



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 6.5.2021  
C(2021) 3376 final*

*Dear Presidents,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Cortes Generales for their Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 138/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards regional economic accounts for agriculture {COM(2021) 54 final}.*

*It appreciates that the Cortes Generales decided to analyse this proposal and welcomes their conclusion that it complies with the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality.*

*Discussions between the Commission and the co-legislators, the European Parliament and the Council, concerning the proposal are now underway and the Commission remains hopeful that an agreement will be reached in the near future.*

*On the Cortes Generales observations, the Commission would like to reiterate that agricultural statistics are an important basis for supporting the design, decision-making, implementation and monitoring of key European Union and international policies such as the Common Agricultural Policy, the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies under the European Green Deal initiative, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.*

*The economic accounts for agriculture (EAA) provide a set of comparable data that offer important macroeconomic-level information to key users.*

*Member States have been providing Eurostat with national and regional economic accounts for agriculture since 2000, under the current methodology. However, regional level accounts have not been included in Regulation (EC) No 138/2004 on EAA but have been regularly transmitted by nearly all Member States under a gentlemen's agreement. This is suboptimal, as the statistics covered by the gentlemen's agreement are not formally part of the EAA, and there are no binding obligations or guarantee of delivery. Thus as regional economic accounts for agriculture are mature statistics that are*

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*important, they should be formalised by being included in Regulation (EC) No 138/2004 to ensure their quality.*

*Therefore, besides the formalisation of the regional accounts for agriculture, the current proposal also adds quality reporting requirements, and relaxes one data transmission deadline in order to improve data quality.*

*The Commission believes that the political dialogue with national Parliaments is essential for linking the institutions and the citizens of the European Union, and looks forward to continuing it with the Cortes Generales in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Maroš Šefčovič  
Vice-President*

*Paolo Gentiloni  
Member of the Commission*