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# **STANDING COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS (CPSA)**

**28-29 APRIL 2014**

**STARTING ON 28 APRIL AT 9:30 AM  
AND FINISHING ON 29 APRIL AT 1:00 PM**

**AMPERE, BECH BUILDING  
KIRCHBERG, LUXEMBOURG**

**CHAired BY: MR. DÍAZ MUÑOZ**

**MINUTES\***

\* Document available on Circabc: <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/c4586750-3062-4014-b2bb-400569781c3a>

# Minutes of the Standing Committee for Agricultural Statistics (CPSA)

**28-29 April 2014**

## **Introduction**

The meeting was opened by Pedro Díaz Muñoz, Director of Directorate E, who welcomed the participants and informed the CPSA on organisational issues of this meeting. The Chair also thanked all Members States for the agreement reached on the new list of characteristics for the FSS 2016, by written procedure.

### **1. Items for approval / decision**

**1.1. Adoption of the agenda** (Doc. CPSA/717)  
The proposed draft agenda was approved.

**1.2. Adoption of the minutes of the previous meeting** (Doc. CPSA/716)  
The draft minutes of the meeting of 7-8 November 2014 were approved.

### **2. Issue for discussion and vote**

No items.

### **3. Issues for discussion and opinion/decision**

#### **3.1. Review of the CAP post 2013**

Emmanuel Jacquin, Head of Unit “Economic analysis of EU agriculture”, informed the committee about the process of the CAP reform. He highlighted the approval of delegated acts by Council and Parliament and he presented the new greening architecture of the CAP, the new framework of the EU's rural development policy and the new design of direct payments.

Several countries intervened appreciating and supporting the presentation and raising the following key points: (1) linkage between new indicators and data flows; (2) expectation as regard statistic information required from countries, in relation to the lower market policy.

The Chair concluded that Eurostat supports countries that would collaborate to describe and analyse the mapping of the existing data flows and underlined that the review of the CAP gives rise to new statistical need, as more fully covered in the next item.

### **3.2. Strategy for agricultural statistics for 2020 and beyond**

**(Doc. CPSA/718)**

#### *Introduction*

Eurostat reported on the progress made with regard to the strategic plan for development of future agricultural statistics 2020 and beyond. Document prepared for the forthcoming ESSC meeting was presented, alongside the preliminary list of actions and an outline of the roadmap for the implementation of the proposed strategic review on agricultural statistics. The Members of the CPSA were asked to comment on the proposal, in particular the plan to set up a Discussion Group (i.e. PG+), reporting to the CPSA, to steer this process.

#### *Discussions*

There was an overall general support for the proposed roadmap for development of the strategic review of the agricultural statistics, while being acknowledged that this is the preliminary reflection which would be continued. Eurostat confirmed that it is intended to be further developed, and once the green light is given by the ESSC, a plan will be made to tackle the necessary issues and establish the order of priority.

A number of nine Member States (i.e. PG members + AU+FIN+FR) have expressed interest to participate in the Discussion Group, and others volunteers can ask to participate before mid-May, underlying however that an idea of the required workload would be necessary, as most of the administrations face human resources constraints. It was underlined that while it is indeed important to look into harmonisation and synergies between a number of agricultural domains, the goals should remain realistic and the main focus should be the new system and related legal act for the FSS. The existing data flow inventory should be used as a basis in order to avoid overlaps and aid optimisation of data collections. In the context of the Discussion Group a number of Member States expressed the opinion that a dedicated financial support should be provided by the Commission for expert participation and Eurostat confirmed that there will probably be possibilities for getting financial support in relation to this.

Question was raised related to the burden of the new system and it was clarified that as the new legal act will be developed, the impact assessment is foreseen to analyse the impact on the burden in a systematic way. A further reflection was made on whether the concept of the new modular FSS system should be further discussed and Eurostat expressed the position that regarding the details of variable allocation and collection frequency for specific modules still discussion can be envisaged, the overall intention remains to base the new system on alternating core, module and satellites surveys.

