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*****I**

REPORT

on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council
concerning crop statistics
(COM(2008)0210 – C6-0179/2008 – 2008/0079(COD))

Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

Rapporteur: Elisabeth Jeggle

Symbols for procedures

- * Consultation procedure
majority of the votes cast
- **I Cooperation procedure (first reading)
majority of the votes cast
- **II Cooperation procedure (second reading)
majority of the votes cast, to approve the common position
majority of Parliament's component Members, to reject or amend the common position
- *** Assent procedure
majority of Parliament's component Members except in cases covered by Articles 105, 107, 161 and 300 of the EC Treaty and Article 7 of the EU Treaty
- ***I Codecision procedure (first reading)
majority of the votes cast
- ***II Codecision procedure (second reading)
majority of the votes cast, to approve the common position
majority of Parliament's component Members, to reject or amend the common position
- ***III Codecision procedure (third reading)
majority of the votes cast, to approve the joint text

(The type of procedure depends on the legal basis proposed by the Commission.)

Amendments to a legislative text

In amendments by Parliament, amended text is highlighted in ***bold italics***. In the case of amending acts, passages in an existing provision that the Commission has left unchanged, but that Parliament wishes to amend, are highlighted in **bold**. Any deletions that Parliament wishes to make in passages of this kind are indicated thus: [...]. Highlighting in *normal italics* is an indication for the relevant departments showing parts of the legislative text for which a correction is proposed, to assist preparation of the final text (for instance, obvious errors or omissions in a given language version). Suggested corrections of this kind are subject to the agreement of the departments concerned.

CONTENTS

	Page
DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION	5
EXPLANATORY STATEMENT	24
PROCEDURE.....	27

DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council
concerning crop statistics
(COM(2008)0210 – C6-0179/2008 – 2008/0079(COD))

(Codecision procedure: first reading)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the European Parliament and the Council (COM(2008)0210),
 - having regard to Article 251(2) and Article 285(1) of the EC Treaty, pursuant to which the Commission submitted the proposal to Parliament (C6-0179/2008),
 - having regard to Rule 51 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (A6-0472/2008),
1. Approves the Commission proposal as amended;
 2. Calls on the Commission to refer the matter to Parliament again if it intends to amend the proposal substantially or replace it with another text;
 3. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council and Commission.

Amendment 1

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 1

Text proposed by the Commission

(1) Council Regulation (EEC) No 837/90 of 26 March 1990 concerning statistical information to be supplied by the Member States on cereals production and 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 have been amended several times. Since further amendments and simplifications are now necessary, these acts should, for reasons of clarity, be replaced.

Amendment

(1) Council Regulation (EEC) No 837/90 of 26 March 1990 concerning statistical information to be supplied by the Member States on cereals production and 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 have been amended several times. Since further amendments and simplifications are now necessary, these acts should, for reasons of clarity, be replaced, ***in accordance with the Commission's new political approach***

to the simplification of Community legislation and better regulation.

Amendment 2

Proposal for a regulation Recital 10

Text proposed by the Commission

(10) Council Regulation (EC) No 322/97 of 17 February 1997 on Community statistics ***provides a*** reference framework for the provisions of this Regulation. In particular, it requires conformity to standards of impartiality, reliability, objectivity, scientific independence, cost-effectiveness and statistical confidentiality.

Amendment

(10) Council Regulation (EC) No 322/97 of 17 February 1997 on Community statistics ***constitutes the*** reference framework for the provisions of this Regulation, *in* particular, ***as regards*** conformity to standards of impartiality, reliability, objectivity, scientific independence, cost-effectiveness and statistical confidentiality. ***Council Regulation (Euratom, EEC) No 1588/90 of 11 June 1990 on the transmission of data subject to statistical confidentiality to the Statistical Office of the European Communities constitutes a reference framework for the transmission and protection of confidential statistical data provided under this Regulation, in order to ensure that no unlawful disclosure or non-statistical use occurs when Community statistics are produced and disseminated.***

Justification

It is important that the confidentiality of exchange and disclosure of information is guaranteed in order to ensure the protection of the information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person (data subject). Therefore a reference to existing Community legislation on data protection should be included in the text.

