

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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R E P O R T

on the experience gained in the surveys and forecasts of pig production to be carried out by the Member States, submitted to the Council by the Commission in accordance with Article 6 of the Council Directive of July 1972 (72/281/EEC)

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(second report)

(submitted to the Council by the Commission)

COM(75) 698 final.

Article 6 of the Council Directive of 31 July 1972 (72/281/EEC) ¹⁾ states :

"Every three years, starting in 1975, the Commission shall submit to the Council a report on the experience gained in surveying and forecasting pig production."

This report covers the experience gained during the 1972 to 1975 period of application of the basic Directive of 27 March 1968 (68/161/EEC), as complemented by the directive referred to above, concerning surveys of pig production to be made by Member States ²⁾.

It thus constitutes the second report on the experience gained in the estimates and forecasts of pig production to be made by the Member States ³⁾. The Commission notes the main points presented below :

1. Experience gained
2. Commission proposals

1. Experience gained :

- The period under consideration covers the first application of the directive by the three new Member States, in August 1973 in the case of Denmark and in December 1973 in the case of the United Kingdom and Ireland.
- The Federal Republic of Germany undertook its first intermediate survey under the Community system in April 1974, thus harmonizing its legislation with the Council directive some 18 months later (Article 1, Paragraph 3 of the basic Directive).
- France introduced in April 1974 the system of carrying out the intermediate surveys by correspondance, and continued with this procedure for the April and August surveys.
- In accordance with Article 5 of the basic Directive, estimates of sampling errors are communicated regularly by the Federal Republic of Germany and France, the results being within the intended margin of error. France has been seeking a scientific and technical solution since 1974 which will make it possible to link the sampling system of the surveys into pig stocks with that of the multiple-objective agricultural surveys.

1) O J No L 179 of 7.8.1972, p. 845 (Special Edition)

2) O.J. No L 76 of 28.3.1968, p. 63 (Special Edition)

3) First Report: SEC (71) - 4735 final - of 10.1.1972

- The Commission obtained for the first time in December 1973 the breakdown of the results of the surveys by size-of-herd classes. However, on the basis of Article 2, Paragraph 2, some Member States provided the results broken down by size-of-herd class from a survey other than that of December 1973 (Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg : based on May ; Denmark : based on June).
- With regard to the harmonization of monthly slaughtering statistics, from the end of 1975 onwards the Commission is provided with reliable information which is homogeneous for all Member States and is based on total slaughterings. Some of the statistics, however, are still initially worked out from provisional figures (Italy, Ireland) and subsequently firmed up by final ones.
- With regard to the forecasts on the supply of pigs for fattening, the populations and the "pipeline"-type¹⁾ production forecasts are examined three times a year by the Commission as part of its consultation and permanent cooperation with the Member States. From autumn 1975 onwards, the Commission's working sub-group is given forecasts for 12 months ahead instead of the ten months initially provided for by Article 7 of the basic Directive.
- The standardization of the methods has become sufficiently reliable, making it possible for the Commission to set up model "pipeline" forecasts during 1975. The management of these short-term models will allow the consistency of the results of the surveys and the forecasts by country to be followed systematically. This work should also make it possible to discover any technical problems arising out of implementation of the surveys and the drawing-up of the forecasts.

2. Commission proposals

The Commission will propose that Article 2, Paragraph 2, of the supplementary Directive (72/281/EEC) shall continue to apply in its widest sense beyond 1975 : it is not in fact necessary for the biennial breakdown of the results by size-of-herd to be made on the basis of the December survey, provided that the other national survey is carried out during the reference year, i.e. 1975, 1977, 1979, etc...

At the end of a running-in period of six years, experience has shown that the deadlines for the submission of results are exceeded by Member States only in very exceptional circumstances.

1) The "pipeline" effect corresponds to the production already undertaken resulting directly from the population level and the types of animal recorded at the time of the survey.

In the interests of market management the Commission would consider making a formal proposal for a shortening of the maximum deadlines quoted in Articles 6 and 7 of Directive 68/161/EEC and Article 3 of Directive 72/281/EEC.

On a general level, the Commission will propose that future technical procedures for applying the two Directives (68/161/EEC and 72/281/EEC) be undertaken by means of a less onerous procedure, i.e. following an Opinion of the Standing Committee for Agricultural Statistics set up by the Council Decision of 31 July 1972. Such procedures might cover extension of the forecasting period, the deadlines for submission of results and any other reasonable technical changes.

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