



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 16.10.1995  
COM(95) 472 final

95/0250 (CNS)

Proposal for a

COUNCIL DECISION

**on improving Community Agricultural Statistics**

(presented by the Commission)



## EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

### Summary

The set of Community agricultural statistics built up piecemeal over the last 30 years has served and continues to serve well. In order to follow the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy, a screening of agricultural statistics has been carried out under the 1989-1992 statistical programme <sup>(1)</sup>. As a result of this operation it is possible to identify those improvements and advantages which can be obtained from a restructuring which, while conserving the main part, would

- (i) achieve economies by rationalisation, by pruning and by a more flexible approach
- (ii) take account of new priorities and new information needs.

Following the framework programme for priority actions in the field of statistical information 1993 to 1997 <sup>(2)</sup> the present draft Council decision sets down the areas where economies are to be sought and those where strengthening is needed. It provides a management framework for implementing changes and sets out the principles governing the changes. It provides a mechanism for continuing adaptation as circumstances change. It ensures that the statistical services of the Member States are closely involved in the planning of the tasks they will carry out. The procedures proposed will also facilitate integration of this sector planning in overall statistical planning.

### The needs for action

1. The importance of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) lead to the development by Eurostat in the 60's and 70's of numerous statistical applications. Many were covered by Council legal instruments. Others are based on "gentleman's agreements". These met and continue to meet the considerable needs of the CAP for statistics to support its current management and to prepare and monitor its evolution.
2. Each of the applications has been kept up-to-date in the face of changes in the sector concerned. However the need for more fundamental revision has made itself increasingly felt in recent years. There are seven main issues:
  - (i) the progressive enlargements of the Community (and the prospect of further enlargement) have made inappropriate some aspects of most applications, either in their general approach or in their details. There are new agricultural situations, new statistical situations and so greater diversity also.
  - (ii) The passing of time has seen substantial changes in agricultural situations and in statistical technology affecting the way data can be collected.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Council Resolution of 19 June 1989 (OJ No. C/161 of 26 June 1989)

<sup>(2)</sup> Council Decision 93/464/EEC (OJ No. L 219 of 28 August 1993)

- (iii) As the problems which policies have to address have changed so have the information requirements. The reform of the Common Agricultural Policy and the increased recognition of the impact of agricultural policies on other areas (future of the rural world, environment etc.) require changes and developments in the information furnished by agricultural statistics applications.
- (iv) National administrations everywhere are under pressure to make economies; also national statistical services. In choosing where to make economies statistical managers look with an increasingly critical eye at the mass of community agricultural statistics. To meet the many new needs where Community and national interest coincide they transfer resources away from agricultural statistics seen as already over-endowed, inefficient and not a national priority. There is a danger that the quality of Community agricultural statistics deteriorates.
- (v) The Agricultural Statistics applications were developed piecemeal, each meeting clear needs in a particular area regarded at the time as not overlapping with other applications. However the lack of integration into a unified coherent structure has become increasingly seen as leading to waste.
- (vi) In recent years Eurostat has built up various other sectors of statistics. The gap between agricultural statistics and other sectors is now much less. This facilitates the balanced integration of agricultural statistics within the general community statistical system which is now necessary.
- (vii) The management of the European Statistical Information System has been structured and formalised in recent years. There is integrated programme planning as well as regular consultation procedures with Member States' statistical services. These services carry out almost all the data collection required by the Community programme (which overlaps with national programmes). For agricultural statistics there is heavy involvement of agricultural ministries as data suppliers and users. The efficient and transparent management of this strongly subsidised system needs to include a formal mechanism which both specifically involves agricultural statisticians and also fits into overall statistical planning.

