

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(81) 549 final

Brussels, 5 October 1981

Draft

COUNCIL DIRECTIVE (EEC)

relating to the organization by the Member States of
surveys on the earnings of permanent and seasonal
workers employed in agriculture

(submitted to the Council by the Commission)

COM(81) 549 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 administrations, employers and labour, Community surveys of the earnings of

permanent workers employed in agriculture were conducted from 1974 to 1980

(1). These surveys provided comparable data 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 (2). The results of these surveys have been published (3).

As regards the organization of future Community surveys of the earnings of workers employed in agriculture, the Council and the Commission have agreed to set up a permanent system on the basis of a Directive.

Moreover, the Joint Committee on the social problems of agricultural wage earners expressed an opinion in this connection on 6 May 1981, in which it called for the setting up of a definitive Community instrument to ensure the regular publication of comparable data on the earnings of permanent full-time and part-time workers and of seasonal workers (at maximum intervals of 2 years).

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- (1) Council Regulations (EEC) No 677/74 of 21 March 1974 (OJ No L 83 of 28 March 1974, pp 4-5), No 1103/75 of 28 April 1975 (OJ No L 110 of 30 April 1975, pp 2-3), No 1035/76 of 30 April 1976 (OJ No L 118 of 5 May 1976, pp 3-4), No 847/77 of 25 April 1977 (OJ No L 104 of 28 April 1977, p. 5) and No 3112/80 of 27 November 1980 (OJ No L 326 of 2 December 1980, pp 6-7).
- (2) The surveys for 1977 to 1979, which were carried out with a reduced sample and confined to male workers, were concerned only with trends in income during this period.
- (3) EUROSTAT, Earnings in agriculture
- 1974 (Social Statistics No 5/1975
 - 1975)
 - 1976) Separate publication
 - 1977)
 - 1978) Hourly earnings - Hours of work, vol. 1-1979 (1977)
 - 1979) 2-1979 (1978) and 2-1980 (1979)
 - 1980 The results will be included in a separate publication.

Consequently, the procedures for organizing future surveys were decided on by the Working Party for Statistics on Earnings in Agriculture at its meeting on 17 March 1981.

Thus the survey will be conducted every two years from 1982 onwards. It will relate to workers of both sexes belonging to the following categories: permanent full-time workers, permanent part-time workers and seasonal workers. The inclusion of the two last-mentioned categories, which were not taken into consideration in the earlier surveys, will be decided on by the Commission in collaboration with the relevant national statistical services and will apply only to the Member States in which there is a large or substantial number of such workers. The Statistical Office has prepared a Community definition of these three categories of agricultural workers, largely on the basis of information supplied by the Member States on this subject.

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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 Directive submitted by the Commission,

Whereas, in order to carry out the tasks assigned to it under the Treaty, in particular those set out in Articles 2, 39, 117, 118, 119 and 122 thereof, the Commission needs to know the earnings situation and trends 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 whereas it is, consequently, necessary to conduct a specific Community survey based on uniform definitions and characteristics;

Whereas the Commission needs regular, comprehensive data on earnings, and whereas it is therefore necessary to include all categories of agricultural workers of both sexes in the surveys;

Whereas, however, since the number of agricultural workers in certain categories is very low in several Member States, it is desirable to adopt a selective approach;

Whereas it is possible and also more economical to carry out such surveys by random sampling, and whereas, in order to obtain results of uniform accuracy, it is necessary to keep within a fixed margin of error of observation, which should be as low as possible;

Whereas it is necessary to define the arrangements for granting Community financial contributions to Member States for the purpose of conducting the surveys referred to in this Directive;

HAS ADOPTED THIS DIRECTIVE

Article 1

As from 1982, Member States shall undertake a survey in alternate years of the actual earnings of male and female workers employed in agriculture; the survey shall cover permanent full-time and part-time workers and seasonal workers.

The Commission, after consulting the statistical authorities of the Member States, shall determine the categories of agricultural workers who, on the basis of their relative importance, are to be included in the survey in each country.

The Commission, after consulting the appropriate Working Party, shall define the aforementioned categories of agricultural workers.

Article 2

The survey provided for in Article 1 shall be conducted on the basis of statistical data relating to the months of September, October or November in the case of permanent workers, and to months selected by the Commission, in cooperation with the national statistical authorities of the Member States, in the case of seasonal workers.

Article 3

The survey provided for in Article 1 shall cover all holdings which employ permanent and/or seasonal 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 the activities of which are mainly or exclusively directed to creating and maintaining gardens and parks, to hunting or to activities ancillary to agriculture.

Article 4

The survey provided for in Article 1 shall be carried out by random sampling. Member States shall take all appropriate measures, in particular with regard to the sample base, to maintain or, if necessary, to improve the quality of the survey results.

Article 5

respect of
The survey shall consist of the collection, in/ each permanent or seasonal worker, of all data relating to gross cash earnings for the month or months referred to in Article 2, the existence of benefits in kind, the nature of the work performed, the basis on which earnings are calculated and the number of hours paid, as well as sex, age and job categories.

Article 6

The Commission shall, after consulting the statistical authorities of the Member States, determine the technical details of the survey and the arrangements for transmitting the results to the Commission.

Article 7

The Member States shall receive, in respect of the first three surveys, a flat-rate sum for each holding surveyed. This sum shall be charged against appropriations allocated for this purpose in the budget of the European Communities.

Article 8

This Directive is addressed to the Member States.

FINANCIAL RECORD

1. Relevant budget heading: Art. 264
2. Title of budget heading: Draft Council Directive (EEC) on the organization of a survey on the earnings of workers employed in agriculture.
3. Legal basis: Council Directive (EEC)
4. Objective and justification of the project: to set up, after a series of 'complete' and 'light' annual surveys, a permanent system of surveys which will allow more detailed comparisons of the level and the distribution of the earnings of workers in agriculture, at two-yearly intervals, and to follow developments in this respect. The information must be collected directly at the agricultural holdings by the statistical services of the Member States.
5. Financial implications of the project (in ECU)

5.0 In respect of expenditure: As stated in Article 7 of the draft Directive, the Member States will receive a lump sum in respect of each holding covered for carrying out the three initial surveys. These costs will be charged against the appropriations provided for this purpose in the budgets of the European Communities for 1982, 1984 and 1986 (Article 264, 'Statistical surveys and studies').

The Community contribution covers only part of the total cost of the surveys carried out by the national statistical offices.

5.1 Method of calculation: It is proposed to calculate the flat rate 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 (+ 56000), the sum chargeable to the budget of the European Communities can be estimated, for each of the three surveys covering the ten Member States, at 672 000 ECU. This estimate is based on the following breakdown of the sample by countries (figures for the 1980 survey in brackets):

	Units		ECU	
Germany	9000	(8823) ^a	108000	(105876)
France	12000	(10000)	144000	(120000)
Italy	15000	(10000)	180000	(120000)
Netherlands	2450	(2450)	29400	(29400)
Belgium	1750	(1750)	21000	(21000)
Luxembourg	250	(250)	3000	(3000)
United Kingdom	2000	(1820)	24000	(21840)
Ireland	2530	(2530)	30360	(30360)
Denmark	6000	(6000)	72000	(72000)
Greece	5000	(-)	60000	(-)
TOTAL	55980	(43623)	671760	(523476)

a) Actual number that took part in the last complete survey in which this country participated (1976).

