

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(81) 258 final

Brussels, 25 May 1981

Proposal for a
COUNCIL DIRECTIVE
on the statistical surveys to be carried out by Member States on sheep
and goat stocks

(submitted to the Council by the Commission)

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Explanatory statement

In order to attain the objectives laid down in Council Regulation No 1837/81 on the common organization of the market in sheepmeat and goatmeat, the Commission needs harmonized, reliable statistics on livestock numbers in Member States and on trends in slaughterings, together with short-term forecasts on gross indigenous production.

The purpose of this proposal for a directive is to make statistical data comparable by imposing standard breakdowns, to lay down the precise dates on which such data must be communicated and ensure that the data are sufficiently reliable.

The adaptation of national statistics to these Community standards (involving adapting questionnaires, finalizing methods and modifying processing programmes) warrants a financial contribution from the Communities for the first three years during which the directive is applied.

Proposal for a
Council Directive

on the statistical surveys to be carried out
by Member States on sheep and goat stocks
(/ /EEC)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 1837/80 of 27 June 1980 on the
common organization of the market in sheepmeat and goatmeat¹⁾,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Having regard to the Opinion of the European Parliament²⁾,

Whereas in order to fulfil the task assigned to it under the Treaty and by
Regulation (EEC) No 1837/80, the Commission requires precise information on
trends in sheep and goat stocks and the production of sheepmeat and goatmeat
in the Member States and must also have a short-term forecast, established on
the basis of this trend, of the gross indigenous production of sheepmeat and
goatmeat on the market;

Whereas surveys on sheep and goat stocks at present carried out in the Member
States do not enable precise and standard short-term observations to be made
of the market; whereas monthly statistics on animals slaughtered are not sufficient
for this purpose and short-term forecasts on the gross indigenous production of
sheep and goats are not made systematically in all Member States;

Whereas surveys should be carried out in all Member States on sheep and goat stocks,
on the basis of standard categories and with a similar degree of precision; where-
as monthly statistics on animals slaughtered should be supplemented and standardized
and forecasts covering identical periods in each Member State should be made
on the production of sheep and goats;

Whereas, in the case of sample surveys, sampling criteria should be kept up to
date and fixed margins of error should be observed in order to ensure that there
is a similar degree of precision; whereas observational errors should be reduced
as much as possible and an assessment should be made of their size;

1) OJ No L 183, 16.7.1980, p. 1

2)

Whereas, to keep trends in the regional distribution of herds under review, the regional distribution should be recorded annually;

Whereas both the statistics on animals slaughtered and forecasts of production of sheep and goats should be broken down by category in order to enable the market to be observed with a distinction being made on the basis of the types of meat;

Whereas, since the results of the surveys, forecasts and statistics on animals slaughtered are intended to serve as a basis for decisions adopted within the framework of the common organization of the market in sheepmeat and goatmeat, they must be communicated to the Commission as soon as possible and at the same dates;

Whereas the procedure to be followed by the Standing Committee for Agricultural Statistics set up by Council Decision 72/279/EEC¹⁾ should be laid down, so as to ensure that when this Directive is applied cooperation between the Member States and the Commission will be as effective as possible;

Whereas, since the statistics proposed here constitute only a minimum programme, the Commission must submit a report every three years so that the extent to which the measures proposed have enabled the objectives of this Directive to be attained may be examined, and whereas it must, if necessary, propose that the methods used be harmonized or improved;

Whereas the Community's financial contribution towards the expenditure incurred by the Member States in carrying out the surveys provided for under this Directive must be defined;

HAS ADOPTED THIS DIRECTIVE:

Article 1

1. The Member States shall carry out each year a statistical survey of total sheep and goat numbers.
2. However, Member States with a goat stock of less than 100 000 head shall be obliged to carry out such a survey every five years only.
3. The first survey shall take place in 1981.

Article 2

1. For the purposes of this Directive, 'sheep' means animals falling under heading Nos. 01.04.A.I and 01.04.B.I of the Common Customs Tariff and 'goats' means animals falling under heading Nos. 01.04.A.II and 01.04.B.II of the same Tariff.

2. The surveys referred to in Article 1 shall cover all sheep and goats owned by natural or legal persons with not less than
 - a utilized agricultural area of one hectare, or
 - one breeding sheep or goat, or
 - three other sheep and/or goats.
3. Member States which have, in addition, data on sheep and goats not referred to in paragraph 2 shall include these in the results referred to in Article 3.

Article 3

1. The survey provided for in Article 1 shall be conducted in such a manner as to provide a breakdown, as at the beginning of December of each year, of sheep and goat stocks into at least the following categories :
 - A. Sheep, total numbers
 - A.1 sheep of less than one year
 - A.2 sheep of one year and over
 - A.2.1 of which: females
 - B. Goats, total numbers
 - B.1 goats of less than one year
 - B.2 goats of one year and over
 - B.2.1 of which: females.
2. The Member States referred to in Article 1(2) shall give an estimate of the stock numbers referred to under B above.
3. If necessary, the categories referred to in paragraph 1 may be altered in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 8.
4. The categories shall be defined by the Commission after it has consulted the Standing Committee for Agricultural Statistics set up by Decision 72/279/EEC and hereinafter called the 'Committee'.