#### *Conclusions*

There was a positive overall reaction from the Member States on further developing the strategic review of agricultural statistics. In the next ESSC meeting in May 2014, the Committee will be requested to give their mandate to the CPSA to launch the Discussion Group and steer the work on the strategy for agricultural statistics towards 2020 and beyond. The proposal will be to focus on the development of the new legal act for the FSS, while in parallel to look into synergies and harmonisation possibilities with other agricultural domains. A more detailed roadmap with the list of issues and ways to approach them will be presented for discussion in the next CPSA meeting in November 2014.

### **3.3. Follow-up of the Task Force on linkage administrative data with statistics**

**(Doc. CPSA/719)**

Eurostat presented the actions taken to follow-up the recommendations of the Task Force, stressing the fact that due to the fact that the final achievement of the implementation

regulations for the reviewed CAP towards 2020 has taken longer than expected, and that Eurostat had invested resources on the draft strategy on agricultural statistics, there was a certain delay of progress. Eurostat then went on to present the plans of action for the actions identified in the CPSA meeting in November 2013. Many of them would be launched in cooperation between DG AGRI and Eurostat in May-June 2014. The other ones would rely very much on activities in Member States, both financial and other support could be available from the Commission.

In the discussion it was stressed that the recent changes in the CAP would increase the level of details in IACS, making it possible to better feed data needs; that not only IACS is a potential source; and that it is necessary to ensure that the concepts are the same. Some fears were voiced on the quality of the data from administrative sources, especially linked to the coverage and potential wrong information. It was also reminded that it would be necessary for statisticians to early be involved in setting up new administrative registers and that they can also be used for other statistical purposes than replacing data collection, for example for validation.

The Chair stressed that even though there are many problems linked to the use of administrative data, there are also many opportunities for statisticians. He agreed that the changes to the CAP might give new possibilities, and promised that Eurostat and DG AGRI would look into this.

### **3.4. Implementation of the Regulation on Permanent Crop Statistics (Regulation (EU) No 1337/2011 ) (Doc. CPSA/720)**

#### *Introduction*

Eurostat presented the draft Implementing Regulation on vineyard data transmission (Annex 2) linked to the implementation of Regulation (EU) 1337/2011. The data collection will take place in 2015 and the transmission deadline is at the end of September 2016.

The data transmission format follows the Eurostat standards and will be based on SDMX and Single Entry Point. The draft Implementing Regulation was thoroughly commented by the Crop Statistics Working Group members in March-April 2014. The first proposal made by Eurostat suggested to combine two tables and two code lists into one for making the tables more comparable and compact. In the consultation of the Working Group some countries brought up the opinion that this would lead to a considerable increase of confidential data in smaller wine-producing countries. As a consequence Eurostat reformulated the draft Implementing Regulation in co-operation with DG AGRI to correspond fully the table structure of Regulation 1337/2011.

Originally Eurostat was planning to submit the final Implementing Regulation for the vote of the CPSA in the meeting of 28-29 April. However, the preparation of the draft Regulation took more time than expected and it became necessary postponing the vote and organizing it in a written procedure later in the first half of 2014.

#### *Discussion*

The Member States had no comments on the content of the draft Implementing Regulation on data transmission for vineyards data. Several countries called for more co-ordination and alignment of EU statistics on vine and wine with the OIV (International Organisation of Vine and Wine). In particular it was pointed out that it is important to avoid overlapping data transmission requirements with the two organisations. One country asked for further clarifications for the content of Tables 2, 6 and 10. Two countries pointed out that the vineyard register should be used as the only data source for providing the statistics on

vineyards under Regulation 1337/2011. Finally, it was asked in the future to envisage to take the decisions on new Regulations again mainly in the meetings and not by written procedure.

### *Conclusions and next steps*

Eurostat will issue later this year a Handbook on vineyard data where the technical details will be clarified. This will include also detailed instructions on the allowed data sources. Eurostat confirmed that the statistics can be provided using the data available in the vineyard register. The vote on the Implementing Regulation will take place in June by asking the CPSA Members to vote through a written procedure. Eurostat will strengthen the links with the OIV and with DG AGRI for the future developments in vineyard statistics.

