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STANDING COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS (CPSA)

28-29 APRIL 2014

**STARTING ON 28 APRIL AT 9:30 AM AND PLANNED TO FINISH
ON 29 APRIL AT 1:00 PM**

**AMPERE, BECH BUILDING
KIRCHBERG, LUXEMBOURG**

CHAired BY: MR. DÍAZ MUÑOZ

3.3. FOLLOW-UP OF THE TASK FORCE ON LINKAGE ADMINISTRATIVE DATA WITH STATISTICS *

SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION:

From: EN FR DE PT

To: EN FR DE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The aim of this document is to report on the progress made with regards to the Task Force on linkage administrative data with statistics after the last CPSA and on the planned actions.

The Members of the CPSA are invited to:

- Take note of the progress made and of the planned actions;
- Comment on the proposed list of actions as well as make further suggestions aimed to achieve a higher use of administrative information without compromising data quality;
- Discuss actions involving Member States

1. Introduction

In the CPSA meeting in November 2013, the Commission reported on the outcome of the Task Force on the linkage of administrative data with statistics. A number of potential short-term and long-term actions were presented and discussed. The conclusion drawn was that the Commission will, in collaboration with Member States, further analyse the results of the discussion and carry out the actions identified.

2. Progress so far

The use of administrative sources in agricultural statistics is an important part of the work on the strategy on the future of agricultural statistics as described under point 3.2 of the agenda. The work on the implementing measures of the new CAP legislation is not yet finalised, which prevented the use of the final text of the IACS regulation as a basis for further work. On the other hand, in Eurostat the main focus has been on initialising the work on the Strategy for Agricultural Statistics and on continuing the work on the legislation for the Farm Structure Survey and on the work related to the Task Force on annual crop statistics. For these reasons, progress in this domain has been limited since the last CPSA meeting.

a. Short term actions identified:

- i. Work on concepts and definitions to be continued in collaboration between Eurostat and DG AGRI, with support from Member States, perhaps with an expert group with members from 2-3 countries:

It is planned to start this work in April or May, with an initial meeting between DG AGRI and Eurostat to map the issues at Commission level.

- ii. The existing overlap between administrative registers and statistical sources, both of units and common variables must be mapped:

This action will follow or be carried out in parallel with action (i), and will be initiated by DG AGRI and Eurostat.

- iii. The reasons for differences in figures obtained from IACS and agricultural statistics must be assessed:

This action will require the cooperation with Member States, as only they have detailed information on their respective IACS. Eurostat will, in cooperation with DG AGRI, put together country files based on the reports and statistics received, which then will be sent to CPSA members for further analyses of the reasons for the observed differences, in cooperation with the national Payment Agencies. The CPSA is asked to accept this suggestion for action. The planned launch of this action is June 2014.

- iv. In addition to the grants on improving the use of administrative data in agricultural statistics signed with AT, BG, HR, HU, LT, PL, and SI in 2013 and that are now running, Eurostat has reserved funding for grants up to 250.000€ to start up or improve, describe best practices and assist other countries in using administrative data:

The call for proposals is planned to be launched in May 2014.

If these actions prove successful, Eurostat will consider continuing this financing line in future exercises.

- v. Improve the communication and promotion efforts coordinated at EU and country level and collaboration with farmers unions to seek their support to promote national use of administrative sources:

This action is mainly to be carried out by Statistical Organisations and Payment Agencies at Member State level, as the actual use of administrative data will happen there. Eurostat is willing to support such actions, if necessary, either by providing supporting documents or by assisting in meetings in the Member States or other supporting actions as that may be requested by MS.

- vi. The reasons why certain countries did not use administrative data in FSS 2010 or 2013 should be identified:

A questionnaire is intended to be drafted by Eurostat during April and sent to the countries who reported that they had not, or to a very limited extent, used administrative information for the FSS 2013 and/or other agricultural statistics.

- vii. The data exchange within national systems, governance issues, organisation of information flows, development of data transmission processes, including IT should be improved.

This is clearly the responsibility for the Member States. CPSA members are invited to report on actions taken, either in the meeting or in writing.

b. Long term actions identified:

Legislative proposals that provide the necessary alignment of concepts and encourage more explicitly the use of administrative sources and eventually introduce an unique, common farm identifier in all national systems for 2020 for better linking administrative and statistical systems should be developed:

This action has been started in the framework of the Strategy of Agricultural Statistics that is scheduled under CPSA agenda item 3.2 where possible activities

suggested are guidelines for assessing the quality of administrative data, promoting the use of administrative and other sources to complement statistical surveys adaptation of concepts used in FSS to obtain an optimal alignment with those used for administrative registers and a proposal of a unique farm identification number to ensure the link between survey and administrative data and to simplify the update of statistical farm registers.