

Basic information	
<b>1995/0250(CNS)</b> CNS - Consultation procedure Decision	Procedure completed
Improving Community agricultural statistics  Amended by <a href="#">1997/0245(CNS)</a> Amended by <a href="#">1999/0137(COD)</a> Amended by <a href="#">2002/0044(COD)</a> Amended by <a href="#">2003/0304(COD)</a>  <b>Subject</b>  3.10.30 Agricultural statistics	

Key players				
European Parliament	<b>Committee responsible</b>		<b>Rapporteur</b>	<b>Appointed</b>
	 Agriculture and Rural Development		JOVÉ PERES Salvador (GUE/NGL)	11/12/1995
	<b>Committee for opinion</b>		<b>Rapporteur for opinion</b>	<b>Appointed</b>
	 Budgets		MULDER Jan (ELDR)	31/10/1995
Council of the European Union	<b>Council configuration</b>		<b>Meetings</b>	<b>Date</b>
	Agriculture and Fisheries		1940	1996-06-25

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
16/10/1995	Legislative proposal published	COM(1995)0472 	<a href="#">Summary</a>
28/11/1995	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
22/04/1996	Vote in committee		<a href="#">Summary</a>
22/04/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	<a href="#">A4-0115/1996</a>	
24/05/1996	Debate in Parliament		
25/06/1996	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
25/06/1996	End of procedure in Parliament		
01/07/1996	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1995/0250(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
Amendments and repeals	Amended by <a href="#">1997/0245(CNS)</a> Amended by <a href="#">1999/0137(COD)</a> Amended by <a href="#">2002/0044(COD)</a> Amended by <a href="#">2003/0304(COD)</a>
Legal basis	EC Treaty (before Amsterdam) E 043
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AGRI/4/07319

Documentation gateway				
<b>European Parliament</b>				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		<a href="#">A4-0115/1996</a> <a href="#">OJ C 152 27.05.1996, p. 0003</a>	22/04/1996	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		<a href="#">T4-0306/1996</a> <a href="#">OJ C 166 10.06.1996, p. 0236-0265</a>	24/05/1996	<a href="#">Summary</a>
<b>European Commission</b>				
Document type		Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal		<a href="#">COM(1995)0472</a>  <a href="#">OJ C 336 14.12.1995, p. 0006</a>	16/10/1995	<a href="#">Summary</a>
Follow-up document		<a href="#">COM(1999)0338</a> 	07/07/1999	
Document attached to the procedure		<a href="#">COM(2002)0079</a> 	13/02/2002	<a href="#">Summary</a>
Follow-up document		<a href="#">COM(2002)0339</a> 	25/06/2002	<a href="#">Summary</a>
Follow-up document		<a href="#">COM(2007)0732</a> 	21/11/2007	<a href="#">Summary</a>

Additional information		
Source	Document	Date

**Final act**

[Decision 1996/0411](#)  
[OJ L 162 01.07.1996, p. 0014](#)

[Summary](#)

## Improving Community agricultural statistics

1995/0250(CNS) - 25/06/1996 - Final act

**OBJECTIVE:** to improve the way agricultural statistics meet current information needs following the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy. **COMMUNITY MEASURE:** Council Decision 96/411/EC on improving Community agricultural statistics. **SUBSTANCE:** the Council Decision was drawn up in the context of Decision 93/464/EEC on the framework programme for priority action in the field of statistical information 1993-1997. It fixes the work areas in which improvements are to be sought, and establishes a mechanism for implementing the improvements which ensures appropriate involvement of all concerned. The first phase in the process of adapting Community agricultural statistics is to be implemented during the period 1996-1997. The Commission will decide on a technical action plan for agricultural statistics each year. These plans will cover the actions to be carried out by the Member States. The Decision also provides measures to facilitate the small changes necessary in the specification of Community requirements and in national systems for meeting those requirements. Finally, the Decision provides for a process of adaptation to take account of new needs.

## Improving Community agricultural statistics

1995/0250(CNS) - 24/05/1996 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted the report by Mr Salvador JOVE PERES (GUE/NGL, E) on the proposal on improving Community agricultural statistics. The amendments to the proposal for a decision were mainly aimed at strengthening the administrative structure of the Member States responsible for collecting the agricultural statistics. The EP proposed in particular: - that the process of adapting the Community's agricultural statistics should begin during the 1996-1997 period; - that the action plan for agricultural statistics should be defined each year by the Commission in conjunction with Eurostat, the Standing Committee on Agricultural Statistics and the Statistical Programme Committee; - that the Community's contribution to the costs of adapting national systems should be limited to investment expenditure and should not exceed 50% of the total cost of each operation; - that the consequences of implementing the reform of the CAP should be examined, with a view to the enlargement of the European Union to include the countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