Amendment 3

Proposal for a regulation Recital 12

Text proposed by the Commission

(12) In particular, **powers should be conferred on** the Commission **to adapt** the transmission tables. Since such measures are of general scope and are **intended** to amend non-essential elements of this Regulation **or to supplement it by adding** new non-essential elements, they must be adopted in accordance with the regulatory procedure with scrutiny provided for in Article 5a of Decision 1999/468/EC.

Amendment

(12) In particular, the Commission **should be empowered to modify** the transmission tables. Since such measures are of general scope and are **designed** to amend non-essential elements of this Regulation, **inter alia by supplementing it** with new non-essential elements, they must be adopted in accordance with the regulatory procedure with scrutiny provided for in Article 5a of Decision 1999/468/EC.

Amendment 4

Proposal for a regulation Recital 12 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(12a) Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 of 28 June 2008 on organic production underlined the need to obtain statistical information within the context of the Community Statistical Programme. Recognising that there is a need for the systematic production of Community statistics on organic production and farming, the Commission may propose legislation covering Community statistics on organic production based on Article 285 of the Treaty, and within the Community Statistical Programme, as well as Council Regulation (EC) No 322/97 on Community statistics.

Justification

The production Community statistics should be based on article 285 of the EC Treaty and within the Community Statistical Programme and Council Regulation (EC) No 322/97 of 17 February 1997 on Community statistics. Currently no legal instrument (established under article 258) exists with regard to the recording of community statistics on organic crop

production (neither for meat and live stock statistics). Article 36 of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 on organic production and Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 stipulates: "Member States shall transmit to the Commission the statistical information necessary for the implementation and follow-up of this Regulation".

Amendment 5

Proposal for a regulation Article 1

Text proposed by the Commission

This Regulation establishes a common framework for the systematic production of Community statistics on **land use and** crop production.

Amendment

This Regulation establishes a common framework for the systematic production of Community statistics on crop production.

Justification

The reference to land use needs to be deleted as such information will already be available to the Commission in 2010, 2013 and 2016 pursuant to the Regulation of the EP and of the Council on farm structure surveys and the survey on agricultural production methods and repealing Council Regulation no.571/88.

Amendment 6

Proposal for a regulation Article 2 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. Definitions set out in Annex I to this Regulation shall only apply for the purpose of the Annex II to this Regulation.

Amendment

2. For the purposes of Annex II to this Regulation, the following definitions shall apply:

A) Tables 1, 2 and 3 of Annex II

Justification

Definitions should not be included as part of the Annex but should be included in the main part of the Regulation, more specifically in the article on definitions.

Amendment 7

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 2 – point a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

a) 'area under cultivation' is the area which, until the harvest, is under cultivation and corresponds to the sown area excluding the area ruined by meteorological (e.g. natural disaster) or other conditions; after the harvest, the area under cultivation corresponds to the harvested area;

Justification

Definitions should not be included as part of the Annex but should be included in the main part of the Regulation, more specifically in the article on definitions.

Amendment 8

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 2 – point b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

b) 'harvested area' means the part of the developed area that is harvested. It can, therefore, be equal to or less than the developed area;

Justification

Definitions should not be included as part of the Annex but should be included in the main part of the Regulation, more specifically in the article on definitions.

Amendment 9

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 2 – point c (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

c) 'production area', in the context of permanent crops, means the area that can potentially be harvested in the reference harvest year. It excludes all the non-producing areas, such as new plantations that have not yet started to produce;

Justification

Definitions should not be included as part of the Annex but should be included in the main part of the Regulation, more specifically in the article on definitions.