#### Exploration of the problem

3. The Commission has carried out a detailed review of the existing agricultural statistics applications in the light of current information requirements. This review, complemented by informal discussions with Member State agricultural statisticians, has allowed the following conclusions to be reached
  - (i) the resource demands which current applications make on Member States can be reduced by
    - rationalisation
    - allowing Member States more flexibility (within a controlled framework) on how data are collected
    - concentrating resources on the most important phenomena
    - reducing coverage of items which now have less importance.
  - (ii) Specific areas have been identified where there is potential for such savings. Careful planning is needed however to ensure (a) that any quality reductions are minimised and are acceptable given the use which will be made of the data, (b) that the "acquis communautaire" is not endangered.

- (iii) There are areas where there are new or reinforced information needs for Community agricultural statistics.
- (iv) The process of restructuring Community Agricultural Statistics, of adaptation of national systems and of developing new tools will not be easy. Community financial support will facilitate the necessary changes.
- (v) The aim has to be not to revolutionise the current system but to improve it by appropriate adaptations, reductions and extensions.

**The solution proposed**

**4. This Council decision**

- fixes the work areas in which improvements are to be sought, and the principles governing those improvements;
- establishes a mechanism for implementing the improvements which ensures appropriate involvement of all those concerned;
- provides measures to facilitate the small changes necessary in the specification of community requirements and in national systems for meeting those requirements;
- allows adaptation to take account of evolving circumstances.

**It thus provides the tools for tackling the various issues requiring action set out in paragraph 2.**

**Proposal for a Council decision  
on improving Community Agricultural Statistics**

**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 <sup>1)</sup>,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament <sup>2)</sup>,

Having regard to the framework programme for priority actions in the field of statistical information 1993 to 1997<sup>3)</sup> and in particular its Article 4.a),

Whereas this 1993-1997 framework programme foresees a better utilisation of the resources devoted to agricultural statistics by the implementation of the results of a "screening" operation carried out under the previous statistical programme <sup>4)</sup>;

Whereas this "screening" has identified the main features of the changes required to Community agricultural statistics;

Whereas these features include the main areas where economies may be obtained and where there are new reinforced needs; whereas these changes should conform to agreed general principles.

Whereas the national adaptations have to be coordinated and monitored at Community level, in order to ensure that

- (i) data remain adequately reliable at country level and adequately comparable between countries,
- (ii) the changes to Council legislation which may be necessary can be identified, prepared and proposed by the Commission in good time and in addition that Commission decisions implementing details of Council legislation are also taken in good time,
- (iii) methodological studies by different Member States into efficient ways of meeting the new information needs are complementary and comprehensive,
- (iv) the scheduling of national activities take good account of the collective Community interest,
- (v) the community financial resources facilitating this programme are used in the most efficient way.

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1) OJ No. ...

2) OJ No. ...

3) Council Decision 93/464/EEC (OJ No. L219 of 28 August 1993)

4) Council Resolution of 19 June 1989 (OJ No. C/161 of 26 June 1989)

Whereas the best means to achieve this coordination is within a formal structure which allows the technical constraints and preferences to be considered collectively and choices made which reconcile national and community interests ; whereas the broad conclusion of this collective choice must be taken into account in the forward planning of statistics submitted each year for examination by the Statistical Programme Committee;

Whereas a financial contribution from the Community to Member States is necessary under carefully defined conditions to facilitate the changes required;

Whereas to achieve the desired economies, changes may be necessary in the technical implementation of certain surveys; such changes should be permitted subject to appropriate safeguards;

Whereas the collection and primary processing by Member States of agricultural statistics needed for Community purposes and the coordination of this work as well as the secondary processing, storage and dissemination of the data concerned by the services of the Commission, governed where appropriate by legal acts of the Council, is fully in accord with the principles of subsidiarity;

## **HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION**

### **ARTICLE 1**

#### Purpose

In order to improve the way Community agricultural statistics meet current information needs following the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy, Member States shall adapt their national agricultural statistics in the work areas set out in annexes 1 and 2 hereto, to the objectives, characteristics and criteria given in annex 3.