## **3.5. Progress report on land rents and prices**

**(Doc. CPSA/721)**

### *Introduction*

Eurostat informed the CPSA members on the latest developments regarding the data collection for agricultural land prices and rents and provision based on a common target methodology. The presentation dealt with two main issues:

- Situation of both the data sets at the time of the meeting and the on-going grant developments and the envisaged grant agreements on land prices and rents, and
- Proposal of the Eurostat strategy to ensure the completeness and regularity of statistics on agricultural land prices and rents.

Eurostat reported about the situation of datasets and the programme of grants launched in 2011 to help countries provide data in this area, according to the common methodology agreed by the Working Party “Agricultural Accounts and Prices” (AAP). Several Member States have received co-financing projects implemented in 2011-2012. Eurostat received in 2013 six other applications. In case of agreement and sufficient funding, working with other countries could be envisaged for 2014-2015.

As regards the strategy to ensure the sustainability of these statistics and following the high political demands, Eurostat has reached the conclusion that in the medium term the only way to achieve it is by a firm legal base also covering the prices of agricultural products. A feasibility study for legislation covering all agricultural price statistics would be carried out in the context of the overall strategy for agricultural statistics, which will be launched in the next few years.

For decision-making, Eurostat believes that the roadmap could have the following:

- Confirmation and possible adjustment of the common methodology in close cooperation with Eurostat C2 Unit, before the end of 2014;
- Continuation for the period 2014-2015 co-financing pilot projects presently initiated in several volunteer countries;
- Feasibility study of the proposed legislation, to be carried out in 2014;
- Implementation of a Commission regulation for a transitional period of three years from 2015 to 2017, providing data for the years 2014, 2015 and 2016, after the submission of a draft text to the meeting of the CPSA of November 2014, which is planned to be adopted by the ESS Committee in February 2015;
- Implementation of a Regulation of the Council and the European Parliament as from 2017, with a view to the provision of data for the years from 2017, after the submission of a proposal to the Council in 2016.

### *Discussion*

Several delegations explained their position, either they supported or not the presented proposal.

Some Member States addressed that the methodology was not enough mature and should be discussed further in the corresponding Working Party, asking for more time for gathering information/ sources. On the other hand, other Member States asked for keeping a flexible methodological approach. Other Member States expressed their reserves about the timeliness and comparability of the figures at EU level. Finally, some countries announced upcoming data submissions.

Some Member States pointed out the tight restrictions for a Commission Regulation based on Article 14 of reg. 223/2009 and questioned the need for a legal base concerning the broad range of agricultural price statistics, taking into account the huge amount of price data available in DG AGRI.

Eurostat addressed that the methodology to be used for the compilation of land prices and rents would be based on the concepts and definitions set out in the Compilation guide on land value estimations, that is currently being drawn up by the Eurostat C2 Unit "National and regional accounts production. Balance of payments". The addition of a chapter to this guide on agricultural land was decided and it would reflect the common methodology previously prepared and approved by the AAP Working Party.

### *Conclusion*

After the round of interventions, the Chairman thanked the efforts of the MS and expressed that the timetable submitted is a proposal and even the eventual coverage of all the prices by the Regulation could be considered by Eurostat for the moment. Other issues such as methodological adjustments can be discussed in the AAP Working Party. Finally the Chairman concluded that the situation is sufficiently mature to move ahead with the current proposal.

## **3.6. Activities of the working groups in agricultural statistics (Doc. CPSA/722)**

Eurostat presented the main outcome and progress made in meetings on agricultural statistics since the last CSPA meeting held in November 2013.

The working group on agricultural accounts and prices was held on 2-3 December 2013. The main issues discussed were: (1) Economic accounts for Agriculture (EAA) for 2013 ; (2) Methodology on the production of wine and olive oil ; (3) On-farm renewable energy production; (4) GDP estimates ; (5) The on-going rebasing of agricultural price indices 2010=100.0 ; (6) Land prices and rents – see item 3.5 ; (7) Food Price Monitoring Tool, and ESS.VIP Validation. DG Agri presented two points : (a) CAP reform and (b) Productivity in agriculture. The next Working Group on Agricultural Accounts and Prices will meet on 2-3 December 2014.

