

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(95) 005 final
Brussels, 13.01.1995

**PROPOSAL FOR A
COUNCIL DECISION
AMENDING DECISION 94/3092/EC
INTRODUCING A COMMUNITY SYSTEM OF INFORMATION
ON HOME AND LEISURE ACCIDENTS**

(presented by the Commission)

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The aim of this proposal for a Council Decision amending Decision 94/3092/EC introducing a Community system of information on home and leisure accidents, is to make the adjustments required by the accession of new Member States to the Community.

These adjustments are designed to ensure that, from 1995 onwards, the new Member States have the appropriate instruments for conducting an accident prevention policy. This will involve collecting and disseminating information on home and leisure accidents to the relevant authorities and organisations at national and Community level.

The method of collecting data from hospital casualty departments has been chosen for the new Member States, since it corresponds to the collection methods currently used by these States.

The number of hospitals varies between 2 and 5 for existing Member States whose population is less than or equal to 10 million. The number of hospitals for each new Member State has been set in accordance with the size of its population and the distribution thereof over its territory. Accordingly, 3 hospitals will be selected for the new Member States with a population of approximately 5 million inhabitants, and 4 for those with a population of between 5 and 10 million inhabitants.

These figures do not prejudice the content of the report and any amending proposals, which the Commission will have to submit in 1995, in particular as regards the allocation to the Member States of the hospitals which are to participate in the system from 1996 onwards, the aim being to ensure a homogeneous sample.

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THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to the Act of Accession of Norway, Austria, Finland and Sweden, and in particular Article 169 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission¹,

Whereas European Parliament and Council Decision 94/3092/EC² introduced a Community system of information on home and leisure accidents for a period of four years;

Whereas the above-mentioned Decision has to be adapted to take account of the accession of three new Member States to the Community,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

¹

² OJ N° L 331, 21.12.1994, p. 1

Article 1

Decision 94/3092/EC is amended as follows:

- 1 Article 5 shall be replaced by the following text:

"The budget authority shall determine the appropriations available for each financial year".

- 2 In point 5 of Annex I, the following shall be added to the table:

<i>Member State</i>	<i>Number of hospitals</i>
Austria	4
Finland	3
Sweden	4

The total number "54" shall be replaced by the number "65".

Article 2

This Decision shall apply from the date of entry into force of the Treaty of Accession of Norway, Austria, Finland and Sweden.

Article 3

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at

For the Council

The President

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

1. **Title of operation**
Introduction of a Community information system on home and leisure accidents
2. **Budget heading involved**
B5-105
3. **Legal basis**
Article 129 A (2) of the Treaty establishing the European Community
4. **Description of operation**
 - 4.1 **General objective**

In developing Community consumer protection policy, there is a need to establish a system for collecting data on "consumer" accidents, so as to identify the categories of products that give rise to hazards. This will help to provide guidelines based on the data gathered as to what specific measures are required.
 - 4.2 **Period covered and arrangements for renewal or extension**

1994-1997
5. **Type of expenditure or revenue**
 - 5.1 **DO/DNO**
DNO
 - 5.2 **CD/CND**
CD
 - 5.3 **Type of revenue involved**
None

6. Type of expenditure or revenue

Subsidy for joint financing with other sources in the public and/or private sector

- 100% subsidy
No. 80%
- Subsidy for joint financing with other sources in the public and/or private sector
Yes
- Interest subsidy
No
- Other
No
- Should the operation prove an economic success, is there provision for all or part of the Community contribution to be reimbursed?
No
- Will the proposed operation cause any change in the level of revenue? If so, what sort of change and what type of revenue is involved?
Not relevant

7. Financial Impact

7.1 Method of calculating total cost of operation (definition of unit costs)

Part B of the budget

1. Work done by the Commission: ECU 0.2 million
 - methodology and data collection
 - dissemination and exploitation at Community level of the national results and of specific analyses. Annual report (Art. 3,3).
2. Finances allocated to the Member States for collecting, processing and exploiting the data: ECU 2.608 million (ECU 2.3 million, in 1994)
 - support for the hospitals participating in data collection on the basis of 65 hospitals (54 hospitals in 1994), with the breakdown shown in Annex 1 of the proposal for a decision (80% of costs, with a maximum of ECU 28 000 per hospital for each year), as well as a contribution to Germany, Spain and Luxembourg using household surveys (80 % of the expenses as mentioned above with a ceiling as described in Annex II, point 2).

- support for the least developed national infrastructures, notably by strengthening appropriate data networks.
- support for bilateral technical assistance provided to other Member States by the Member States that have an operating data collection system.

Total of Part B: ECU 2.808 million (ECU 2,5 million in 1994).

7.2. Itemized breakdown of cost

Breakdown

1. Work done by the Commission	ECU	200 000
2. 65 hospitals x ECU 28 000 (54 hospitals = ECU 1 512 000, in 1994)	ECU	1 820 000
household surveys		
Germany :	ECU	380 000
Spain:	ECU	225 000
Lux:	ECU	95 000
+ support for the least developed countries		
+ support for bilateral technical assistance	ECU	88 000

	ECU	2 808 000
		(ECU 2 500 000 in 1994)

7.3.2 Indicative Schedule

- period: 1994-1997

Budget 1994	n + 1	n + 2	n + 3	TOTAL
2,5 Mill Ecu	2,808 Mill Ecu	2,808 Mill Ecu	2,808 Mill Ecu	10,924 Mill Ecu

The appropriations available will be decided in the context of the annual budgetary procedure and in accordance with prospective financial strength, depending on the results of the measures carried out taking into account the cost-effectiveness aspect and the method of payment described in 7.1.2.