### **ARTICLE 2**

#### Role of Commission

The Commission shall contribute to this process by (a) establishing in conjunction with Member States (i) common work scheduling and (ii) general frameworks for methodological studies, (b) checking data quality and comparability, (c) identifying and implementing community level actions which are important for the purpose of this decision.

### **ARTICLE 3**

#### Time frame and procedure

A first phase of improvements to Community agricultural statistics shall be carried out during the period 1995-1997. It shall be coordinated by the Commission through technical action plans as provided for in Article 4 hereto.

## ARTICLE 4

### Technical Action Plans for Agricultural Statistics

1. A technical action plan for agricultural statistics shall be decided by the Commission each year in accordance with the procedure in article 10. These plans shall cover the actions to be carried out by the Member States pursuant to Article 1 hereto. They shall use available resources in such a way as to make the greatest improvement to the cost-efficiency of Community agricultural statistics, in meeting the requirements of Community law, informal agreements and new information needs.
2. Each annual technical action plan shall include a detailed statement of activity for the next year and an indicative timetable for the following 2 years. It shall take account of:
  - (i) the existing obligations for the years in question e.g. the list and periodicity of Community surveys to be carried out by the Member States and other data to be provided to the Commission,
  - (ii) written input from Member States as provided for in article 5b) and c) hereof,
  - (iii) the resources required for each of the actions under consideration and the resources available.

## ARTICLE 5

### Member State Reports

Member States shall submit each year (year n) before the 31st of March:

- (a) a succinct report on the execution of the actions agreed for the previous year, (year n-1),
- (b) a description of the actions proposed for the following year (year n+1),
- (c) notification of any relevant major activities planned or foreseen in the two years thereafter (years n+2 and n+3) which are relevant to the purposes of this decision.

The description shall cover the changes proposed for immediate action and any preparatory work needed, difficulties foreseen and proposals for overcoming them, the implications for national and Community resources and proposals for improvements at Community level. Actions for which Community financial support is sought shall be identified.

## ARTICLE 6

### Financial provisions

1. The Community shall contribute to the costs of adapting national agricultural statistical systems or of preparatory work related to new or reinforced needs.
2. The amount of the contribution for Member States shall be decided each year by the Commission in conjunction with the technical action plan and in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 10.

3. The contribution shall be made available to Member States each year after submission and approval by the Commission of the annual report on the execution of the actions agreed for the previous year. The Commission shall carry out any on-the-spot checks it judges necessary.

## ARTICLE 7

### Flexibility

Where necessary to meet the purposes of this decision, the Commission may approve a member state's request to adapt one or more of the following features of the surveys listed in annex 4: regions covered, territorial sub-divisions, definitions, survey methodology, survey date, list of characteristics and size classes, in accordance with the procedure laid down in article 10.

## ARTICLE 8

### Adapting to changing circumstances

The Commission may add new items to annex 1 (areas in which potential economies have been identified) or annex 2 (areas where there are new or reinforced needs) in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 10.

## ARTICLE 9

### Role of Standing Committee on Agricultural Statistics

The SCAS (Standing Committee on Agricultural Statistics)<sup>5)</sup> shall meet at least once a year to discuss the following:

- (i) the reports made by the Member States on the execution of the programme,
- (ii) the actions proposed by the Member States for the following year and the outlook for the two years thereafter,
- (iii) the technical action plan for the following year,
- (iv) the Community financial contribution provided for in article 6 hereto.

## ARTICLE 10

### Necessary measures for the implementation

The Commission shall adopt the necessary measures for the implementation of this decision. The Commission shall be assisted by the Standing Committee on Agricultural Statistics, hereinafter referred to as the "Committee".

The representative of the Commission shall submit to the Committee a draft of the measures to be taken. The Committee shall deliver its opinion on the draft within a time limit which the chairman may lay down according to the urgency of the matter, if necessary by taking a vote.

5) Instituted by Council Decision 72/279/EEC of 31 July 1972

The opinion shall be recorded in the minutes; in addition, each Member State shall have the right to ask to have its position recorded in the minutes.

