



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 29.07.1997
COM(97) 413 final

97/0220 (CNS)

Proposal for a

COUNCIL DIRECTIVE

amending

COUNCIL DIRECTIVES 93/23/EEC, 93/24/EEC and 93/25/EEC of 1 June 1993 on the statistical surveys to be carried out on pig, bovine animal and sheep and goat production.

(presented by the Commission)

Summary

The purpose of the animal livestock surveys is to regularly review the current livestock population and to enable production forecasts based on the livestock situation. These surveys are covered by three COUNCIL DIRECTIVES 93/23/EEC, 93/24/EEC and 93/25/EEC of 1 June 1993 on the statistical surveys to be carried out on pig, bovine animal and sheep and goat production. Until now these three Directives have stated precise dates throughout the year on which the surveys take place.

April, August and December for the pig surveys,
June and December for the bovine animal surveys,
December for the sheep and goat survey.

In order that each Member State may rationalize its survey programme, the Commission is proposing to change the present Directives by introducing a more flexible system of dates for when the surveys should take place as well as authorizing those Member States who so wish, to reduce the number of pig surveys from three to two per year. However the authorization to reduce the number of pig surveys would be granted only if the Member State proves that reliable production forecasts can still be attained from only two pig surveys which themselves would have to be carried out at a six monthly interval to take production cycles into account.

These alterations to the Directives do not lead to a reduction in the quality of statistical information in the animal sector, but rather enable financial economy as well as reducing the workload which statistical surveys create for the farmers.

Explanatory memorandum

Member States have raised initiatives and put forward suggestions to the Commission with the purpose of rationalizing the statistical surveys on pig, bovine animal as well as sheep and goat production. The following are the main arguments for the implementation of these proposals:

An improved synchronization of the surveys provides for a better use of the resources available for agricultural statistical surveys.

The survey units' workload in the area of statistical surveys will be reduced for instance through the synchronization of the various animal surveys or with the farm structure survey. Additional savings can be obtained with a more flexible calendar for the surveys, especially in relation to the August pig survey.

The costs incurred by the Member States from the production surveys will be reduced.

The consolidation of several surveys will be achieved through the amendment to Directive 93/23/EEC "Pigs" wherein the period for the April and December surveys will be extended.

In the interests of market administration the August pig survey can not be dispensed with altogether. However it will be proposed that Member States may request to carry out - under duly justified circumstances - only two surveys per year at a six monthly interval at May/June and November/December if adequate documentation is presented showing that the quality of the production estimates does not deteriorate through only two surveys being undertaken. Applications for this derogation will be dealt by the Commission within a "comitology" procedure. If the quality of the production estimates is seen to deteriorate, the Agricultural Statistics Committee will be empowered to revoke the derogation.

The consolidation of several surveys will be achieved through the amendment to Directive 93/24/EEC "Bovine animals", wherein the month of November will be proposed as an alternative to the December survey.

The consolidation of several surveys will be achieved through the amendment to Directive 93/25/EEC "sheep and goats" which will ensure that the derogations already given to Denmark and the Netherlands (wherein the December survey can be carried out in the preceding May or June) are now extended to Germany and Belgium with particular consideration given to those Member States where the number of sheep and goats represent a relatively small proportion of the sum of the total Union.

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COUNCIL DIRECTIVES 93/23/EEC, 93/24/EEC and 93/25/EEC of 1 June 1993 on the statistical surveys to be carried out on pig, bovine animal and sheep and goat production.

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION -

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

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission, ¹

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament, ²

Whereas, in order to ensure that the common agricultural policy is properly administered, particularly where the pigmeat, the beef and veal and the sheep- and goatmeat markets are concerned, the Commission requires regular data on trends in livestock and in pigmeat, beef and veal and sheep- and goatmeat production.

Whereas the Council Directives 93/23/EEC, of 1 June 1993 on the statistical surveys to be carried out on pig production ³, 93/24/EEC of 1 June 1993 on the statistical surveys to be carried out on bovine animal production ⁴ and 93/25/EEC of 1 June 1993 on the statistical surveys to be carried out on sheep and goat stocks ⁵ rule on the frequency of statistical surveys to be carried out on pig, bovine animal and sheep and goat production.

Whereas to adapt the periods of reference in order achieve a better use of the resources available for agricultural statistical surveys.

Whereas to relieve the survey units from work related to statistical surveys.

Whereas to achieve a better synchronization of different surveys within the sector of agricultural statistics.

Whereas in some Member States the stock of sheep and goats represents a relative minor part of the Community's total stock.