The working group on Farm Structure Survey was held on 24-25 February 2014. The main issues discussed were: (1) Contents of the definitions of the new list of characteristics FSS2016; (2) Development of a standalone tool for the FSS 2013 data validation; (3) Presentation of a draft template for the NMRs in the frame of FSS 2013 and a new transmission format, to be used for the quality reports: the ESS metadata handler (ESS-MH); (4) Input from countries about their schedule data delivery for FSS 2013; (5) Overview of possible requirements for future FSS from 2020 onwards.

The working group on Animal production statistics was held on 13-14 March 2014. The four following issues were discussed the CPSA:

- The report on data collection of monthly statistics on slaughtering carried out other than in slaughterhouses (other slaughtering) was well received. Amending Regulation (EC) No 1165/2008 appeared as irrelevant because the question is not of major importance for most Member States. However, continuity of data collection was considered as useful and the CPSA decided extending the gentlemen's agreement in addition to the requirements of the Regulation.
- The CPSA stated that a gentlemen's agreement appeared as adequate for the purpose of methodological developments for the collection of statistics on production of eggs for human consumption. Moreover, the Commission should clarify the data flows on eggs for consumption in order to avoid overlapping.
- The need for meeting a Task Force on data validation in animal production statistics was confirmed. The CPSA highlighted that it should not cover discussions about IT tools. Eurostat informed that, due to the small number of countries having volunteered so far (only Italy, Poland and Romania), a single meeting would be held in autumn 2013. The Working Party on Animal Production Statistics will be consulted to propose more experts to participate to the Task Force.
- Finally, the CPSA gave a mandate to the Commission for drafting non-binding guidelines on Gross Indigenous Production (GIP) forecasting.

### **3.7. Timeliness and compliance assessment (Doc. CPSA/723)**

Eurostat presented an overview of Member States' compliance with agricultural statistics data delivery deadlines and stressed the importance of respecting the transmission deadlines to ensure the proper management, dissemination and use of EU statistics. Eurostat thanked Member States for respecting the transmission timetables and welcomed improvements of data completeness, accuracy and timeliness. Member States' delegates welcomed the initiative of this type of assessment and encouraged Eurostat to continue to report on eventual outstanding or incomplete data deliveries, by providing an overview together with the actions taken so far as a basis for constructive discussions in CPSA meeting.

### **3.8. CPSA Seminar follow up actions and future plans (Doc. CPSA/724)**

Eurostat informed the CPSA on draft planning of November 2014 seminar. It will be held in Luxembourg, lasting a day and a half, and a Luxembourgish farm visit is scheduled.

M Hoffman, economic advisor of Agriculture Ministry, detailed the program of the seminar as regard linkage between the farm accounting data network (FADN) in Luxembourg and the agricultural statistics collected by statistical institute. The Chair thanked LU for having accepted to host the planned farm visit and for the appreciated collaboration on organisation of the seminar.

The Chair reported on the conclusions from the CPSA seminar in November 2013 and the potential actions that could be followed in the frame of the Strategy of Agricultural statistics, during the November 2014 seminar.

#### **4. Issues mainly for discussion and information**

##### **4.1. State of art of legislation for agricultural statistics**

Eurostat informed the CPSA members on the draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation 1200/2009 as regards livestock unit coefficients and definitions of the characteristics for FSS 2016. During the last FSS working group, on the 24-25<sup>th</sup> February, a virtual Task Force, was put in place working on definition of the characteristics, which are waiting for approval in the next CPSA meeting or, eventually, by written procedure.

Eurostat referred that the Council and EP Regulation, concerning the budgetary framework for FSS 2014-2018 amending Regulation (EC) No 1166/2008, was adopted on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April (Regulation (EU) No 378/2014) and published in the Official Journal on the 24<sup>th</sup> of April. It would allow the co-financing procedure for the farm structure survey 2016 to start, before the end of 2014.

Moreover, Eurostat stated that the approval of Omnibus Regulation, aligning the FSS legislation (Regulation (EC) No 1166/2008) to Lisbon Treaty, launched by Secretariat General of the Commission was not expected before the end of 2014.

