

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

1981 - 1982

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5 October 1981

DOCUMENT 1-549/81

## Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture

**on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 1-362/81) for a directive on the statistical surveys to be carried out by Member States on sheep and goat stocks**

**Rapporteur: Mr T.J. MAHER**



By letter of 29 June 1981 the President of the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament, pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty, to deliver an opinion on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a directive on the statistical surveys to be carried out by Member States on sheep and goat stocks .

On 3 July 1981 the President of the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on Agriculture as the committee responsible and to the Committee on Budgets for its opinion.

On 23 June 1981 the Committee on Agriculture appointed Mr Maher rapporteur.

It considered this proposal at its meeting of 21 and 22 September 1981 and adopted the motion for a resolution and explanatory statement unanimously, with two abstentions.

Present: Mr Delatte, vice-chairman, acting chairman and deputy rapporteur; Mr Früh , vice-chairman, Mr Battersby, Mr Bocklet, Miss Brookes (deputizing for Mr Kirk), Mr Clinton, Mr Eyraud, Mr Gautier, Mr Hord, Mr B. Nielsen, Mr d'Ormesson, Mr Pranchère, Mr Provan, Mr Wettig and Mr Woltjer.

The opinion of the Committee on Budgets will be published separately.

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The Committee on Agriculture hereby submits to the European Parliament the following amendments and motion for a resolution, together with explanatory statement:

AMENDMENT No. 1

tabled by the Committee on Agriculture

to the proposal for a directive on the statistical surveys to be carried out by Member States on sheep and goat stocks (Doc. 1-362/81).

Article 1 (3) to be amended as follows:

3. The first survey shall take place in 1982.

AMENDMENT No. 2

tabled by the Committee on Agriculture

to the proposal for a directive on the statistical surveys to be carried out by Member States on sheep and goat stocks (Doc. 1-362/81).

Article 2 (2) to be amended as follows:

'The surveys referred to in Article 1 shall cover all sheep and goats owned by natural or legal persons with not less than

- one breeding sheep or goat (female animal)
- or
- a utilized agricultural area of one hectare and three other sheep and/or goats.'

AMENDMENT No. 3

tabled by the Committee on Agriculture

to the proposal for a directive on the statistical surveys to be carried out by Member States on sheep and goat stocks (Doc. 1-362/81).

Article 10 to be amended as follows:

'A contribution of 1,800,000 ECU to the expenditure necessary for carrying out the surveys provided for in this directive shall be charged to the budget of the European Communities for the years 1982, 1983 and 1984.

Annual allocation between Member States (ECU) :

D	11.916
F	145.764
I	122.177
NL	9.794
B	3.678
L	3.043
UK	166.694
IRL	20.984
DK	3.452
EL	112.588
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EUR-10	600.000'

A

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a directive on the statistical surveys to be carried out by Member States on sheep and goat stocks

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (COM(81) 258 final),
  - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty (Doc. 1-362/81),
  - having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture and the opinion of the Committee on Budgets (Doc. 1-549/81),
1. Draws attention once more to the importance of usable statistical data in implementing market policy and therefore regrets the late submission of the present proposal;
  2. Requests the Council and the Commission to take all necessary measures to ensure that a complete and useful survey is carried out in 1982;
  3. Requests the Commission to review the means of calculating the allocation of Community financial aid in order to secure a fairer distribution of the total amount among the Member States;
  4. Requests the Commission to incorporate in its proposal, pursuant to Article 149(2) of the EEC Treaty, the proposed amendments relating to the date of the first survey, the years for which a Community financial contribution is to be provided and the sheep and goat owners falling within the scope of this directive;
  5. Approves the Commission's proposal subject to the above reservations.



EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. The purpose of this proposal is to provide the Commission with the necessary information to attain the objectives laid down in Council Regulation No. 1837/80 on the common organization of the market in sheepmeat and goatmeat.

This information relates to livestock numbers in Member States, trends in slaughterings and short-term forecasts on gross indigenous production.

To be of use to the Commission the statistical data from Member States must allow for comparison, which means that national statistics must be adapted to Community standards.

2. The Committee on Agriculture has repeatedly drawn attention to the importance of obtaining usable statistical data with a view to achieving common organizations of the markets.

The surveys envisaged in the proposal are essential for the management of the market in sheep and goats. The Committee on Agriculture therefore regrets that the present proposal was not submitted earlier. It is clear from talks with Commission representatives that the first survey cannot be carried out before 1982 and it will not be possible to use the results until 1983, three years after the publication of the regulation on the common organization of the market in this sector.

3. The Committee on Agriculture urges the Commission and Council to make every effort to adopt the necessary measures sufficiently early for Member States to carry out a complete statistical survey of sheep and goat stocks in 1982. This calls for swift approval of the directive by the Council and for an early definition of the carcass weight referred to in Article 7(1) of the proposal.

4. The Member States referred to in Article 1(2) which are obliged to carry out a survey only once every five years are the Federal Republic of Germany, the United Kingdom, Denmark, Ireland, the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg. Only France, Italy and Greece have goat populations of more than 100,000 head.

5. For the sake of maximum accuracy in assessing the sheep and goat market it is necessary for as many animals as possible to be covered in the survey.

However the Committee on Agriculture considers that the Commission proposal sets a very extreme survey coverage threshold.

Is it really necessary to include all private owners of three or more sheep and/or goats in the results of the surveys, since in many cases these animals are intended for the owners' personal consumption and are therefore scarcely likely to affect the market?

It is suggested that two of the criteria proposed by the Commission, namely an area of one hectare and three other sheep and/or goats, should be combined so that those who possess only a few animals will be excluded from the survey if they possess an agricultural area of less than one hectare.

6. The statistical surveys provided for in this directive will be financed mainly by the Member States. However, the Community is to contribute a total of 1,800,000 EUA for the first three years in which the directive is implemented.

In the 1982 Preliminary Draft Budget an amount of 600,000 EUA has been allocated for 'statistical studies and surveys' under Article 263. Since this amount has now been confirmed, it is proposed that reference be made to it in Article 10 of the Commission's proposal.

7. The Commission has calculated as follows the amount to be allocated to each Member State:

- 10% of the available amount per year, i.e. 60,000 EUA, will be distributed equally among the ten Member States, i.e. each will receive a fixed sum of 6,000 EUA;
- the remaining amount of 540,000 EUA is to be distributed according to each Member State's share of the total sheep and goat stock.

This method of calculation leads to a very large difference between the amounts allocated to the various Member States per thousand head of livestock as illustrated in the annexed table.

The Committee on Agriculture takes the view that an alternative method of calculation must be found in order to attenuate the discrepancy between the maximum and minimum amounts granted per thousand head of animals.

8. The annexed table illustrates a possible alternative method of calculation. In the alternative proposal only 5% of the total available amount would be distributed equally among the ten Member States and the remaining sum would then be allocated on the basis of livestock numbers. This would reduce the disparity between the highest figure (Luxembourg) and the lowest (United Kingdom), from a factor of 163 to a factor of 79.

9. Subject to the above reservations the Committee on Agriculture agrees with the Commission's proposal. It regrets that the proposal was not submitted earlier and hopes that the Commission and Council will make every effort to ensure that the directive is implemented as soon as possible.

## COMMISSION PROPOSAL

## ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL

	Number of Sheep 1,000 (1)	Number of Goats 1,000 (2)	Total (1)+(2) (3)	Fixed Amount EUA	Variable Amount EUA	Total EUA	Per 1,000 Head EUA	Fixed Amount EUA	Variable Amount EUA	Total EUA	Per 1,000 Head EUA
Germany	1,145	36	1,181	6,000	8,420	14,420	12.21	3,000	8,916	11,916	10 .09
France	11,799	7,109	18,908	6,000	135,270	141,270	7.47	3,000	142,764	145,764	7.71
Italy	9,110	6,674	15,784	6,000	112,900	118,900	7.53	3,000	119,177	122,177	7.74
Netherlands	895	5 <sup>1</sup>	900	6,000	6,420	12,420	13.80	3,000	6,794	9,794	10.88
Belgium	84	6 <sup>1</sup>	90	6,000	640	6,640	73.78	3,000	678	3,678	40.86
Luxembourg	5	-	5	6,000	50	6,050	1,210.00	3,000	43	3,043	608.60
United Kingdom	21,658	22 <sup>1</sup>	21,680	6,000	155,080	161,080	7.42	3,000	163,694	166,694	7.69
Ireland	2,360	10 <sup>1</sup>	2,370	6,000	16,950	22,950	9.68	3,000	17,894	20,894	8.82
Denmark	54	6 <sup>1</sup>	60	6,000	430	6,430	107.00	3,000	452	3,452	57.53
Greece	8,053	6,462	14,514	6,000	103,840	109,840	7.56	3,000	109,588	112,588	7.76
Total	55,163	20,329	75,492	60,000	540,000	600,000		30,000	570,000	600,000	

Source: Commission of the European Communities.

<sup>1</sup>Est.