Article 4

1. The surveys provided for in Article 1 shall be carried out in the form of exhaustive surveys or by random sampling.

- 2. As regards the basis on which the sampling is to be carried out, the Member States shall take whatever measures they deem appropriate to maintain the quality of the survey results.
- 3. Sampling errors shall not exceed 2 % of the total number of sheep and 3 % of the total number of females of one year and over in each of the Member States, these percentages representing a confidence margin of 68 %.
- 4. If necessary, Member States shall take appropriate measures to improve the quality of the results.

Article 5

- 1. The Member States shall notify the Commission of the provisional results of the surveys, without regional breakdown, not later than the 15 February following the reference month of the data referred to in Article 3 (1).
- 2. The final results shall be notified not later than 15 March following the reference month.
- 3. The Member States shall notify together with the final results the total number of sheep and the total number of goats, broken down according to the following territorial subdivisions :

Germany:	Regierungsbezirke
France:	Régions de programme
Italy:	Regioni
Netherlands:	Provincies
Belgium:	Provinces/Provincies
Luxembourg:	-
Denmark:	Denmark, Greenland
Ireland:	-
United Kingdom:	Standard Regions
Greece:	the 9 regions of the Regional Development Service

- 4. By way of derogation from paragraph 3,
 - a) the Federal Republic of Germany shall be authorized to break down sheep and goat numbers by Bundesländer only, when the results relate to calendar years ending in an even number;
 - b) the Netherlands shall notify sheep and goat numbers by 'provincie' on the basis of a survey of stock conducted in May;
 - c) up to and including the data relating to 1984, the United Kingdom shall be authorized to notify the results broken down by 'agricultural region'.

Article 6

1. The Member States shall, on the basis of the results of the surveys and of other available data, estimate gross indigenous production of sheep and goats for the two periods of six months commencing on 1 January and 1 July respectively.
2. For the purposes of this Directive, gross indigenous production means the number of animals slaughtered, whether they are of domestic or foreign origin, plus the balance of foreign trade in live animals (exports minus imports).
3. The Member States shall inform the Commission of the forward estimates at the same time as the results of the surveys.

Article 7

1. The Member States shall draw up monthly statistics relating to the number and carcass weight of animals slaughtered on their territory.
If necessary they shall supply additional information every four months, broken down by month, on the slaughtered animals not included in the monthly statistics referred to in the foregoing subparagraph, so that these statistics include all the animals slaughtered on their territory.
2. The statistics provided for in paragraph 1 shall be drawn up for the following categories :
 - A. Sheep, total numbers
 - A.1 Sheep of less than one year
 - A.1.1 of which: sucking lambs
 - A.2 Sheep of one year and over
 - A.2.1 of which: females
 - B. Goats, total
 - B.1 Goats of less than one year
 - B.2 Goats of one year and over
 - B.2.1 of which: females
3. The Commission, after consulting the Committee, shall define the carcass weight referred to in paragraph 1 and the categories referred to in paragraph 2.
4. The Member States shall inform the Commission of the results of the statistics referred to in paragraph 1 not later than six weeks after the reference month.

Article 8

1. Where the procedure laid down in this Article is invoked, the Chairman shall refer the matter to the Committee, either on his own initiative or at the request of a representative of a Member State.
2. The representative of the Commission shall submit to the Committee a draft of the measures to be taken. The Committee shall give its opinion on the draft within a time limit to be set by the Chairman in accordance with the urgency of the matter. It shall act by a majority of 45 votes and the votes of Member States shall be weighted as laid down in Article 148 (2) of the Treaty. The Chairman shall not vote.
3. a) The Commission shall adopt the proposed measures if they conform to the Committee's opinion.
b) If the proposed measures are not in accordance with the Committee's opinion, or in the absence of such opinion, the Commission shall submit to the Council forthwith a proposal relating to the measures to be adopted. The Council shall act by qualified majority.
c) If, after three months have expired since the matter was brought before the Council, the latter has not taken a decision, the proposed measures shall be adopted by the Commission.

Article 9

The Commission shall submit to the European Parliament and to the Council every three years and for the first time in 1984 a report on the experience gained from the surveys and the forward estimates provided for in this Directive.

The Commission shall, if necessary, submit proposals to the Council, especially with a view to further harmonizing or improving methods.

The Council shall act on these proposals in accordance with the voting procedure laid down in Article 43 (2) of the Treaty.

Article 10

A Contribution to the expenditure necessary for carrying out the surveys provided for in this Directive shall be charged as a fixed sum to the Budget of the European Communities for the years 1981, 1982 and 1983.

Article 11

This Directive is addressed to the Member States.