



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate E. Economic analysis, perspectives and evaluation; communication
Director

Brussels, **09 AVR. 2014**
EJ/atf_agri.ddg2.e.3(2014)1008917
ARES(2014)

Summary report

FARM ACCOUNTANCY DATA NETWORK (FADN)
EXPERT GROUP

DG AGRI – ROOM A, 11th floor
Rue de la Loi, 130

Date: Wednesday 19 March 2014 (from 10.00 to 11.30)

Chair: E. Jacquin

Present: 25 Member States were present. Cyprus, Greece and Romania were absent.

- 1. Exchange of views on a working document regarding a Delegated Act supplementing Council Regulation (EC) No 1217/2009 of 30 November 2009 setting up a network for the collection of accountancy data on the incomes and business operation of agricultural holdings in the European Union.**

The Commission first explained in general the process of alignment of the EU legislation with the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU). Then it explained the alignment of the Farm Accountancy Data Network (FADN) legislation with the TFEU and presented the timetable for the adoption of delegated and implementing acts related to the FADN. A presentation of the draft text for discussion of the Commission delegated regulation supplementing Council Regulation (EC) No 1217/2009 followed. The Commission stressed that the new, delegated Regulation is a consequence of the alignment, and that its role is to continue providing the farm accountancy data network with a functional legal framework in compliance with the requirements of the Lisbon treaty. Thus, its content complies with the above Council regulation and draws from the existing set of acts regulating the network, without substantial changes. Among others, it provides rules on setting value of the threshold of a minimum economic size of farms. That threshold remains the only criterion delimiting the FADN field of survey as set out in Regulation 1217/2009.

Experts from Member States made a number of questions and comments. On the legal matters, they asked about the planned number of delegated acts and the legality of provisions in article 7. The Commission answered that only one delegated act is planned for FADN, but its content may be changed if needed by amendments to this act. The formulation of Article 7 will be checked by the lawyers.

On substance, the longest discussion was about the proposed formulation of the rules for fixing the threshold delimiting the FADN field of survey. Experts raised concerns that the article lists a number of criteria which will not be met simultaneously by many farms, that information on some of these criteria could be difficult to find, and that application of these criteria to individual farms would exclude many of them from FADN. Some experts criticised the fact that the criteria are vague, for others it was an advantage. They also pointed to possible contradictions between certain criteria, e.g. the more market oriented farms the less farm labour they can engage. The Commission answered that the elements mentioned in the proposed Article 2 are not criteria applicable to individual holdings. The threshold of economic size expressed in euro of standard output remains the only criterion for delimiting the FADN field of survey, and all holdings of that minimum size are in the FADN field of survey. However, these criteria should be considered when deciding about the value of the threshold. It should be set at such level that the field of survey covers farm populations representing the largest share of agricultural output, agricultural area, and farm labour of market oriented holdings, while providing representative results with the means of the survey.

The other question was on the meaning of the "most recent" statistical reference sources referred to in Article 3. The Commission explained that it will use the most recent data available at Eurostat, and that Member States should take that into account. However, Member States may have access to data more recent than that, and the Commission will take that into account as well. In principle, there is no change to the current practice in this respect.

The Commission asked experts for more questions and suggestions to be sent by e-mail by the end of the week, and offered to provide a revised text for the next meeting of the expert group. The next meeting of the group was announced for 11 April 2014.



Tassos HANIOTIS

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS. FADN EXPERT GROUP, BRUSSELS 19/03/2014

PAYS	PARTICIPANTS	ORGANISATION
AUSTRIA	2	LBS Wirtschaftstreuhand Österreich A-Wien, Boerhaavegasse 6
BELGIUM	2	SPW DG ARNE Vlaams Ministerie van Landbouw en Visserij
BULGARIA	1	Ministry of Agriculture and Food.
DENMARK	1	Statistics Denmark
CROATIA	2	Agriculture Advisory Service Ministry of Agriculture
CYPRUS	0	
CZECH REPUBLIC	2	Research Institute for Agriculture Economics
ESTONIA	2	Rural Economy Research Centre Ministry of Agriculture
FINLAND	1	MTT Agrifood Research Finland
FRANCE	1	Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Agroalimentaire et de la Forêt
GERMANY	2	BMVEL
GREECE	0	
HUNGARY	1	Agricultural Economics Research Institute
IRELAND	1	Teagasc HQ
ITALY	2	INEA. Ministry of Agricultural Policy MIPAAF
LATVIA	1	Latvian State Institute of Agrarian Economics
LITHUANIA	1	Lithuanian Institute of Agrarian Economics
LUXEMBOURG	1	Ministre de l'Agriculture, Viticulture et Développement
MALTA	1	Ministre de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche
NETHERLANDS	1	LEI
POLAND	2	Institute of Agricultural and Food Economics - National Research Institute
PORTUGAL	1	Gabinete de Planeamento e Política Agro-Alimentar
ROMANIA	0	
SLOVAKIA	1	Research Institute of Agricultural and Food Economics
SLOVENIA	1	Ministrstvo za kmetijstvo, gozdarstvo in prehrano
SPAIN	2	Ministerio de Medio Ambiente, Medio Rural y Marino
SWEDEN	2	SCB Swedish Board of Agriculture
UNITED KINGDOM	2	DEFRA
EUROSTAT	1	
DG AGRI	12	