8. What anti-fraud measures are planned in the proposal for the operation?

Verification of the subsidies or of the acceptance of the preparatory, feasibility or evaluation services or studies is carried out by the Commission prior to payment, taking into account the contractual obligations and the principles of economy and good financial and overall management. Anti-fraud measures (monitoring, submission of reports, etc.) are included in all the agreements or contracts concluded between the Commission and the beneficiaries of the payments.

9. ELEMENTS OF COST-EFFECTIVENESS ANALYSIS

9.1 Specific and quantifiable objectives; target population

The system of collecting data on home and leisure accidents should be a key indicator for determining consumer protection policy and specially prevention policies. This objective is difficult to quantify in that an in-depth study would be needed in order to determine the precise socio-economic costs - which are certainly very steep - of home and leisure accidents; moreover the costs in human terms of these accidents are heavy but not quantifiable.

9.2 Grounds for the operation

The measure complements existing national measures. The collection of the measure of data from hospital emergency services selected in the Member States or through household surveys should provide direct information on the most important accidents, on the basis of agreed methods in the different Member States. Moreover, the data will be collected on an ongoing basis. A good knowledge of data of domestic and leisure accidents is vital in order to allow actions and policies of prevention of these accidents. The objective of the measure is in line with the Directive on general product safety, for which the collection should provide indicators on safety problems.

Thanks to these objective data the operational impact of this decision will be significantly enhanced.

The safety of consumers in the Community must be ensured in the framework of the functioning of the internal market when more and more products will be circulating in the Community. As a result, the risks faced by consumers will increase, and it is desirable to have national monitoring systems which are sufficiently homogeneous to enable the conclusions drawn in one Member States to be used, where appropriate, in the other Member States and at Community level.

Community involvement is required to enable the Member States to overcome the difficulties associated with the collection of data at national level. This is needed for methodological and budgetary reasons because if no Community assistance were forthcoming, in particular financial assistance, this would deal a blow to the collection of information on accidents in a number of Member States, specially in those with less developed administrative structures, a development which would seriously distort the monitoring of consumer safety in the Community.

9.3 Monitoring and evaluation of the operation

The Member States should provide the Commission with two types of information:

- specific data on specific products, in line with the needs for a developing consumer protection policy and prevention of accidents;
- annual reports from the Member States on the implementation and results of the collection, on the basis of which the Commission will produce evaluation reports of the system at Community level (one report after two years and one at the end of the five year period).

Moreover, the Commission will provide an annual synthesis report on the data collected and the conclusions to be drawn for the development of its consumer protection policy.

Imponderables which may effect the specific results of the operation lie in its effective implementation and, above all, the functionality of the system in all the Member States. These depend on how well the two problems identified above are solved, in other words utilisation of the data and their faster availability, and in both these respects the Commission will do its utmost to ensure success.

9.4 Coherence with financial programming

Is the operation incorporated in the financial programming of the DG for the years concerned?

Yes.

To which broader objective defined in the DG's financial programming does the objective correspond?

Policy on general product safety.

10. ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE (Part A of the budget)

- 10.1 Will the proposed operation involve an increase in the number of Commission staff ?
No, the necessary staff could be made available by internal reattribution of the functions
- 10.2 Indicate the amount of staff and administrative expenditure involved in the proposed operation. Explain the method of calculation.

Part A of the budget

1. Personnel and management costs: ECU 0.23 million.

- Secretariat of meetings of national experts responsible for collecting and transmitting the data on home and leisure accidents (three per year).
- A 1178 Logistic, methodological and financial coordination.

Assistance from an external organisation in defining methodology concerning determination of product codes, presentation and methods of analysis.

Estimated costs: ECU 30 000

These credits are subject to the allocation of the resources which are to be decided by the Commission.

- Personnel: 1 A official (100%) + 1 B official (100%) + 1 C auxiliaire (50%).

1 A official (100%) titre A8/A4	ECU 90 000 per year
1 B official (100%) titre B4/B1	ECU 90 000 per year
A1110 1 C auxiliaire (50%)	ECU 17 750 per year

The personnel and management costs will be necessary from March 1994 for the C official and from September 1994 for the A and B official.

The proposed operation is set up for a period of four years.

2. Art A/260 Studies : ECU 0.205 million

Complementary studies necessary for specific analysis of national and Community data are required. These credits are subject to the allocation of the resources which are to be decided by the Commission.

3. Art A/250 Costs of meetings : ECU 0.045 million

- Meetings of the national experts at the initiative of the Commission, with two or three experts, from every Member State: three meetings per year.

Total of Part A: ECU 0.50 million.

Personnal and management costs	ECU 0.23 million
Studies	ECU 0.205 million
Costs of meeting	ECU 0.045 million

Total of post A	ECU 0.48 million

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