Amendment 10

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 2 – point d (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

d) 'harvested production' includes on-holding losses and wastage, quantities consumed directly on the farm and marketed quantities, indicated in units of basic product weight. The harvested production for cereals, dried pulses and protein crops, and oil plants (rape, sunflower, linseed, soya, cotton seed and other oil seeds) will be provided in dry equivalent;

Justification

Definitions should not be included as part of the Annex but should be included in the main part of the Regulation, more specifically in the article on definitions.

Amendment 11

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 2 – point e (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

e) 'yield' means the harvested production per area under cultivation;

Justification

Definitions should not be included as part of the Annex but should be included in the main part of the Regulation, more specifically in the article on definitions.

Amendment 12

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 2 – point f (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

f) 'successive cropping' means a parcel of arable land that is used more than once during a given crop year but which, each time it is used, has only one crop. That area shall be considered as area under cultivation for each crop (the concepts of main and secondary areas are not applicable in this context);

Justification

Definitions should not be included as part of the Annex but should be included in the main part of the Regulation, more specifically in the article on definitions.

Amendment 13

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 2 – point g (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

g) 'combined cropping' means a combination of crops that occupy a parcel

of agricultural area at the same time. The area under cultivation in this case is distributed between the crop products proportionately to the area of ground they occupy (the concepts of main and secondary areas are not applicable in this context);

Justification

Definitions should not be included as part of the Annex but should be included in the main part of the Regulation, more specifically in the article on definitions.

Amendment 14

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 2 – point h (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

h) 'dual-purpose crops' means crops having more than one purpose and which, by convention, are considered as crops for their primary use and as secondary crops for their supplementary use.

Justification

Definitions should not be included as part of the Annex but should be included in the main part of the Regulation, more specifically in the article on definitions.

Amendment 15

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 2 – point i (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

i) 'crops under glass or high (accessible) cover' means crops which, for the whole of their period of growth or for the predominant part of it, are covered by greenhouses or fixed or mobile high cover (glass or rigid or flexible plastic). This excludes sheets of plastic laid flat on the

ground, as well as land under cloches or tunnels not accessible to man, or movable glass-covered frames. Areas of crops which are grown temporarily under glass and temporarily in the open air are reported as entirely under glass, unless the period under glass is of extremely limited duration.

Justification

Definitions should not be included as part of the Annex but should be included in the main part of the Regulation, more specifically in the article on definitions.

Amendment 16

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point d

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

d) utilised agricultural area (Table 4).

deleted

Justification

The reference to land use and table 4 needs to be deleted as such information will already be available to the Commission in 2010, 2013 and 2016 pursuant to the Regulation of the EP and of the Council on farm structure surveys and the survey on agricultural production methods and repealing Council Regulation no. 571/88.

Amendment 17

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 3 – subparagraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Member States shall inform the Commission of their definition of low prevalence.

Justification

Variables with a low prevalence should be defined. Commission and Member States should

know when exactly exclusion from the statistics is possible and can be applied.

Amendment 18

Proposal for a regulation Article 5 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Member States conducting sample surveys shall take the necessary steps to ensure that table 1 data meet the precision requirements *set out in Annex II to this Regulation.*

Amendment

Member States conducting sample surveys ***in order to obtain statistics*** shall take the necessary steps to ensure that table 1 data meet the ***following*** precision requirements: ***the coefficient of variation of the data to be provided by 30 September of the year n+1 shall not exceed (at national level) 4% for the area under cultivation for each of the following groups of main crops: cereals for the production of grain (including seed), dried pulses and protein crops for the production of grain (including seed mixtures of cereals and pulses), root crops, industrial crops and plant harvested green.***

Justification

Precision requirements should not be included in a foot-note as part of the Annex II table 1 but should be included in the main part of the Regulation, more specifically in the article on precision requirements. Furthermore it is proposed to raise the variation coefficients from 3 to 4 % in order to keep the costs and administrative burdens for Member States within reasonable limits.

