on Earnings in Agriculture, which is composed of representatives of the national administration, employers and labour, Community surveys of the earnings of permanent workers employed in agriculture were conducted in 1974, 1975 and 1976 (1). These surveys provided comparable information on the level and distribution of earnings, the number of hours paid and the existence or absence of benefits in kind, taking into account certain personal data on wage earners such as age, sex and occupational qualifications. The figures for 1974, 1975 and 1976 have been published (2).

In view of the quantity of information now available on the relationship between the level of earnings and certain data on wage earners, the Working Party for Statistics on Earnings in Agriculture agreed with the Commission that for the period 1977-1979 smaller-scale surveys should make it possible to monitor current trends adequately provided a more detailed survey, comparable to these carried out from 1974 to 1976, was conducted in 1980. The simplification of the survey was largely of a technical nature, consisting in a fairly substantial reduction in the size of the sample required for Community purposes. The survey was also limited for this period to wage earners of the male sex. The simplified surveys for the years 1977 to 1979 have been carried out (3).

As regards the year 1980, it is now required to conduct another full survey covering the same characteristics as the complete surveys for the period 1974 to 1976;

The details of the survey have been determined by the working party "Statistics of Earnings in Agriculture" at its meeting of 15/16.2.1979. Based on pertinent information supplied by member states the Statistical Office has prepared a Community definition of part-time workers in agriculture.

Concerning the years 1981 to 1984 the Statistical Office is of the opinion that it would be possible to conduct a series of "simplified" surveys, as this has been the case in the period 1977 to 1979, in order to be able to follow trends of earnings in the agriculture of member countries; the competent working party shares this view.

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- (1) Council Regulations (EEC) Nos 677/74 of 21 March 1974 (OJ No L 83, 28.3.1974, p. 4/5), 1103/75 of 28 April 1975 (OJ No L 110, 30.4.1975, p. 2/3) and 1035/76 of 30 April 1976 (OJ No L 118, 5.5.1976, p. 3/4)
 - (2) EUROSTAT, Earnings in agriculture
 - 1974 (Social statistics, 5/1975)
 - 1975 } separate publications
 - 1976 }
 - (3) Council Regulation (EEC) No 847/77 of 25 April 1977 (OJ No L 104, 28.4.1977, p. 5) - Publication of data in EUROSTAT "Hourly Earnings - Hours of work", vol. 1-1979 (1977) and 2-1979 (1978); 1979 data will be published in vol. 2-1980.

Council Regulation (EEC)

relating to the organization of a survey on the earnings of permanent workers employed in agriculture.

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 assigned to it under the Treaty, and in particular those set out in Articles 2, 39, 117, 118, 119 and 122 thereof, the Commission requires information on the current status and trends of earnings in the Member States;

Whereas such statistical data as do exist within the Member States on the earnings of agricultural workers do not at present permit valid comparisons to be made, and it is consequently necessary to conduct a specific Community survey based on uniform definitions and characteristics, as was done in 1974, and the following years until 1979 pursuant to Council Regulations (EEC) Nos 677/74 (1), 1103/75 (2), 1035/76 (3) and 847/77 (4).

Whereas the technical difficulties involved in a survey on earnings in agriculture make it necessary to restrict the survey at present to the earnings of permanent agricultural workers;

Whereas, following the limitation of the surveys carried out in 1977, 1978 and 1979 to workers of the male sex it is now required to extend the survey once again to female workers.

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- (1) OJ No L 83, 28.3.1974, p. 4
 - (2) OJ No L 110, 30.4.1975, p. 2
 - (3) OJ No L 118, 5.5.1976, p. 3
 - (4) OJ No L 104, 28.4.1977, p. 5

Whereas it is possible and more economical to carry out such a survey by random sampling only;

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

In 1980 the Commission shall undertake a survey of the actual earnings of permanent workers employed in agriculture on the basis of statistical data relating to September, October or November.

Article 2

The survey shall cover all holdings which employ permanent workers and which engage in activities as specified and defined under class 01 of the General Nomenclature of Economic Activities in the European Communities (NACE), with the exception of holdings whose activities are mainly or exclusively directed to creating and maintaining gardens and parks, to hunting or to activities ancillary to agriculture.

Article 3

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

In respect of those holdings appearing in the survey sample, employers shall supply the information required for the survey in the manner set out hereafter.

Article 4

The survey shall consist in the collection for each permanent worker of all data relating to gross cash earnings for September, October, or November 1980, the existence or absence of benefits in kind, the nature of work performed, the basis on which earnings are calculated and the number of hours paid, as well as sex, age and job categories.

Article 5

The information shall be collected by the statistical offices of the Member States.

The Commission, with the collaboration of these offices, shall determine the technical details of the survey and the arrangements for transmitting the results to the Commission.

Article 6

Individual items of information supplied for purposes of the survey may be used for statistical purposes only. It shall be prohibited to use the information for taxation purposes or to communicate it to third parties.

Member States shall take appropriate measures to prevent any infringement of:

- a) the obligation to supply the information referred to in Article 3,
- b) the obligation, under the first paragraph of this Article, to maintain secrecy as regards the information obtained.

Article 7

To recover the expenditure incurred in conducting the survey, the Member States shall receive a global sum proportionate to the number of holdings covered. This sum shall be charged against the European Communities' budget appropriations allocated for this purpose.

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

Done at

(date)

For the Council

The President

FINANCIAL RECORD

1.	<u>Relevant budget heading code</u> : art. 264
2.	<u>Title of budget heading</u> : Draft Council Regulation (EEC) on the organisation of a survey on the earnings of permanent workers employed in agriculture in 1980
3.	<u>Legal basis</u> : Council Regulation (EEC)
4.	<u>Objective and justification of the project</u> : To allow, after a series of "light" annual surveys, more detailed comparisons of the level and the distribution of the earnings of workers in agriculture, and to follow developments in this field. The information must be collected directly at the agricultural holdings by the statistical services of the Member States.
5.	<u>Financial implications of the project (in ECU)</u>
5.0	<u>in respect of expenditure</u> : As stated in article 7 of the draft regulation, the Member States will receive a lump sum in respect of each holding covered for carrying out the survey. These costs will be charged against the appropriations provided for this purpose in chapter 100 of the draft budget of the European Communities for 1980 (article 264 "Statistical surveys and studies"). The Community contribution covers part only of the total cost of the surveys carried out by the national statistical offices.
5.1	<u>Method of calculation</u> : It is proposed to calculate the flatrate contribution to Member States on the basis of an amount of 12 ECU per unit covered. Taking account of the number of holdings to be covered (\pm 50.000), the cost of the survey for the nine Member States may be estimated at 600.000 ECU.