



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 20.06.1996
COM(96) 287 final

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME
FOR THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE SYSTEM OF AGRICULTURAL
SURVEYS IN GREECE**

♦♦ YEAR 1994 ♦♦

(Article 5 of Council Decision 85/360/EEC of 16 July 1985)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The plan for the restructuring of agricultural statistics in Greece was adopted in 1985 (Council Decision 85/360/EEC of 16 July 1985, as last amended by Council Decision 92/582/EEC of 14 December 1992 - cf. Annex 1), with the following objectives:
 - to create a technical and administrative infrastructure at central, regional and provincial level capable of dealing with all operations relating to agricultural statistics now and in the years to come;
 - to obtain improved bases for sampling, particularly by creating a register of agricultural holdings;
 - to introduce computerized inputting, checking and processing of data at central, regional and subregional level;
 - to bring about the gradual introduction of the Community programme of agricultural surveys and statistics with a view to providing the Community with the information (statistical data) required for the implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy.
2. As laid down in Article 5 of Decision 85/360/EEC, the Commission each year submits a report to the Council on the implementation of the programme. This outlines all the applications introduced, the activities undertaken and the measures adopted during 1994 by the competent authorities (Statistical Service and Ministry of Agriculture) and which were required to attain the objective of the programme.

II. PROGRESS

1. This report takes account of the comments made at the last meeting of the "Agricultural statistics" group of the Council (held on 5 December 1995 in Brussels); one suggestion made was that this document should, as far as possible, be shorter than the previous reports.
2. The work undertaken during 1994 - in particular the use of the new register of agricultural and livestock holdings and the redesigning of all the surveys - achieved significant results and provided the basis for more in-depth reflection on further improvements to the new system.
3. In general, the statistical activities planned in the 1994 programme (presented in Luxembourg in 1993 at the meeting of the working group and the SCAS - cf. Annex 2) match the data in this report.

Nonetheless, there is a significant difference in terms of the level of expenditure shown in the table in Annex 3: thus, the programme made provision for DR 1 709 000 000 (about ECU 5.7 million) whereas the report of work undertaken, presented by the Greek authorities in 1995, shows a total of DR 927 306 932 (about ECU 3.1 million). This difference can be attributed to the fact that the processing of the results of the agricultural

surveys conducted in 1994 was only carried out in 1995 (for the reasons mentioned in point 1.1 of Annex 2), whereas the programme had scheduled this for 1994.

4. Although computerization has been completed at central and regional levels, the same is not true of the administrative infrastructure (staff), particularly at regional level.

In order to decentralize the data processing of all surveys, it is vital for all the regional offices to have an adequate number of staff qualified to use modern technologies.

The Greek authorities responsible for the application of the programme have promised repeatedly to take steps to overcome this problem, but even now, two years before the end of the programme, the situation is far from satisfactory.

5. The authorities should also focus attention on developing data banks and on designing a general plan for interconnection and communication between the computer system of the Ministry of Agriculture and that of the NSSG.

6. In the timetable of activities for 1993-1996, presented by the Greek authorities during the procedure leading to the second amendment of the Council Decision, the measures planned for 1994 included:

- the development of the geographic information system (GIS);
- completion of the transfer of the survey of slaughterings from the Ministry of Agriculture to the NSSG.

To our knowledge, little progress has been made with regard to the first measure, while the second is planned for January 1996.

ANNEX 1

TIMETABLE

Originally, the aim was to put the plan into effect over a period of five years (1986-1990), starting with the region of Thrace-Macedonia in 1986 and ending with the island of Crete in 1990. However, Greece has twice obtained an extension of the deadline under Council Decisions 90/386/EEC and 92/582/EEC, and the completion date has thus been postponed to 1996. The new timetable is set out below:

1986 - first year	:	Macedonia;
1987 - second year	:	Macedonia, Thrace, Thessaly and Epirus;
1988 - third year	:	Macedonia, Thrace, Thessaly, Epirus, Central Greece and the Ionian Islands;
1989 - fourth year	:	Macedonia, Thrace, Thessaly, Epirus, Central Greece, the Ionian Islands and the Peloponnese;
1990 - fifth year	:	Macedonia, Thrace, Thessaly, Epirus, Central Greece, the Ionian Islands, the Peloponnese and Crete;
1991 - sixth year	:	Macedonia, Thrace, Thessaly, Epirus, Central Greece, the Ionian Islands, the Peloponnese, Crete and the Aegean Islands (North and South);
1992 - seventh year	:	first trial of the new system in the whole of Greece;
1993 - eighth year	:	creation of a sampling frame based on the results of the 1991 general survey of agriculture; extension of remote sensing to cover the whole of the mainland and the island of Crete;
1994 - ninth year	:	exploitation of the synergies between the central and regional technical and administrative infrastructures set up by the Statistical Office and the Ministry of Agriculture, respectively, when implementing the programme of surveys undertaken by the Statistical Office;
1995 - tenth year	:	introduction of the new system for the whole of Greece;
1996 - eleventh year	:	monitoring and critical analysis of the results obtained during the first year of actual implementation.

In November 1997, the Commission will present to the Council a report on the implementation of the programme which will outline the results achieved.

ANNEX 2

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN OF RESTRUCTURING IN 1994

1. Statistical applications

1.1. NSSG

During 1994, all the sample surveys, taking the agricultural holding as unit, were redesigned on the basis of the new register created in 1993 using data from the 1991 census of agriculture.

As a result, new programmes for processing data and extracting results from the 1994 surveys have had to be designed. Given the magnitude of this task, it was decided to entrust the design and implementation of a new system of agricultural statistics encompassing all the surveys in the agricultural sector to a private organization.

The design and implementation of the new system were completed during the first quarter of 1995, thereby enabling all the data from the 1994 surveys to be processed in this way.

Eurostat received the results of these 1994 surveys between October and November 1995.

Apart from the traditional statistical activities (i.e. survey of the structure of agricultural holdings, of livestock, of fruit trees, of vineyards, of cereals and the annual agricultural survey), the following statistical surveys were also conducted in 1994:

- Survey of slaughterhouses:

Although this survey remains the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture, the NSSG conducted it for the first time on a pilot basis in 1993 and has been handling it on a regular basis since 1994.

As from January 1996 the plan is that the NSSG will transmit the results of the surveys of slaughterhouses on a regular basis and that the Ministry of Agriculture will cease to conduct these surveys.

- Survey of yields by Area Frame Sampling:

The survey of cereals production, based on a sample obtained by Area Frame Sampling using the remote-sensing agricultural statistics survey (conducted by the

Ministry of Agriculture), was carried out in 1993 by the NSSG in cooperation with the Ministry in the Thessaly region.

In 1994 this was extended to Crete and Epirus.

The aim of this pilot survey is, firstly, to enable the NSSG to study the survey of yields by direct interview, via the existing mechanism for conducting surveys, and secondly, to enable the Ministry to study the implementation of the survey of crop areas, with the aid of the sample obtained by area frame sampling.

1.2. Ministry of Agriculture

The main activity undertaken in the field of statistical applications since 1991 relates to the statistical estimates made with the aid of area frame sampling.

In 1994, the programme was extended to Crete and Epirus, thereby covering almost the whole of Greece with the exception of the small islands.

In addition to the field enumeration method used to date, the points methods was tested on a restricted area with a view to obtaining comparative data.

The other statistical activities undertaken related to:

- statistics on milk and dairy products;
- statistics on plant production;
- monthly estimates of slaughterings - forecasts of animal production (meat);
- monthly statistics on production and trade in eggs for hatching and annual statistics on the structure and utilization of incubators;
- FADN.

2. Computerization

2.1. NSSG

The process of acquiring the technical hardware and software needed to cover current requirements for all the various agricultural statistical applications at both central and regional levels has been completed.

Simultaneously, the "KLISTHENIS" programme (Commission Decision C(94) 1422 of 29 July 1994 - Modernization of government departments) guarantees the extension, replacement and correct functioning of the equipment to cover future needs.

While connection between the centre and the province is possible at the level of the regional development services and the nomi, there is a shortage of specialist staff to ensure the correct functioning of the network. This is only fully operational when staffing permits.

In terms of computer equipment, the following measures were undertaken.

- 9 RISC systems, used in a pilot phase by the central service as client servers, were installed in 1994;
- in order to increase its capacity, the central system was extended to incorporate the databases of the farm census and the register installed to process and analyse the surveys;
- A juke box optical disk system was purchased for use in storing information and disseminating it to the various regional centres.

2.2. Ministry of Agriculture

As in 1993, 1994 saw continued support for the computerization of statistical applications via the network of the Ministry of Agriculture.

A call for tenders was launched at the end of 1994 to supplement the overall software and hardware package, primarily with a view to the successful completion of the geographical analysis of samples using satellite images and digitized slides.

3. Staff/training

3.1. NSSG

The previous report (1993) mentioned the one-year extension of the contracts of 419 persons with fixed-term private-law contracts.

In February 1995, these staff became permanent.

A large majority of these persons work exclusively on agricultural statistics.

The need for specialized staff has been met by reemploying the staff (150 persons) who worked on a contract basis until 1990 and who are now gradually being reintegrated into the various NSSG departments.

All the above staff have begun to attend special training programmes designed to meet the immediate needs arising from the installation of the new equipment and the use of modern technologies.

Simultaneously, courses aimed at the entire staff of the NSSG were held in 1994; these dealt with the problems linked to the survey methodology, data processing, etc. These courses were financed from other sources and involved officials from all the competent directorates.

3.2. Ministry of Agriculture

During the first half of 1994, the programme called on the services of 52 contract staff (users and programmers).

During the second half of 1994, these staff became permanent, thereby ensuring continued back-up for the programme after 1996.

Many further training courses were held; these were aimed at staff of the "informatics", "policy" and "agriculture" directorates who are generally involved in implementing the "Greek Plan". These courses were both in-house and external (via the office of the Minister attached to the Prime Minister) and were not charged to the budget for the programme of restructuring of agricultural statistics.

ANNEX 3

INFORMATION ABOUT THE FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF THE PLAN OF RESTRUCTURING

The table on the next page shows overall expenditure in 1994.

It should be noted that, pursuant to Article 1(5) of Council Decision 90/386/EEC amending Decision 85/360/EEC, the level of Community participation in the programme is two-thirds of overall expenditure since 1991, instead of the one-third which applied up to 1990.

Category of expenditure	Amounts in Dr	
I. EXPENDITURE ON INFRASTRUCTURE		466 753 728
1. Computerization	254 850 087	
a) SECRETARIAT-GENERAL OF THE NSSG	154 675 994	
i) Purchase of hardware and software	70 618 715	
ii) Software support		
iii) Auxiliary equipment and consumables		
iv) Maintenance	84 057 279	
v) Network charges		
vi) 18% VAT on i, ii, iii, iv and v		
b) MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE	100 174 093	
i) Purchase of hardware and software	885 000	
ii) Software support		
iii) Auxiliary equipment and consumables		
iv) Maintenance	99 289 093	
v) Network charges		
vi) 18% VAT on i, ii, iii, iv and v		
2. Accommodation	33 053 150	
(i) Secretariat-General of the NSSG	33 053 150	
(ii) Ministry of Agriculture		
3. Office equipment		
(i) Secretariat-General of the NSSG		
(ii) Ministry of Agriculture		
4. Training equipment		
(i) Secretariat-General of the NSSG		
(ii) Ministry of Agriculture		
5. Vehicles		
(i) Secretariat-General of the NSSG		
(ii) Ministry of Agriculture		
6. Other technical and administrative	145 423 588	
(i) Secretariat-General of the NSSG	102 971 557	
(ii) Ministry of Agriculture	42 452 031	
7. Staff skill enhancement (training)		
(i) Secretariat-General of the NSSG		
(ii) Ministry of Agriculture		
8. Staff skill enhancement (training)	33 426 903	
(i) Secretariat-General of the NSSG	30 862 552	
(ii) Ministry of Agriculture	2 564 351	
II. EXPENDITURE ON STATISTICAL APPLICATIONS		460 553 204
a) SECRETARIAT-GENERAL OF THE NSSG	214 349 238	
1. Cereals	14 665 152	
2. Surveys of livestock	32 704 131	
3. Surveys of trees	38 268 991	
4. Annual agricultural survey	81 271 639	
5. Survey of vineyards	43 343 036	
6. Restructuring of agricultural statistics	1 603 939	
7. Structure of agricultural holdings	1 918 350	
8. Survey of yields	574 000	
b) MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE	246 203 966	
1. Statistical applications	63 161 873	
Remote sensing	183 042 093	
GRAND TOTAL (DRACHMAS)		927 306 932

ISSN 0254-1475

COM(96) 287 final

DOCUMENTS

EN

17 03

Catalogue number : CB-CO-96-293-EN-C

ISBN 92-78-05600-6

Office for Official Publications of the European Communities

L-2985 Luxembourg