Amendment 19

Proposal for a regulation Article 5 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

In regard to sources other than surveys, Member States shall ensure this information is of at least equal quality to

Amendment

In regard to sources other than ***statistical*** surveys, Member States shall ensure this information is ***at least of equal quality***

that of information obtained from statistical surveys.

compared to information obtained from statistical surveys.

Where administrative sources are used, Member States shall inform the Commission in advance about methods used and the quality of data from such sources.

Amendment 20

Proposal for a regulation Article 6 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

The transmission tables as set out in the Annex II may be adapted by the Commission (with the exception of the precision requirements). Measures designed to amend non-essential elements of this Regulation shall be adopted in accordance with the regulatory procedure with scrutiny referred to in Article 9(3).

Amendment

The transmission tables as set out in the Annex II may be adapted by the Commission (with the exception of the precision requirements). ***These measures*** designed to amend non-essential elements of this Regulation, ***inter alia, by supplementing it***, shall be adopted in accordance with the regulatory procedure with scrutiny referred to in Article 9(3).

Amendment 21

Proposal for a regulation Article 7 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Member States shall inform the Commission of their definition of low prevalence.

Justification

Variables with a low prevalence should be defined. Commission and Member States should know when exactly exclusion from the statistics is possible and can be applied.

Amendment 22

Proposal for a regulation Article 8 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. Every three years, and for the first time ***eighteen*** months after the date of application of this Regulation, Member States shall provide the Commission (Eurostat) with a report on the quality of the data transmitted.

Amendment

2. Every three years, and for the first time ***twenty-one*** months after the date of application of this Regulation, Member States shall provide the Commission (Eurostat) with a report on the quality of the data transmitted ***making reference to the quality assessment dimensions summed up in paragraph 1 of this Article.***

Justification

The transition deadline should be in line with the latest rule that the final results and the first data at regional level are to be supplied by 30 September 2011. This corresponds with twenty-one months.

Amendment 23

Proposal for a regulation Article 8 – paragraph 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2a. In applying the quality dimensions laid down in paragraph 1 of this Article to the data covered by this Regulation, the modalities and the structure of the quality reports shall be defined in accordance with the procedures referred to in Article 9(3).

Justification

The Regulatory Procedure with Scrutiny (RPS) should be applied to all comitology provisions.

Amendment 24

Proposal for a regulation Article 8 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. Member States shall inform the Commission of any methodological or other change which would **considerably** influence the quality of the statistics, not later than three months after this change is effected.

Amendment

3. Member States shall inform the Commission of any methodological or other change which would influence the quality of the statistics, not later than three months after this change is effected.

Amendment 25

Proposal for a regulation Article 8 – paragraph 5 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

5a. Consideration shall be given to the principle that additional costs and burdens remain within reasonable limits.

Amendment 26

Proposal for a regulation Article 9 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1. The Commission shall be assisted by the Standing Committee for Agricultural Statistics established by Council Decision 72/279/EEC.

1. The Commission shall be assisted by the Standing Committee for Agricultural Statistics established by ***Article 1 of*** Council Decision 72/279/EEC.

Justification

More precise and consistent with the references agreed for the farm structure survey and

meat and livestock statistics files.

Amendment 27

Proposal for a regulation

Article 9 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Articles 4 and 7 of Decision 1999/468/EC shall apply, having regard to Article 8 thereof. **deleted**

Justification

The reference to the management procedure should be deleted as the rapporteur's amendment on Article 10, paragraph 1 "Transitional period" deletes the only existing reference to this procedure and replaces it by the Regulatory Procedure with Scrutiny. The RPS should be applied to all comitology provisions.

Amendment 28

Proposal for a regulation

Article 10 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1. Full calendar year transitional periods for implementation of this Regulation ending no later than one year after the date from which it applies may be granted to Member States, in so far as the application of this Regulation to their national statistical systems requires major adaptations and is likely to cause significant practical problems, in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 9(2).