As discussed more deeply in the item 3.4., Eurostat informed the committee on Commission Regulation for the implementation of the Vineyard survey belonging to the Permanent crop statistics Regulation (No 1337/2011) has been prepared for approval by written procedure in June or July.

##### **4.2. Developments at international level**

**(Doc. CPSA/725)**

Eurostat and FAO informed about the latest developments in their cooperation. The main aims of this reinforced cooperation are the reduction of the data collection burden, the improvement of data quality and the increase in the coherence of the disseminated data. FAO started to present a brief history of cooperation with concrete cases which have shown improvements. Then, main challenges for a reinforced cooperation and possible solutions were presented. Eurostat finally introduced a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that is being discussed with the Statistics division of the FAO.

The participants welcomed the progress in the cooperation between Eurostat and FAO. In particular, the preparation of the MoU was considered as a major step forward. It was agreed that the preference should be given to the approach where FAO would extract the data from Eurostat dissemination database after it has been fully validated by Eurostat. This approach would not create difficulties linked to confidential data. The participants also considered that the coordination group that would be put in place to follow the implementation of the MoU would not require the participation of Member States, but the CPSA should play a role in steering the whole process. As far as the implementation work is concerned, it should be followed, domain by domain, in the relevant Working Groups.

It was decided to consult the CPSA representatives after the meeting, in order to get their view on the draft MoU, in particular for the following issues: (a) areas where the cooperation is the most urgent (b) main risks and challenges (c) possibility for Eurostat to collect data that would only be of interest for FAO (d) possibility to transmit to FAO the national quality or methodological reports (e) convergence of commodity codes used by Eurostat and "CPC2.1 extended" used by FAO (f) convergence towards common concepts and definitions.



#### **4.3. Developments in fisheries statistics**

**(Doc. CPSA/726)**

Eurostat informed about the latest developments in Fisheries statistics. The following points were presented (a) production work, data quality and confidentiality (b) a report being prepared by the European Court of Auditors on aquaculture (c) the cooperation with DG MARE including a draft action plan. The main purpose of this cooperation is reducing overlaps and burden in data collection and processing. Eurostat could, in the future, reuse MARE data on fish catches and potentially aquaculture to produce statistics.

Overlaps in the fish catches and aquaculture data collected by DG MARE and Eurostat were discussed. The responsibilities between DG MARE and Eurostat in the data collection, validation, production and dissemination process should be clearly defined. Confidential data and the collection of data for EFTA countries were identified as key issues if DG MARE would collect some data instead of Eurostat.

Eurostat concluded that Eurostat works closely with DG MARE in order to avoid double data collection in the future. The new data needs of DG MARE for aquaculture should fully take into account what is currently collected by Eurostat. In the possible future framework for statistical data production, Eurostat would be responsible for methodological support, data quality and the production and dissemination of statistical aggregates. In order to optimise the data collection between the 2 DGs, the current legal framework of Eurostat could be reviewed in the future.

#### **4.4. Projects for improving agri-environmental statistics**

**(Doc. CPSA/727)**

Eurostat reported on the recent progress in agri-environmental statistics, mentioning the good cooperation with FAO and OECD, the certain lack of data on nutrient balances, and the difficulties met in pesticide statistics, due to technical and methodological problems. In addition, Eurostat informed on the results of projects (both grants and contracts) and that there would be a call for proposals for grants on improvement actions launched in May 2014.

One country reported that they had met problems with parallel import of pesticides, to be more precise there are companies on their market without a proper representative in the country and the sales from these companies are sometimes difficult to attain.

Another country informed that it was not completely agreeing with the methodology for calculating excretion factors that Eurostat in collaboration with Alterra from Wageningen University had recently presented in a workshop. In addition, this country complained that no information on the LUCAS project had been given in the meeting, especially as Eurostat publishes data from LUCAS on its website that have not been approved by Member States and that is not in line with national data.

Eurostat reported that LUCAS would be discussed in a Working group later in the year, and that the issues raised by one delegate could be further elaborated there.