The Commission shall take the utmost account of the opinion delivered by the Committee. It shall inform the Committee of the manner in which its opinion has been taken into account.

#### **ARTICLE 11**

##### **Report**

Before the 1st of December 1997 the Commission, having consulted the Standing Committee for Agricultural Statistics, shall make a report on the operation of this Decision to the European Parliament and to the Council accompanied if necessary by proposals for its renewal.

#### **ARTICLE 12**

This decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, ..... 1995

*For the Council*

*The President*

## IMPROVING COMMUNITY AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS:

### ANNEX 1. AREAS IN WHICH POTENTIAL ECONOMIES HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED<sup>1)</sup>

1. Farm structure surveys: less frequency, reduction of typology and of the questionnaire.
2. Survey on the area under vines: elimination of several tables; possible integration into the structure survey.
3. Survey on fruit trees: possible elimination of intermediate surveys.
4. Farm income index: elimination of the first desegregated estimates in October, less detail.
5. Total Income of Agricultural Households: greater flexibility in frequency and in target concepts.
6. Animal surveys: to apply the agriflex concept, i.e. to adapt the frequency of the surveys to the importance of livestock in each country.
7. Slaughterings: meat production to concentrate investigations on industrial slaughtering.
8. Dairy statistics: to eliminate weekly statistics; to eliminate statistics on casein, to reduce annual and dairy structure statistics.
9. Eggs and hatcheries: to eliminate statistics on eggs in incubators and on layer chickens.
10. Animal feeding stuffs: reduced frequency of surveys (every five years) for the effective establishment of a fodder balance sheet (supply and demand).

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<sup>1)</sup> In the review of agricultural statistics carried out under the Statistical Programme of the European Communities 1989-1992.

## IMPROVING COMMUNITY AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS:

### ANNEX 2. AREAS WHERE THERE ARE NEW OR REINFORCED NEEDS<sup>2)</sup>

#### Topics

1. Rapid estimates of sowings and planting intentions at the beginning of the winter for principal crops.
2. Estimates on the volume of stocks of principal products (inter alia cereals, oilseeds, meats).
3. Statistically reliable data on poultry and egg production.
4. Statistically reliable data on fruit and vegetable production.
5. Estimates of the consumption of principal products: animal consumption of cereal and oil seed cakes: and wine consumption.
6. Inclusion in the structure survey of questions about other gainful employment and of breakdown according to target regions.
7. Publication of harmonised Community forestry statistics.
8. Agriculture Price Statistics: new selection of the absolute agricultural price series taking into account the technical progress and economic changes.

#### Methodology

9. Improved and new methods to allow Member States to meet more efficiently existing and new information needs e.g. light surveys, administrative data, panels, remote sensing.

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<sup>2)</sup> Identified in the review of agricultural statistics carried out under the Statistical Programme of the European Communities 1989-1992. N.B. Any new statistical obligations will be the subject of separate Council legal instruments.

## IMPROVING COMMUNITY AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS:

### ANNEX 3. OBJECTIVES, CHARACTERISTICS AND CRITERIA

#### Constant improvement

1. The Community Agricultural Statistics (CAS) will steadily increase in cost-efficiency and in completeness in meeting Community and other needs for agricultural statistical information.

#### Positive comparability checking

2. The CAS will incorporate continuing quality checking to ensure that data are adequate for the needs to which they are put. In particular Member States may be required to inform the Commission and other Member States about the statistical methods used and their suitability.

#### Response burden

3. The CAS will impose the smallest burden of response consistent with meeting needs for information.

#### Integration of agriculture and other statistics

4. The improvement to CAS will facilitate (a) drawing on statistics from other areas, (b) contributing data to general statistical systems, (c) use of the agricultural statistics apparatus to collect statistical information required by other areas.