1. Full calendar year transitional periods for implementation of this Regulation ending no later than one year after the date from which it applies may be granted to Member States, in so far as the application of this Regulation to their national statistical systems requires major adaptations and is likely to cause significant practical problems, in accordance with the **regulatory** procedure **with scrutiny** laid down in Article 9(3).

Justification

The RPS should be applied to all comitology provisions.

Amendment 29

Proposal for a regulation

Annex I – point A

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

For the purposes of the Annex II of this Regulation, the following definitions shall apply:

deleted

A) Tables 1, 2 and 3 of Annex II

- 'area under cultivation': until the harvest, the area under cultivation corresponds to sown area excluding ruined area; after the harvest, the area under cultivation corresponds to the harvested area;***
- 'harvested area' corresponds to the part of the developed area that is harvested. It can, therefore, be equal to or less than the developed area;***
- 'production area' for the purposes of permanent crops refers to the area that potentially can be harvested in the reference harvest year. It excludes all the non-producing areas, such as new plantations that have not yet started to produce;***
- 'harvested production' includes on-holding losses and wastage, quantities consumed directly on the farm and marketed quantities, indicated in units of basic product weight. The harvested production for cereals, dried pulses and protein crops, and oil plants (rape, sunflower, linseed, soya, cotton seed and other oil seeds) will be provided in dry equivalent;***
- 'yield' corresponds to the harvested production per area under cultivation;***
- 'successive cropping' refers to a parcel of arable land that is used more than once during a given crop year and the area each time has only one crop. Both areas shall be considered as area under***

cultivation for each crop (the concepts of main and secondary areas are not applicable in this context);

- 'combined cropping' applies to a combination of crops that occupy a parcel of agricultural area at the same time. The area under cultivation in this case is distributed between the crop products proportionately to the area of ground they occupy (the concepts of main and secondary areas are not applicable in this context);

- 'dual-purpose crops' are by convention considered for their primary use and as secondary crops for their supplementary use.

- 'crops under glass or high (accessible) cover' refers to crops which, for the whole of their period of growth or for the predominant part of it, are covered by greenhouses or fixed or mobile high cover (glass or rigid or flexible plastic). This excludes sheets of plastic laid flat on the ground, as well as land under cloches or tunnels not accessible to man or movable glass-covered frames. Areas of crops which are grown temporarily under glass and temporarily in the open air are reported as entirely under glass, unless the period under glass is of extremely limited duration.

Justification

Definitions should not be included as part of the Annex but should be included in the main part of the Regulation, more specifically in the article on definitions.

Amendment 30

Proposal for a regulation Annex I – point B

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

B) Table 4 of Annex II

deleted

- Items are defined in Council Regulation (EEC) No 571/88.

- "Main and secondary areas" are classified as follows:

General use: The main area of a given parcel is, in the general case, where the parcel has only one occupation during a crop year, unequivocally defined by that occupation. (In this case the secondary area of that parcel will be zero).

Special cases

Successive cropping

'Main area': If the parcel of arable land is used more than once during a given crop year (successive cropping), and the area each time has only one crop, then the main area is the crop with the highest value. If the value of the production does not determine which is the main crop, then the main crop is taken as the one which occupies the ground for the longest period of time.

'Secondary area': All other occupations are then regarded as secondary areas.

Combined cropping

2.2 'Main area': If the parcel of arable land is used throughout the growing season of a given crop year for the same fixed combination of crops (combined cropping), then the main area is split pro rata between the crops concerned.

'Secondary area': In this case there will be no secondary area.

2.3 Combination of successive and combined cropping

'Main area': If the parcel of arable land is used more than once during a given crop

year and with a combination of successive and combined crops, then each combination of crops occupying the land during the same period of time is valued separately, and the combination or the single crop with the highest value is taken as the main area. Where that area is used for combined cropping, the main area is split pro rata between the crops concerned.

'Secondary area': All other occupations are then regarded as secondary areas.

Justification

The reference to land use and table 4 needs to be deleted as such information will already be available to the Commission in 2010, 2013 and 2016 pursuant to the Regulation of the EP and of the Council on farm structure surveys and the survey on agricultural production methods and repealing Council Regulation No 571/88.

Amendment 31

Proposal for a regulation Annex II – table 1 – columns

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

columns 2 and 12 are deleted

Justification

Requesting data on an optional basis is not in line with the intention to keep costs and additional administrative burden at the lowest degree possible.

Amendment 32

Proposal for a regulation Annex II – table 1 – footnote

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Dry equivalent

*Production for these products shall be given in ***dry equivalent***

Columns 1,3,4 and 13 are optional if the average national production (***in dry equivalent***) in the last 3 years was less than 2 580 000 tonnes for common wheat, 860 000 tonnes for durum wheat, 770 000 tonnes for barley, 80 000 tonnes for rye and meslin, 1 290 000 tonnes for grain maize, 170 000 tonnes for triticale, 130 000 tonnes for oat, sorghum and rice, 60 000 for field peas, 40 000 tonnes for field beans, 270 000 tonnes for rape, 180 000 tonnes for sun flowers, 50 000 tonnes for soja per year.

Columns 1, 3, 4 and 13 are optional if the average national production in the last 3 years was less than 700 000 tonnes of potatoes, 2 500 000 for sugar beet, and 4 500 000 tonnes for green maize per year.

Columns 2 and 12 are optional

Precision requirements

The coefficient of variation of the data to be provided by 30 September of the year n+1 shall not exceed (at national level) 3% for the area under cultivation for each of the following groups of main crops: cereals for the production of grain (including seed), dried pulses and protein crops for the production of grain (including seed mixtures of cereals and pulses), root crops, industrial crops and plant harvested green.

*Production for these products shall be given in ***average degree of humidity which each Member State shall communicate to the European Commission.***

Columns 1,3,4 and 13 are optional if the average national production in the last 3 years was less than 2 580 000 tonnes for common wheat, 860 000 tonnes for durum wheat, 770 000 tonnes for barley, 80 000 tonnes for rye and meslin, 1 290 000 tonnes for grain maize, 170 000 tonnes for triticale, 130 000 tonnes for oat, sorghum and rice, 60 000 for field peas, 40 000 tonnes for field beans, 270 000 tonnes for rape, 180 000 tonnes for sun flowers, 50 000 tonnes for soja per year.

Columns 1, 3, 4 and 13 are optional if the average national production in the last 3 years was less than 700 000 tonnes of potatoes, 2 500 000 for sugar beet, and 4 500 000 tonnes for green maize per year.

Justification

The degree of humidity is more practical and less theoretical than dry equivalent.

Requesting data on an optional basis is not in line with the intention to keep costs and additional administrative burden at the lowest degree possible.

Precision requirements should not be included in a foot-note as part of the Annex but should be included in the main part of the Regulation, more specifically in Article 5 on precision requirements.

Amendment 33

Proposal for a regulation Annex II – Table 4

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Table 4 of Annex II - Land Use

deleted

Justification

The reference to land use and table 4 needs to be deleted as such information will already be available to the Commission in 2010, 2013 and 2016 pursuant to the Regulation of the EP and of the Council on farm structure surveys and the survey on agricultural production methods and repealing Council Regulation No. 571/88.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

European Commission

The Commission proposal is designed to simplify the current legislation, Council Regulation (EEC) No 837/90 of 26 March 1990 concerning statistical information to be supplied by the Member States on cereals production and 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, and adapt them to the new needs of the European Union.

The proposed Regulation ties in with the Commission's new political approach to the simplification of legislation and better regulation as referred to in the Communication of 14 November 2006 on "a strategic review of Better Regulation in the European Union"¹ and the Communication of 24 January 2007 on an "action programme for reducing administrative burdens in the European Union"².