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3 OJ n° L 149 of 21 June 1993, p.1

4 OJ n° L 149 of 21 June 1993, p. 5

5 OJ n° L 149 of 21 June 1993, p.10

HAS ADOPTED THIS DIRECTIVE

Article 1

Amendment of Council Directive 93/23/EEC

The Council Directive 93/23/EEC is amended as follows:

(1) In Article 1 the paragraph 4 is added as follows:

"(4) The Member States may, at their request and based on an appropriate documentation, be authorized to carry out only two surveys per year, at a six monthly interval in the months of May/June and November/December. This derogation may only be granted under the condition that they can prove to guarantee the quality of the forecasts as given in article 12. In the light of experience and based on the results of those forecasts, this authorization may be revoked. The Commission shall consider such requests in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 17. "

(2) In Article 5 the paragraphs 3 and 4 are added as follows:

"(3) Those Member States authorized to carry out only two surveys per year shall notify the Commission of the provisional results of the surveys and additional estimates before:

- 31 July of the same year for the May/June survey,
- 15 February of the following year for the November/December survey.

(4) Those Member States authorized to carry out only two surveys per year shall notify the Commission of the results of the surveys and additional estimates, as defined in Article 4 (2), before:

- 15 September of the same year for the May/June survey,
- 1 April of the following year for the November/December survey."

(3) In Article 6 (1) the term "December" shall be replaced by the term "November/December".

In Article 6 (2) the term "April" shall be replaced by the term "April or May/June".

(4) In Article 8 (1) the term "December" shall be replaced by the term "November or December".

Article 2

Amendment of Council Directive 93/24/EEC

The Council Directive 93/24/EEC is amended as follows:

- (1) Article 1 shall be replaced by the following:

"Article 1

(1) The Member States shall carry out statistical surveys of the bovine population on their territory each year with reference to one day in the month of May/June and with reference to one day in the month of November/December.

(2) The Member States may, at their request, be authorized to carry out the May/June respectively the November/December surveys in selected regions, on the understanding that these surveys cover at least 70 % of the bovine population.

Those Member States whose bovine population is less than 1,5 million per head may be authorized to dispense altogether with one of the two surveys laid down in paragraph 1 or to carry it out in selected regions only. The Member States may, at their request, be authorized to use administrative sources instead of statistical surveys under paragraph 1.

(3) In considering the requests referred to in paragraph 2, the Commission shall decide in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 17, the obligations arising from Article 6 being taken into account.

- (2) In Article 5 (1) and (2) the terms "December" shall be replaced by the term "November/December".
- (3) In Article 6 (1) the term "December" shall be replaced by the term "November/December".
- (4) In Article 8 (1) the term "December" shall be replaced by the term "November/December".
- (5) In Section II the headline "SLAUGHTERIN STATISTICS" shall be corrected to "SLAUGHTERING STATISTICS"

Article 3

Amendment of Council Directive 93/25/EEC

The Council Directive 93/25/EEC is amended as follows:

(1) In the title of the Directive 93/25/EEC the term "stocks" shall be replaced by "production".

(2) Article 6 (2) shall be replaced by the following:

"(2) By way of derogation from Articles 1 and 5, Belgium, Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands shall be authorized to estimate the sheep and goat populations and the United Kingdom the goat population held in December on the basis of the populations recorded during the annual livestock census or agricultural structure survey which they carry out in May/June of the same year. They shall forward the provisional results referred to in Article 5 (1) to the Commission before 1 March and the results referred to in Article 5 (2) before 1 April of the year following the reference year."

(3) Article 9 shall be replaced by the following:

"Article 9

By way of derogation from Article 8:

(a) Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands shall be authorized to notify sheep numbers by 'région/gewest', 'Laender' respectively 'provincie' in the case of populations covered by the livestock census or agricultural structure survey conducted in May of the reference year, before 15 October of that year;

(b) the Member States referred to in Article 1 (2) (b) shall be exempt from notifying the regional breakdown of their goat numbers."

(4) Article 12 shall be replaced by the following:

"Article 12

By way of derogation from Article 11, Belgium, Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands shall be authorized to notify the data on the structure of their sheep and goat populations and the United Kingdom those of its goat population covered by the livestock census or agricultural structure survey conducted in May/June of the reference year before 15 May of the following year."

Article 4

The Member States shall bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with this Directive before 1 January 1998.

When Member States adopt these measures, they shall contain a reference to this Directive or shall be accompanied by such reference on the occasion of their official publication. The methods of making such a reference shall be laid down by the Member States.

Article 5

This Directive is addressed to the Member States.

Done at

For the Council

Impact on small- and medium-sized enterprises

The changes to the COUNCIL DIRECTIVES 93/23/EEC, 93/24/EEC and 93/25/EEC of 1 June 1993 on the statistical surveys to be carried out on pig, bovine animal and sheep and goat production foresee amongst others, a reduction for the farmers in the workload involved in agricultural surveys by:

1. The fact that the survey period would be lengthened enables the Member States to regroup surveys which have previously been spaced out over a time period. In the future those Member States wishing to do so could collect data on both the livestock populations and the agricultural structure from a single survey, which up until now has necessitated two separate surveys of the farms.

2. As long as a methodological paper is given showing that reliable forecasts for pig production can be made by surveying producers twice a year instead of three, the Member States would be authorized to carry out two surveys rather than three as at present.

This reduction in the overall number of surveys whether it be in terms of questionnaires to be completed by the farmers or in terms of actual surveys carried out all lead to economies being made.

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