#### Complementarity between Community and national levels

5. National agricultural statistics systems may collect and deliver to the Commission data not formally provided for at the Community level and certain applications developed directly at Community level (for example EUROFARM, SPEL) may be used to provide to Member States information which is not available at the national level.

#### Concentrate on the most important

6. The amount of information each Member State supplies may vary according to the importance of the phenomenon covered regionally, nationally and at Community level.

#### Most efficient national approach

7. Member States may collect basic data by the statistical method which is most efficient in providing data of the definition, timeliness and accuracy required (subject to 2. above). The use of administrative data as input into agricultural statistics is not excluded.

#### Optimisation

8. The detailed Community requirements as set out in various Community legal instruments and informal agreements do not in themselves constitute an optimised structure. Each Member State optimises in its own way, how its national system of agricultural statistics meets the Community requirements. The Community requirements shall not unnecessarily impede national optimisation.

**IMPROVING COMMUNITY AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS:**

**ANNEX 4. COUNCIL REGULATIONS AND DIRECTIVES ON AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS**

<b>DIRECTIVE 72/280/EEC</b> <b>L 179/2</b> <b>7.8.1972</b>	Council Directive of 31 July 1972 on the statistical surveys to be made by Member States on milk and milk products
<b>DIRECTIVE 76/625/EEC</b> <b>L 218/10</b> <b>11.8.1976</b>	Council Directive of 20 July 1976 concerning 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
<b>DIRECTIVE 93/23/EEC</b> <b>L 149/1</b> <b>1.6.1993</b>	Council Directive of 1 June 1993 on the statistical surveys to be carried out on pig production
<b>DIRECTIVE 93/24/EEC</b> <b>L 149/5</b> <b>1.6.1993</b>	Council Directive of 1 June 1993 on the statistical surveys to be carried out on bovine animal production
<b>DIRECTIVE 93/25/EEC</b> <b>L 149/10</b> <b>1.6.1993</b>	Council Directive of 1 June 1993 on the statistical surveys to be carried out on sheep and goat stocks
<b>REGULATION (EEC) No 3768/85</b> <b>L 362/8</b> <b>31.12.1985</b>	Council Regulation (EEC) No 3768/85 of 20 December 1985 adapting, on account of the accession of Spain and Portugal, certain agricultural acts as regards the voting procedure of the Committees
<b>REGULATION (EEC) No 571/88</b> <b>L 56/1</b> <b>2.3.1988</b>	Council Regulation (EEC) No 571/88 of 29 February 1988 on the organization of Community surveys on the structure of agricultural holdings between 1988 and 1997
<b>REGULATION (EEC) No 837/90</b> <b>L 88/1</b> <b>3.4.1990</b>	Council Regulation (EEC) No 837/90 of 26 March 1990 concerning statistical information to be supplied by the Member States on cereals production
<b>REGULATION (EEC) No 959/93</b> <b>L 98/1</b> <b>24.4.1993</b>	Council Regulation (EEC) No 959/93 of 5 April 1993 concerning statistical information to be supplied by Member States on crop products other than cereals

# **FINANCIAL INFORMATION SHEET**

## **for a programme for improving Community agricultural statistics**

### **1. TITLE OF PROJECT**

Programme for the restructuring and adaptation of Community agricultural statistics.

### **2. BUDGET LINE CONCERNED**

B2-513: Restructuring of agricultural survey systems.

### **3. LEGAL BASE**

Article 43 of the Treaty.

### **4. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT**

#### **4.1 Specific objectives**

The activities provided for in the Draft Decision are aimed at harmonising and improving the flows of data required for the implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy. The legal text proposed provides for:

- a planning mechanism permitting an adaptation of the national systems of agricultural statistics with a view to meeting the rationalisation and efficiency requirements more effectively;
- a clear definition of the principles and field of application;
- an integrated system for Community agricultural statistics which can be continually adapted on the basis of developments in information requirements;
- a tool permitting improved integration of agricultural statistics into a general statistical system, while retaining their specific features.

## **4.2 Duration**

This is an ad hoc activity aimed at supporting the work of the national statistical authorities, scheduled for the period 1995-1997.

## **4.3 Target population**

**Beneficiaries:**

- the Community Institutions, i.e. Commission, Council, European Parliament, Court of Auditors etc.;
- Member States;
- the general public (businesses, universities, agricultural associations etc.).

## **5. CLASSIFICATION OF EXPENDITURE OR REVENUE**

### **5.1 Non-compulsory expenditure**

### **5.2 Differentiated appropriations**

### **5.3 Types of revenue**

The sale of the statistics produced only partly covers cost of collection.

## **6. NATURE OF EXPENDITURE OR REVENUE**

### **6.1 100% subsidy**

No.

### **6.2 Subsidy for co-financing with other public and/or private sector sources**

Yes: co-financing by public sector (budgets of national statistical services).

The principle of subsidiarity is generally applied to statistical activities in the Community - in other words the major portion of costs are borne by the Member States. The Community contribution to the entire Community agricultural statistics is less than 5% of the total expenditure. Nevertheless, the Community contribution may be greater, but not more than 50% of the total costs of each operation, in the case of certain very specific ad hoc activities which are vital for the adequate integration of the national systems into the Community system. This is particularly the case with the specific programme forming the subject of the draft Decision. This contribution will

be restricted to investment essential for the implementation of the above-mentioned activities, and will not include day-to-day operating costs. The details of the contribution will be decided each year by the Commission as provided for in Article 6.2 of the draft Decision. The programme of activities to be carried out by each Member State must be submitted in advance to the Standing Committee on Agricultural Structures (CPSA) (cf. Article 9 of the draft Decision), before being approved by the Commission.

**6.3 Interest subsidy**

No.

**6.4 Other**

None.

**6.5 If the activity is an economic success, is partial or total reimbursement of the Community financial contribution provided for?**

No.

**6.6 Does the proposed activity entail a change in the amount of revenue?**

No.

**7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

**7.1 Method for calculating the total cost of the activity**

A total of ECU 3 million (or an average of 200 000 per Member State for the entire period scheduled) of commitment and payment appropriations distributed according to the annual timetable shown in 7.3.

The annual allocation of appropriations for this activity will be decided as part of the annual budget procedure on the basis of the results achieved in the light of a cost-benefit analysis.

This contribution will go to the national bodies responsible for collecting agricultural statistics on the basis of the work carried out under programmes which have been drawn up and approved.

**7.2 What proportion of the total cost is accounted for by the "mini-budget":**

None.

### 7.3 Provisional schedule of commitments and payments

	1995	1996	1997	1998
Commitment appropriations (ECU Mio)	0.4	0.4	2.2	--
Payment appropriations (ECU Mio)	0.2	0.4	1.5	0.9

## 8. ANTI-FRAUD PROVISIONS IN THE PROPOSAL

- a) Payment for the contract and conventions concluded by the Commission will be based on results obtained.
- b) Statistics are regarded as an objective instrument for assessing Community action programmes and thus contribute towards the consolidation of the anti-fraud mechanisms.

## 9. COST/BENEFIT

### 9.1 Objective(s)

This draft Decision is aimed at harmonising and improving flows of data which for the most part already exist. The action planned would permit:

- savings to be made by rationalising and streamlining the programmes and adopting a more flexible approach;
- account to be taken of the new priorities and the information requirements emerging from them.

### 9.2 Justification of the activity

The importance of the Common Agricultural Policy led Eurostat to develop numerous statistical applications during the 1960s and 1970s. These applications meet the considerable statistical requirements resulting from the CAP for purposes of day-to-day administration and for preparing and keeping track of its development over time.

All of these applications have been updated in order to take account of changes in the sector. However, the reform of the CAP and its repercussions in other fields (such as the future of the rural world, the environment etc.) demand a radical revision of the information which the statistical applications are supposed to provide.