## Improving Community agricultural statistics

1995/0250(CNS) - 16/10/1995 - Legislative proposal

**OBJECTIVE:** to harmonise and improve the data flow needed to implement the common agricultural policy. **SUBSTANCE:** The proposal for a Council decision: - defines the work areas in which improvements can be made together with the principles governing these improvements; - establish a mechanism for implementing these improvements, ensuring the appropriate involvement of all concerned; the first phase in the process of improving Community agricultural statistics is to be implemented between 1995 and 1997; - provides for measures to facilitate the small changes necessary in the specification of Community requirements and in national systems so that they can meet those requirements; - provides for a process of adaptation to take account of new needs.

## Improving Community agricultural statistics

1995/0250(CNS) - 21/11/2007 - Follow-up document

The European Commission has presented its third progress report on the implementation of Council Decision 96/411/EC on improving Community agricultural statistics.

The purpose of Decision 96/411/EC was to induce Member States, within the limits imposed by available resources, to take appropriate measures to adapt their national systems of agricultural statistics.

The Community provides a financial contribution to the expenses incurred by each Member State in adapting the national systems or in carrying out preparatory work relating to new or increasing requirements provided for under a technical action plan.

**Implementation of the TAPAS Technical Action Plans:**

Six technical action plans were defined by the Commission. The Community budget allocation for the period 2003-2007 for the annual action plans amounted to EUR 5 343 519 which covered a total of 135 actions. The areas of action covered were as follows:

- **data on the physical aspects of European agriculture:** the actions undertaken sought to improve data on areas, production and use of crops, and particularly the balances; data on livestock populations, production and use of animal products, and particularly the meat balances; development of feed balances by improving the estimation methods, and achieving better consistency between supply balances and the feed balance. In all, 37 actions were carried out in 16 Member States, which resulted in a significant improvement in the completeness of the corresponding datasets;
- **environmental aspects of agricultural accounting:** one action was carried out, following the actions realised under the previous programme, to test the feasibility of introducing into the Economic Accounts for Agriculture (EAA) methodology certain concepts and definitions that enable environmental elements to be dealt with as services in total production, subsidies or taxes;
- **agri-environmental indicators:** these actions sought to improve existing indicators such as regional-level information on yields of certain crops, and data on the sale or consumption of mineral fertilisers. They also covered the establishment of landscape indicators such as the lengths of hedges or walls or the areas used at regional level outside the utilised agricultural area; the effects of structural characteristics on the operation of holdings; and data on cultivation practices. The actions concerning the use of pesticides continued the collection and processing of data plus improvement in the quality and speed of transmission by using a variety of methods and sources. Actions on nutrient balances are foreseen in the context of the 2007 annual plan. In total, 26 actions were completed, are underway or planned, involving 10 Member States. The actions were a starting point for the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning statistics on plant protection products;
- **rural development:** 31 actions were completed, are under way or planned, involving a total of 14 Member States. A wide range of subjects was covered, including non-agricultural income of farms and families, living conditions in rural regions, and the contribution of agriculture as a support for other economic and cultural activities;
- **farm statistical registers:** the 14 actions undertaken by Member States under the TAPAS 2005 and 2006 action plans involved the improvement and automation of the register-updating procedures; the development of links with other relevant data sources such as the Business Register and animal registers; and the improvement of the quality and coverage of national farm registers;
- **small units surveys:** six Member States took part in the action plans aimed at studying the coverage of small agricultural holdings. The work involved examining the different categories and characteristics of smallholdings, obtained from different sources, and identifying which types of smallholding should be recorded in the national farm register;
- **statistics on the structure of farms:** in 2003, before joining the European Union, the 10 prospective Member States carried out a survey on the structure of agricultural holdings, but they were not obliged to transmit the individual data to Eurostat. The second phase of the TAPAS 2004 action plan enabled them to prepare such transmission and to consolidate those statistics;
- **organic farming:** a further 15 actions on organic farming are planned for 2007. They include actions to establish or improve statistics on the production, processing and consumption of organic products, their balance sheets and prices.

A discussion in the Standing Committee for Agricultural Statistics (SCAS), in March 2007, led to the following conclusions:

- most of the actions now completed have yielded useful results;
- almost all SCAS members appreciated the exchange of experience between the beneficiaries of the TAPAS action plans, as well as the long-term vision of the statistical developments needed;
- on the other hand, some SCAS members raised concern about the effectiveness of TAPAS, and questioned the Community interest of the actions carried out. Certain Members are against prolonging TAPAS or have severe reservations;
- the administrative burden (in terms of contract work and legislation) was also mentioned as being out of proportion to the budget used;
- launching studies through TAPAS was also considered to be quite a lengthy process, taking about one year longer than through the normal grant policy.