#### **4.5. ESSC meeting and outcome latest Dimesa meeting**

**(Doc. CPSA/728)**

The Chair highlighted the awareness of ESS Comity on the importance of agriculture and the future of agricultural statistics. In fact, in the next ESSC meeting, which would take place on 14-15<sup>th</sup> May, the 13<sup>th</sup> item of ESSC agenda concerns the presentation of Mr Plewa, Director General of DG AGRI on EU agriculture and the 14<sup>th</sup> item concerns a plan for setting up a strategy for agricultural statistics to 2020 and beyond. In this frame, the ESS Comity would be asked to give a mandate to the Director Group for Agricultural Statistics to start work to develop an action plan.

The Chair referred to two important points discussed on last Dimesa meeting, which took place on 10-11<sup>th</sup> April, concerning the review of forestry statistics and the water statistics in the aim to best identify data need by users and to avoid overlaps and gaps in data collection.

Finally, the committee was informed that a joint EEA management board / DIMESA workshop will take place in Luxembourg on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

#### **4.6. Financial issues**

The group was informed of the planned grants for 2014:

- Pilot data collection on egg consumption (reception of proposals in May),
- Investigation on data validation in animal production statistics in the framework of the VIP validation project (reception of proposals in June),
- Investigation through pilot studies for improving agri-environmental statistics (reception of proposals in July)
- Pilot studies in the framework of the IACS (not already launched; probably reception of proposals in July).

#### **4.7. Report of the last CPSA Partnership Group meeting (Doc. CPSA/729)**

The outcome of the meeting of the CPSA Partnership group held on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2014 was presented. Minutes of this Partnership group was available in CIRCABC after approval by the participants of the CPSA Partnership group. It was decided as well that Ruth Brand would be replaced by Paloma Seoane Spiegelberg as from the next meeting of CPSA Partnership group. The chair thanked Ruth for her very cooperative and active support to the CPSA partnership group over the last years.

#### **4.8. Meeting schedule 2014**

Eurostat presented the updated dates of meetings of the CPSA, Working Groups and Task Forces for 2014. The meeting plan was available in CIRCABC and delegates were reminded to inform Eurostat in time of changes in delegates appointed for the meetings as well as eventual requests for interpretation request to be made available in the meetings. The latter requests have to be addressed at least 6 months before the planned concerned meetings to Eurostat, Directorate E.

#### **5. Any other business**

No items.

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

BE	Institut National de Statistique
BG	Ministry of Agriculture and Food
CZ	Czech Statistical Office
DK	Statistics Denmark
DE	Statistisches Bundesamt, Zweigstelle Bonn Statistikamt Nord Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft (BMEL)
IE	Central Statistics Office of Ireland
EL	Hellenic Statistical Authority (EL.STAT.)
EE	Statistical Office of Estonia Ministry of Agriculture
ES	Instituto Nacional de Estadística Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente
FR	Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Agroalimentaire et de la Forêt
IS	Statistics Iceland
HR	Central Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Croatia
IT	ISTAT Agriculture Ministry
CY	Excused
LV	Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia
LT	Statistics Lithuania
LU	STATEC Ministère de l'Agriculture, de la Viticulture et de la Protection des Consommateurs
MT	National Statistics Office
HU	Hungarian Central Statistical Office Ministry of Rural Development
NL	Statistics Netherlands Ministry of Economic Affairs
NO	Statistics Norway
AT	Statistik Österreich Bundesministerium für Land- und Forstwirtschaft, Umwelt und Wasserwirtschaft
PL	Central Statistical Office
PT	Instituto Nacional de Estatística
RO	National Institute of Statistics
SK	Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic
SI	Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia
FI	Information Centre of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
SE	Statistics Sweden Jordbruksverket (Swedish Board of Agriculture)
CH	National Statistical Office
UK	DEFRA
TR	Turkish Statistical Institute
AL	INSTAT Institute of Statistics, Albania
BA	BHAS - Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina
KS	Kosovo Agency of Statistics
MK	State Statistical Office of the Republic of Macedonia
ME	Statistical Office of Montenegro (MONSTAT)
RS	Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia