

# COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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Annual report on the  
estimated clearings and new plantations of certain  
types of fruit trees

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(Submitted by the Commission to the European Parliament  
and the Council)

COM(77) 685 final



Explanatory Memorandum

1. Under Article 8 of Council Directive 76/625/EEC as amended by Article 1 of Council Directive 77/159/EEC, the Commission must present to the European Parliament and the Council from 1 January 1977 annual reports on the estimated clearings and plantings of certain types of fruit trees (apples, pears, peaches and oranges).
2. The first report presented by the Commission refers to the estimates by Member States of the clearings and plantings during the 1975/76 season. It is based upon information due to be submitted to the Commission by 31 December 1976. Difficulties encountered in making these estimates delayed the notifications by certain Member States to the Commission and hence the presentation of this report.
3. The report indicates the extent and direction of estimated changes in the total area under the four species of fruit trees within individual Member States, and mentions, where particularly significant, changes in respect of certain major varieties.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Council Directive of 20 July 1976, 76/625/EEC<sup>1)</sup>, concerning the statistical surveys to be carried out by the Member States in order to determine the production potential of plantations of certain species of fruit trees, as amended by Council Directive 77/159/EEC<sup>2)</sup> of 14 February 1977, requires in Article 8 that the Commission shall submit to the European Parliament and the Council from 1 January 1977 annual reports on the subject of Articles 5 and 6.
2. The Commission now submits to the European Parliament and the Council the first annual report on these Articles/<sup>which</sup> concern the annual estimates to be made by Member States of the areas of fruit trees cleared and newly planted. This first report relates primarily to the 1975/76 season and includes information due to be notified to the Commission by 31 December 1976, but in fact notified somewhat later by certain countries which encountered difficulties in initiating these statistical returns.

II. OBJECTIVES

3. The objective of Articles 5 and 6 of the Directive is to provide the Commission with regular information on the changes in area which occur in the intervals between the quinquennial surveys on plantations of certain species of fruit trees (dessert apples, dessert pears, peaches and oranges). Such changes can effect the medium-term forecasts of production potential which are made by combining the survey data on the area under the four species with data on yield per hectare.

III. INFORMATION RECEIVED

4. The "Vegetable Products" Working Party of the Agricultural Statistics Committee of the Statistical Office of the European Communities in 1976 discussed and agreed upon a standard form to be used by Member States to report their estimates of the areas of fruit orchard annually cleared and planted. The estimates are reported by species for each Member State (Tables 1 and 2) and "as far as possible" by varieties.
5. The reports indicate a decline of 5500 hectares in the 1975/6 season in the overall area of commercial fruit orchards which now total some 526 543 ha. Pears, peaches and apples are all reported to have decreased in area whilst alone the area under oranges has increased slightly (Table 3). The decrease is greatest in pear orchards in absolute terms (-3660 ha), in relative terms in comparison with the area under

(1) O.J. N° L 218, 11.8.1976, p. 10

(2) O.J. N° L 48, 19.2.1977, p. 31

this species reported at the last survey (- 3,9 percent) and is reported in nearly all Member States. In peach orchards, the overall decline (-1187 ha) represents about 1 per cent of the area reported at the last survey (in 1974) and is concentrated in France, whereas in Italy the area under peaches has increased. In apple orchards, the small decline reported overall (-735 ha) occurred principally in Italy (-771 ha), France (-365 ha) and Netherlands (-367 ha) but was partly offset by increases in Denmark (+ 378 ha) and B.R. Deutschland (+ 305 ha).

6. Information in respect of individual varieties of the various species is incomplete since not all Member States found it possible to provide estimates of clearings and plantings in such detail, especially for the <sup>varieties.</sup>For the most important varieties of apples in the Community, Golden Delicious, there was a net fall of 323 ha., largely due to 1424 ha being cleared in France where only 768 ha were planted. In Italy and Belgium, however, plantings of this variety (421 and 83 ha respectively) exceeded clearings (140 and 31 ha). Clearings of Red Delicious apples in France and Italy exceeded plantings by 330 ha. Clearings of Morgenduft or Imperatore apples (525 ha) and Abbondanza apples (205 ha) were reported in Italy, without any corresponding plantings. For pear orchards, the clearing of 2000 ha. of the Passa Crassana variety in Italy represented nearly half of the total clearings of pears in the Community (4128 ha) and almost two thirds of the pear-tree clearings in Italy. No important varietal changes are reported in respect of peaches and oranges; in all four species, incomplete data from Member States prevents full tabular presentation.
7. The estimates of clearings and plantings during the 1975/76 season received from Member States have been combined with those for previous years in order to adjust the areas reported at the most recent previous orchard fruit surveys and arrive at an estimate of the areas under cultivation at the end of the 1975/76 season (Table 4).
8. In the second annual report to be submitted by the Commission on annual estimates of clearings and plantings, it will be necessary to take into account the statistics available in respect of the 1976/7 clearings in application of Council Regulation (EEC) N° 794/76 of 6 April 1976<sup>1)</sup>. It would be unrealistic not to assume that the commercial fruit orchard industry has also taken these measures into account and that in consequence, the clearings of certain varieties of apples and pears otherwise due for clearing in 1975/6 may have been postponed.
9. It is hoped that improved estimates of clearings and plantings will be available from Member States in future years to allow the total orchard area to be estimated more accurately in the intervals between the 5 yearly Community surveys (the results of the 1977 Community orchard fruit survey are due to be sent to the Commission in 1978).

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1) O.J. N° L 93, 8.4.1976, p. 3.

Table 3 : Net change in area under orchard fruit since last survey (new plantations minus clearings)

ha

Country	Date of last survey	Apples		Pears		Peaches		Oranges	
		Total change since last survey	of which: 1975/76	Total change since last survey	of which: 1975/76	Total change since last survey	of which: 1975/76	Total change since last survey	of which: 1975/76
BR Deutschland	1972	+ 702	+ 305	- 75	- 25	- 3	- 7	-	-
France	1974/75 <sup>1)</sup>	- 365	- 365	- 222	- 222	- 1660	- 1660	-	-
Italia	1974	-1045	- 771	- 4715	-3139	+ 972	+ 480	- 307 <sup>2)</sup>	+ 84
Nederland	1974	- 394	- 367	- 458	- 278	-	-	-	-
Belgique/België	1972	+ 160 <sup>2)</sup>	+ 101	+ 38 <sup>2)</sup>	+ 22	- 51	-	-	-
Luxembourg	1973	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
United Kingdom	1974	- 845	- 6	- 8	+ 7	-	-	-	-
Ireland	1973	- 5	- 10	-	-	-	-	-	-
Danmark	1974	+ 756	+ 378	- 50	- 25	-	-	-	-
EUR-9		-1036	- 735	- 5490	-3660	- 742	- 1187	+ 307	+ 84

1) 1971/72 for oranges

2) 1974/75 and 1975/76 only

Table 1 : Area and proportion of orchard fruit cleared in 1975/76 by country and species

Country	Apples		Pears		Peaches		Oranges	
	ha	%	ha	%	ha	%	ha	%
BR Deutschland	362	1,3	48	1,7	15	3,6	-	-
France	2373	4,2	715	3,2	3357	8,0	-	-
Italia	1974	2,7	3327	6,2	2602	3,1	581	0,6
Nederland	1023	4,7	469	7,2	-	-	-	-
Belgique/Belgie	65	0,8	10	0,3	-	-	-	-
Luxembourg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
United Kingdom	506	2,4	76	1,5	-	-	-	-
Ireland	14	2,5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Danmark	222	3,1	25	2,9	-	-	-	-
EUR-9	6539	3,0	4670	4,9	5974	4,8	581	0,6

Table 2 : Area and proportion of orchard fruit planted in 1975/76 by country and species

Country	Apples		Pears		Peaches		Oranges	
	ha	%	ha	%	ha	%	ha	%
BR Deutschland	667	2,4	23	0,8	8	1,9	-	-
France	2008	3,6	493	2,2	1697	4,0	-	-
Italia	1203	1,7	188	0,4	3082	3,7	665	0,7
Nederland	656	3,0	191	2,9	-	-	-	-
Belgique/Belgie	166	2,0	32	0,9	-	-	-	-
Luxembourg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
United Kingdom	500	2,4	83	1,6	-	-	-	-
Ireland	4	0,7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Danmark	600	8,3	-	-	-	-	-	-
EUR-9	5804	2,7	1010	1,1	4787	3,8	665	0,7

Table 4 : Estimated area under orchard fruit in 1975/76

(Area recorded at last survey adjusted by annual estimates of clearings and plantings)

ha

Country	Apples	Pears	Peaches	Oranges	Total
BR Deutschland	28 796	2 679	415	-	31 890
France	55 994	22 257	40 374	241	118 866
Italia	71 017	48 866	84 108	96 995	300 986
Nederland	21 529	6 029	-	-	27 558
Belgique/België	8 561	3 591	25	-	12 177
Luxembourg	390	10	-	-	400
United Kingdom	20 141	5 128	-	-	25 269
Ireland	556	38	-	-	594
Danmark	7 979	824	-	-	8 803
EUR-9	214 963	89 422	124 922	97 236	526 543