The objective of this Regulation is the provision of statistics on land use and crop products by Member States. Statistics on crops are essential for management of the EU markets. It is also considered essential that vegetable and permanent crop statistics be covered in addition to statistics on cereals and remaining crops from arable land currently governed by legislation. Furthermore, the statistics to which this proposal relates are essential for management and evaluation of the common agricultural policy.

European Parliaments position

The rapporteur shares the opinion of the Commission that statistics on crops are essential for the management of EU markets and the evaluation of the common agricultural policy. The rapporteur considers most measures put forward by the Commission as rational and believes that they form a useful basis for simplifying the current legislation. The rapporteur welcomes the fact that in a substantial number of cases the Commission took over identical formulations already agreed on in previous statistical files.

However, some adaptations to the Commission proposal are foreseen by the rapporteur. First of all, some additions and adaptations in wording are needed to clarify and complete the reasoning of the Regulation. Furthermore, the rapporteur favours to clarify in the articles some of the provisions previously set out in the annexes.

Furthermore, the rapporteur considers that consideration shall be given to the principle that additional costs and burdens remain within reasonable limits and that the reference and requests for land use data (table 4) needs to be deleted as such information will already be available to the Commission in 2010, 2013 and 2016 pursuant to the Regulation of the EP and

¹ Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions COM(2006) 689 final: "A strategic review of Better Regulation in the European Union".

² Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions COM(2007) 23 final: "Action Programme for Reducing Administrative Burdens in the European Union".

of the Council on farm structure surveys and the survey on agricultural production methods and repealing Council Regulation no.571/88.

Moreover, with regard to the comitology provisions, there does not appear to be any reason why the regulatory procedure with scrutiny should not be applied to all implementing provisions. Therefore the rapporteur proposes to also lay down the provisions on quality reports using the regulatory procedure with scrutiny.

The inter-institutional agreement and Council Decision 2006/512/EC of 17 July 2006 make provision for the new regulatory procedure with scrutiny to be used in all cases where the basic instrument was adopted under the co-decision procedure and where it provides for the adoption of measures of general scope designed to amend non-essential elements of that instrument, inter alia by deleting some of those elements or by supplementing the instrument by the addition of new non-essential elements¹. The rapporteur takes the view that both criteria are met here. Therefore it is justifiable to apply the regulatory procedure with scrutiny.

The rapporteur suggests whether it would be appropriate to create synergy effects and thus integrate the recording of organic production into this or future proposals.

Finally, the rapporteur would like to see the inclusion of two provisions which will add to the objectives of better legislation, simplification, and reduction of the burden on respondents. The first provision makes sure that, in case of use of administrative sources, Member States shall inform the Commission in advance about methods used and the quality of data. The second provision makes sure that additional cost and burdens remain within reasonable limits.

¹ Article 2(2) (new) of Decision 2006/512/EC of 17 July 2006 amending Decision 1999/468/EC laying down the procedures for the exercise of implementing powers conferred on the Commission.

PROCEDURE

Title	Crop statistics		
References	COM(2008)0210 – C6-0179/2008 – 2008/0079(COD)		
Date submitted to Parliament	21.4.2008		
Committee responsible Date announced in plenary	AGRI 24.4.2008		
Rapporteur(s) Date appointed	Elisabeth Jeggle 6.5.2008		
Discussed in committee	9.9.2008	4.11.2008	2.12.2008
Date adopted	2.12.2008		
Result of final vote	+: 19 –: 0 0: 0		
Members present for the final vote	Vincenzo Aita, Niels Busk, Luis Manuel Capoulas Santos, Albert Deß, Gintaras Didžiokas, Carmen Fraga Estévez, Ioannis Gklavakis, Lutz Goepel, Friedrich-Wilhelm Graefe zu Baringdorf, Esther Herranz García, Lily Jacobs, Elisabeth Jeggle, Heinz Kindermann, Mairead McGuinness, Neil Parish, Agnes Schierhuber, Willem Schuth, Petya Stavreva		
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Maria Petre		