

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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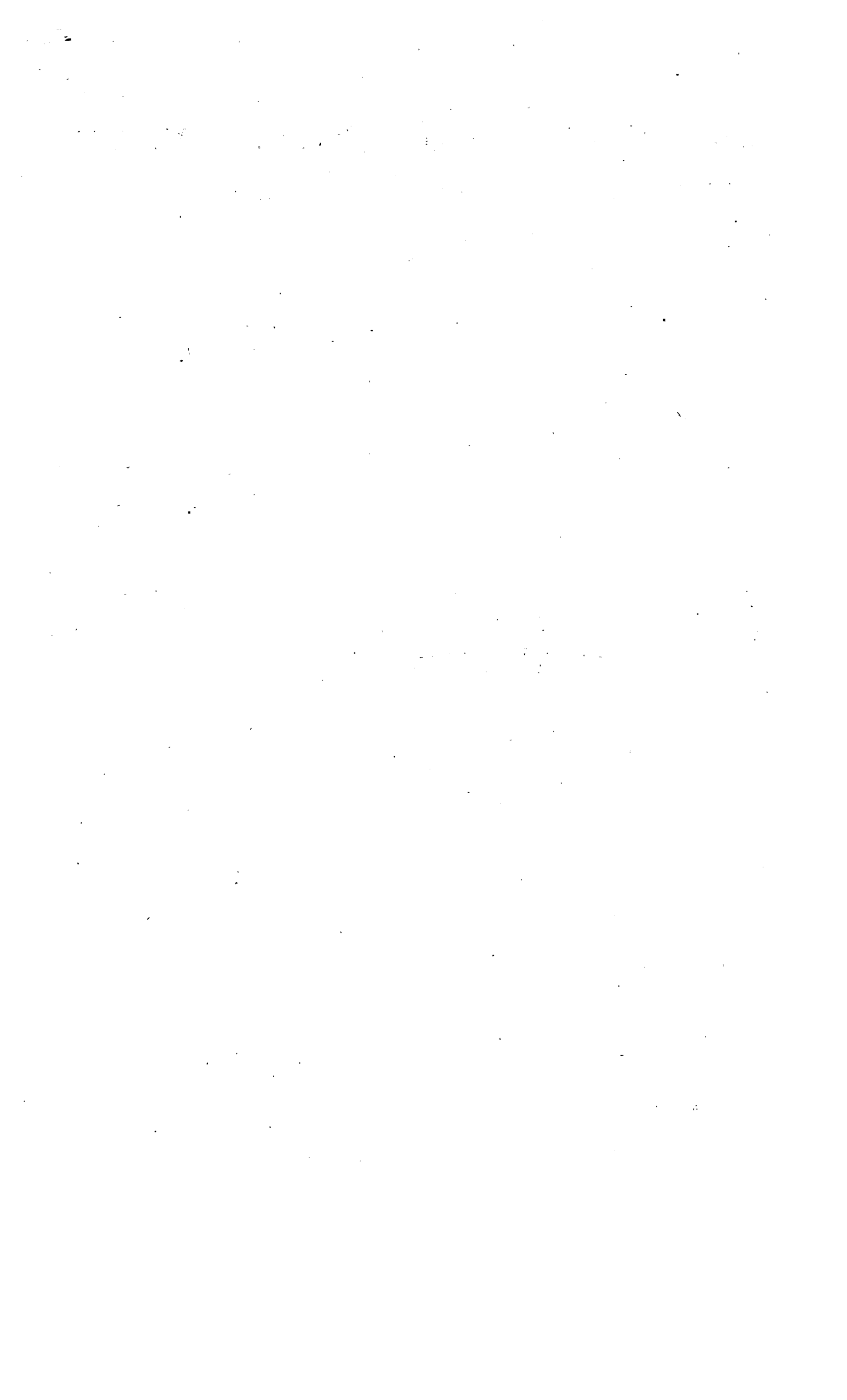
Brussels, 23 July 1974

Draft

REGULATION (EEC) OF THE COUNCIL

on the organisation of a Labour Force Sample Survey

(submitted to the Council by the Commission)



N o t e

sur l'incidence financière sur le Budget communautaire
du projet de règlement relatif à l'organisation d'une
enquête par sondage sur les forces de travail

Comme il est prévu à l'article 10 du projet de règlement les Etats membres recevront pour l'exécution de cette enquête une somme forfaitaire proportionnelle au nombre de ménages enquêtés. Ces frais sont couverts par le budget des Communautés européennes. Sur la base des crédits relatifs aux enquêtes précédentes et en tenant compte du nombre de ménages, le coût de l'enquête de base y compris les questions complémentaires peut être estimé, pour le neuf Etats membres, à 1.500.000 U.C. Ceci comprend la subvention forfaitaire par ménage pour l'enquête dans son ensemble ainsi que les frais relatifs à l'exploitation communautaire.