The Commission is of the opinion that the need to adapt the statistical system to new needs will remain, as well as the need to financially support such adaptation by the Member States. However, funding the actions through normal EU grants would be an efficient alternative to the TAPAS procedure.

## Improving Community agricultural statistics

1995/0250(CNS) - 25/06/2002 - Follow-up document

In its report on the establishment of a database on payments under the Guarantee Section of the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund, the Commission draws the following conclusions: - although some additional improvements may be required, in particular as far as data quality, completeness of reporting and validation of results are concerned, the current "Clearance Audit Trail System" (CATS) database appears capable of providing a basis for responding to the information needs expressed by the European Parliament and the Council; - in order to enable CATS data to be used for "monitoring developments and providing forecasts in the agricultural sector" the necessary legal amendment has been adopted and entered into force in March 2002. Another amendment to the current legislation has also been adopted in order to implement a fully comprehensive system of "unique identifiers" for beneficiaries across all Member States. This requirement is coming into effect from 1 January 2003, although this will not prevent the production of indicative figures before that date; - subject to the condition that Member States are able to communicate the required data and in compliance with the constraints set out in the applicable legislation, the Commission will make available a set of tables showing, for each Member State, the distribution of payments per size-class of aid received, once the underlying data concerning the previous financial year will have been validated; - the accounting and financial management system AGREX will be further improved and refined. This also includes aspects concerning how to record individual financial transactions, if desired, and issues related to a possible integration of information available in CATS and AGREX.

## Improving Community agricultural statistics

This report refers to the implementation of Council Decision 96/411/EC, as amended by Council Decision 2298/2000/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 September 2000, on the improvement of Community agricultural statistics, best known as TAPAS (Technical Action Plan for Agricultural Statistics). Its aim is to take stock of the situation concerning the implementation of the Decision and to put forward if necessary proposals for its extension. Four annual action plans have been approved by the Commission since 1996. A fifth is currently being drawn up for implementation in 2002. The Community budget has allocated over EUR 3.8 million to work on improving Community agricultural statistics. With TAPAS 2002, the final annual action plan to date, a further EUR 1 million will be allocated to this work. This plan will be the last unless the period of implementation for Decision 96/411/EC is extended beyond 2002. The Community system of agricultural statistics will face the key challenges over the coming years (enlargement, incorporation of the environmental dimension in the common agricultural policy, consideration of the "multifunctional" role of agriculture, continuation of multilateral trade negotiations, dwindling resources allocated to agricultural statistics in the Member States, technological development of new data collection tools, etc.) In addition, the process of adapting the national statistics systems to the needs arising from the reform of the CAP is far from complete. As a result, TAPAS should continue for some years yet. This would make it easier to effect the anticipated changes in the systems of agricultural statistics so that they provide a better response to users' needs, particularly those of political decision-makers. In order to improve the access to the results and to facilitate the methodological developments achieved in the framework of the TAPAS actions, the Commission will continue the realisation of dissemination actions (workshops, publication of reports, etc). Nevertheless, when such decisions on renewal are taken, it is important to examine which improvements or adaptations would be desirable, in the light of experience gained and bearing in mind current developments in the Common Agricultural Policy. It is the Commission's view that all deliberations on the future of TAPAS should take the following considerations into account: 1) with regard to the guidelines: - any forthcoming Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on extending TAPAS should cover the period from 2003 to 2007, i.e. a five-year period, so that this action can fit into the Community Statistical Programme scheduled for the same period; - the extension of TAPAS not only meets the needs for adaptation of the current Community statistical system, but also takes on a specific interest for the candidate countries considering the next enlargement of the European Union; - the adaptations introduced in 2000 into Council Decision 96/411/EC seem to meet the sought aims of simplification and effectiveness. Thus it is not necessary to envisage new substantial amendments of the basic decision; - the voluntary nature of participation by the Member States in various actions should not be called into question. 2) concerning the optimisation of resources: - the financial resources available at Community level will be relatively limited. They should therefore be concentrated, as far as possible, on those actions and Member States with the most pressing needs; - with regard to pilot projects to try out new techniques or develop more effectiveness means of meeting statistical information requirements, coverage should be limited, if necessary, to a few Member States or a single Member State in order to rationalise the use of available resources. 3) concerning work programming and assessment, the above points would suggest that the planning of TAPAS should continue to be carried out between the Commission and the Member States through the Standing Committee on Agricultural Statistics; - in this regard, specialised working parties in Eurostat should play an important role in the follow up of actions undertaken and in the assessment of the results obtained.