Eurostat and DG VI have analyzed the existing applications in detail in the light of current statistical requirements. The results of this work, together with informal discussions with the persons responsible for agricultural statistics at national level, have made it possible to identify.

- areas in which rationalisation measures are possible;
- general criteria underlying the work to be done (flexibility, harmonisation, connection with other statistical areas, new sources etc.)

This Decision defines the formal framework for the organisation, coordination and administration of all these activities.

In the **organisation of the European Statistical System** (which is very much subject to the principle of subsidiarity, cf. also the additional notes under 9.2.2), the collection and initial processing of statistical data (on agriculture) are carried out and financed by the national statistical institutes. Nevertheless, a **Community contribution is vital** for the work on **improving the harmonisation and coordination of statistics at Community level**, as provided for in the action.

### *9.2.1 Cost*

The financing of this project will be essentially provided by the Member States (Section 1, paragraph 6.1) which have a well established statistical collection and processing structure. If the Commission had to finance the programme in its entirety, **the costs would be extremely high and the results certainly less reliable.**

### *9.2.2 Secondary effects*

The results of this activity will contribute to the improvement of the statistics used for the work of the Member States and the exploitation of agricultural statistics in the General System of Community Statistics.

### *9.2.3 Knock-on effects*

This would constitute a step towards a European statistical area and hence greater Community-level integration of the national statistical systems.

It will affect the research and university environment, in that they will have unique scientific material for study and analysis in the agricultural sector.

## **9.3 Monitoring and evaluation of the activity**

### *9.3.1 The selected performance indicators*

Three indicators have been selected for assessing progress:

**budgetary:** for comparing the annual plan with the implementation of the budget, which must be 100%;

**programming:** for comparing the statistical output with the programme fixed in advance and the estimated budget for its implementation;

**utilisation of resources:** comparative analyses are planned in order to measure the volume of appropriations required for similar operations and thus to assess evaluations.

#### **A. Implementation of the programme**

The activities for the implementation of this Decision will be prepared and conducted by the national and Commission departments responsible for agricultural statistics as annual work programmes under the 1993-1997 Community Statistical Programme.

Each year, the Commission will draw up a technical action plan after consulting the Standing Committee on Agricultural Statistics (CPSA). This plan will also include a provisional schedule for the next two years.

#### **B. Use of human and budgetary resources**

- organisation of pilot surveys;
- adaptation of sampling plans, organisation of surveys, adaptation of registers;
- quality control and guaranteeing comparability of results;
- activities for extracting statistical information from the administrative system;
- training.

#### **9.3.2 Evaluation procedures and frequency**

The above work will be monitored on the basis of written communications submitted once a year (year n) by the Member States containing:

- a) a summary report on the implementation of activities provided for during the previous year (year n-1)
- b)
  - (i) an action plan for the following year (year n+1)
  - (ii) an outline of important activities planned or envisaged for the next two years (years n+2 and n+3).

The report and plans will particularly concern any changes made or difficulties encountered, national and Community resources to be mobilised and proposals for improvement.

The monitoring procedure provides for the consultation of the Standing Committee on Agricultural Statistics (CPSA).

The Commission will, by December 1997, present a report to the European Parliament and the Council on the results obtained, possibly accompanied by proposals for modifications to the Decision and particularly the annexes.

**9.4 Consistency with the financial plan**

**9.4.1 *Is the work covered by the financial plan of the DG for the years concerned?***

Yes.

**9.4.2 *To what more general objective set out in the DGs financial plan does the objective of the proposed activity correspond?***

Improvement and harmonisation of agricultural statistics at national and Community level.

**9.4.3 *Main elements of uncertainty which may affect the specific results of the project***

Resources available to Eurostat and in the Member States.

**10. ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE (PART A OF THE BUDGET)**

**10.1 Does the proposed activity involve an increase in the number of Commission staff?**

No.

**10.2 What operating and staff costs will be generated by the proposed activity?**

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# DOCUMENTS

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