Regional economic accounts for agriculture

2021/0031(COD) - 12/02/2021 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to amend Regulation (EC) No 138/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards regional economic accounts for agriculture.

PROPOSED ACT: Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: the European Parliament decides in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure and on an equal footing with the Council.

BACKGROUND: Eurostat has been compiling European agricultural statistics on agriculture in the European Union for decades. These data collections were evaluated in 2016 and it was found that they needed to be updated to take account of changes in agriculture, the CAP and other related EU policies.

The strategy for agricultural statistics to 2020 and beyond is a major programme for the modernisation of EU agricultural statistics run by the European Commission in close cooperation with Member States.

The proposed changes are based on the following findings:

- Regulation (EC) No 138/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council sets up the economic accounts for agriculture (EAA) in the EU by providing for the methodology and time limits for the transmission of agricultural accounts. The regional economic accounts for agriculture (REAA) are a regional adaptation of the EAA. In addition to national figures, regional data help to better understand the diversity that exists between regions and complement the information for the EU, the euro area and individual Member States;

- as statistics play a central role in the decision-making process, evidence-based decision-making requires high quality statistics. Quality reports are essential for assessing, improving and communicating the quality of European statistics;

- lastly, the EAA provide important annual macroeconomic data to European policy-makers three times a year. The first and second estimates are followed by the final data. The current transmission deadline for the EAA second estimates does not provide much time after the end of the first reference period to collect improved data compared to the data provided for the first EAA estimates.

CONTENT: the proposal for the amendment of Regulation (EC) No 138/2004 aims to:

- integrate the regional economic accounts for agriculture (REAA) into Regulation (EC) No 138/2004 as regards both the methodology and the appropriate deadlines for data transmission;

- allow possible derogations from the regional economic accounts for agriculture (REAA) requirements;

- add an article to cover quality reporting requirements;

- confer implementing powers on the Commission as regards the arrangements for and the content of the quality reports;

- relax the transmission deadlines for the second EAA estimates in order to facilitate improved data quality.