Explanatory Memorandum

On 19 October 1971, the Council of Ministers of Social Affairs, when approving the programme of social statistics (Doc. N° R 1220/3/71 - SOC 125, rev. 3), asked the Commission to plan for a scheme of statistical information, which was necessary for a better understanding of the labour force and its development. At the same time it was decided to carry out, in 1973 and 1975, labour force sample surveys in the member States.

The sample surveys carried out in 1960, 1968 to 1971 and 1973 are in present circumstances essential to enable the Commission to fulfil the tasks imposed on it by the Treaty of Rome and, in particular, by its Articles 2, 117, 118, 122 and 123. To this end it must have available firm and comparable figures for all member States on such matters as the levels and trends of employment and unemployment.

Although statistics of employment and unemployment are available in all countries, it is generally impossible to make comparisons between the various national series. This is particularly evident during the examination by the Council of the periodic reports of the Commission on the development of the social situation and on the problems of the labour market. The national series do not have any common methodological basis; the definitions are different as are the periods of reference. Differing legislative arrangements make impossible any comparisons relating to the level of unemployment. In addition certain specific problems cannot be examined because data for some countries are lacking.

The results of Community sample surveys, carried out using uniform methods and definitions, make for a better understanding of the structure and development of employment and unemployment; they also make it possible to deal with questions to which the Council and other Community bodies have given priority.

The results of the surveys of 1968 and 1971 provide, for the first time, a coherent set of data on employment and unemployment for the Community, its member States and their regions. In addition, various studies on employment and unemployment among young persons and employment of women are based essentially on the results of the sample surveys.

The availability of comparably activity rates by age, further subdivided by sex and, for females marital condition, has made possible a considerable improvement in the work of preparing projections of the total and active population for the Community.

The above examples of studies made possible through the Community sample survey of manpower clearly represent only a small part of what could be done using statistics established on a uniform basis.

The inquiry of 1973, carried out in the six original member States and in the United Kingdom in accordance with Regulation (EEC) N° 2723/72 of the Council of 19 December 1972, on the organisation of a sample Labour Force Survey, will, due to a greater precision in the questions on employment and the search for employment, make it possible also comply with the wishes of the Council regarding a better understanding of the reserve of manpower. Following the inclusion of retrospective questions on the activities of persons a year before the inquiry date, the inquiry will make it possible to study in depth the mobility of workers between occupations and sectors, taking account of regional aspects.

Concurrently with the basic inquiry, there was carried out, in each of the six original member States, a special inquiry on general and vocational training, relating both to training in progress and to that received previously, whether inside or outside the school system, which will enable the Commission to comply with wishes expressed in resolutions of the Council on matters of social affairs and education.

.../...

The following principles were decided upon for the inquiry of 1975, in agreement with the experts of the nine member States :

- 1) the basic labour force survey should not be substantially changed compared to that of 1973;
- 2) some supplementary questions should be added to the basic inquiry relating to vocational training in progress and to working conditions.

In this way the 1975 sample survey of manpower will ensure continuity and the development of a body of statistical information corresponding to the various requirements of the Community.

As provided for in Article 10 of the draft Regulation, member States will, for the conduct of this inquiry, receive lump-sum payments proportional to the numbers of households surveyed. These payments are covered by the budget of the European Communities. On the basis of funds made available for previous inquiries and having regard to the number of households, the cost of the basic inquiry including the supplementary questions to be borne by the Commission may be estimated, for the nine Member States, at 1,500,000 U.A. This comprises a fixed payment per household in the inquiry as well as the expenses connected with the processing of the results by the Community.

Draft
REGULATION (EEC) OF THE COUNCIL

on the organisation of a sample survey of manpower

(submitted to the Council by the Commission)

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 developments 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 the 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 statistics
at regular intervals 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 harmonised and synchronised
Community sample surveys of manpower; whereas only the renewal in 1975
of the survey already carried out previously in 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971 and
1973 enables this information to be obtained;

.../...

Whereas, as a result of the accession of the new Member States of 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 1975 a labour force 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 and the Netherlands, between 30,000 and 40,000 in Denmark and the Republic of Ireland 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 occupations 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.

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Article 5

Supplementary questions shall be asked within the framework of the basic survey referred to in Article 4. They shall relate to :

- a) vocational training currently being obtained in the place of employment, in specialised institutions, in vocational training centres, etc., and shall concern all persons aged 14 to 65 years, who are included in the sample of households referred to in Article 3;
- b) conditions of work (distance between home and place of work; means of transport used; shift working, working on Sundays or holidays, at night etc.), and shall concern all persons aged 14 years and over having a principal and regular employment at the time of the survey who are included in the sample households referred to in Article 3.

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 departments.

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

Article 7

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

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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 fixed times;
- b) to punish any infringement of the obligation to keep secret the information gathered, in accordance with the provisions of the first subparagraph.

Article 9

In order to take account of the special problems to new Member States participating in the Community sample survey of manpower for the first time, the technical aspects referred to in Articles 1 to 3 may be adopted to suit the actual situations 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 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.

Made in _____, the

For the Council,
The President