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**\* Please note that paper copies of the documents will not be provided at the meeting\***

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

11-12 November 2014

**AMPERE, BECH BUILDING  
KIRCHBERG, LUXEMBOURG**

**CHAIRMAN: MR. MARCEL JORTAY**

### **ITEM 4.1: STRATEGY FOR AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS TOWARDS 2020 AND BEYOND**

\* Document available on Circabc: <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/5b39fe71-0e2f-409e-bf52-0713ec8cf4a7>

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of this document is to inform the Standing Committee for Agricultural Statistics (SCAS) on progress made with regards to the development of the plan for setting up a strategy for Agricultural Statistics towards 2020 and beyond.

### ***The Members of the SCAS are invited to:***

- Take note of the progress made and the planned actions;
- Provide their opinion on the proposed actions;

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The first discussions around the new strategy for agricultural statistics towards 2020 and beyond were raised in a seminar and meeting of the CPSA which took place in November 2013.

During the SCAS Committee hold on 28-29<sup>th</sup> April 2014, Eurostat presented a document concerning the development of a strategic reflection on agricultural statistics for 2020 and beyond. The proposal focused on looking into synergies and harmonisation possibilities with other agricultural domains whilst in parallel developing a new legal act for the Farm Structure Survey (FSS.) The Members of the CPSA supported this preliminary reflection and some members expressed interest to participate in a discussion group, named Partnership Group Plus, steering this process and reporting to the SCAS.

As a follow-up, during the last European Statistical System Committee (ESSC-Director Generals of National Statistical Institutes) meeting, the Committee gave the mandate to the SCAS to launch the reflection on the strategy for agricultural statistics towards 2020 and beyond.

Understanding the needs for agricultural information is the key issue for defining the strategy and design of an architecture for future agricultural statistics. In last June, Eurostat asked DG AGRI, DG CLIMA, DG ENV, DG SANCO and the JRC to provide a list of the new data needs in the agricultural statistics area, with information on their required frequency, level of detail and purpose for which this data would be used. The received data needs were summarized and shared.

In a next step, Eurostat asked Partnerships Group Plus members<sup>1</sup> to provide, during the summer, their input on prioritizing the main issues to be considered in the strategy for agricultural statistics.

On 11<sup>th</sup> September 2014, Eurostat organised a meeting with 13 Member States representatives to discuss the new data needs, their order of priority and a realistic timeframe for implementation of the Strategy. It was agreed that 3 subgroups would be set up. Subgroup 1 would discuss "Future data needs", subgroup 2 "Data collection modes and data flows", and subgroup 3 "Main issues to be considered for the future of agricultural statistics".

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<sup>1</sup>PG members + DK, FR, HU, NL, AT, FI and UK

## 2. ESS COMMITTEE MANDATE

The item 2014/21/14 of ESSC meeting hold on 14-15<sup>th</sup> May 2014 concerned a plan for setting up a strategy for Agricultural Statistics towards 2020 and beyond. After discussion, a mandate was given to the Standing Committee on Agricultural Statistics (CPSA), in its function as Directors' Group, to start developing an action plan on this issue

### **Agenda item ESSC 2014/21/14**

#### **A Plan for setting up a strategy for Agricultural Statistics to 2020 and beyond**

##### **A. Presentation**

1. Eurostat introduced the document proposing an in depth reflection on the future of agricultural statistics as well as the need for the development of a new approach for the Farm Structure Survey after 2016 by applying a more efficient and flexible system based on core, module and satellite surveys. An integrated approach for agricultural statistics needs to ensure coherence between different agricultural statistics in a cost effectiveness way and involve all stakeholders, i.e. data users and data providers.
2. The attention of the ESSC was drawn to the fact that agricultural statistics need to be looked at in a holistic manner but developed stepwise to allow flexibility in implementation of future data collection processes.
3. The ESSC was asked to give mandate to the Standing Committee on Agricultural Statistics (CPSA) to start a discussion on strategy for the future of agricultural statistics.

##### **B. Discussion**

1. A majority of the Member States expressed their support for the establishment of a plan for setting up a strategy for agricultural statistics to 2020 and beyond.
2. One delegation put forward its opinion that the proposed Commission Regulation for land prices and rents has to be seen as a transitional temporary (maximum 3 years) solution, testing the feasibility to produce harmonised data for land prices and rents.
3. Another delegation asked for the details of the plan to be discussed by the Standing Committee on Agricultural Statistics. Furthermore, it emphasised the fact that a regulation on land prices based on a Commission act, and without any discussion in the Council and European Parliament, would not be supported by the relevant Ministry in this Member State.
4. Eurostat concluded that the ESSC is in favour of the proposed strategy for agricultural statistics and mandate was given to the Standing Committee on Agricultural Statistics (CPSA), in its function as Directors' Group, to start work to develop an action plan on this issue.

### **3. STRATEGY FOR AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS 2020 AND BEYOND**

#### **3.1. INTRODUCTION – TOWARDS A TARGET AGRICULTURAL SYSTEM**

Agricultural data needs are evolving constantly due to the changes in the policy context – in particular the new CAP - and the complex inter-links with environmental issues, climate change and rural development aspects.

The Farm Structure Survey (FSS) is the backbone of agricultural statistics. It is used for monitoring the structural changes in farms and the farming practices. The legal basis for FSS expires after the 2016 survey and hence a new legal framework is needed for the period 2020-2027 in order to continue the existing data series by providing good quality information on the (changes in) agriculture. At the same time it is necessary to find a way for providing quality data to feed the new and ad-hoc data needs.

Eurostat proposes to use this as an opportunity and has therefore requested the ESSC to give mandate to the CPSA to start the process of reflection on the overall Strategy for agricultural statistics 2020 and beyond. It is vital to steer the development of the future agricultural statistics towards a flexible system linking the various data collection blocks together in an integrated harmonised system, favouring a Vision orientated approach and achieving possible synergies between different existing data collections. In the time of reduced human and financial resources, it is important to investigate the possibilities for taking advantage of the possible synergies between different data collections in the field of agricultural statistics (FSS, crop statistics, animal statistics, FADN, etc.)

A proper understanding of the (new) data needs is the first and necessary pillar for any further investigations. On this basis, and in connection with the mapping of the already existing information and data flows, it will be possible to get a clearer picture of the European agricultural statistical system needed in the forthcoming years – our Target Agricultural System (Fig.1.). Further issues, such as scope of agricultural statistics, time and scale dimensions, methodological aspects, units and thresholds are to be further addressed, along with the reflection on the data collection modes and available instruments such as geo-referencing or unique farm ID.

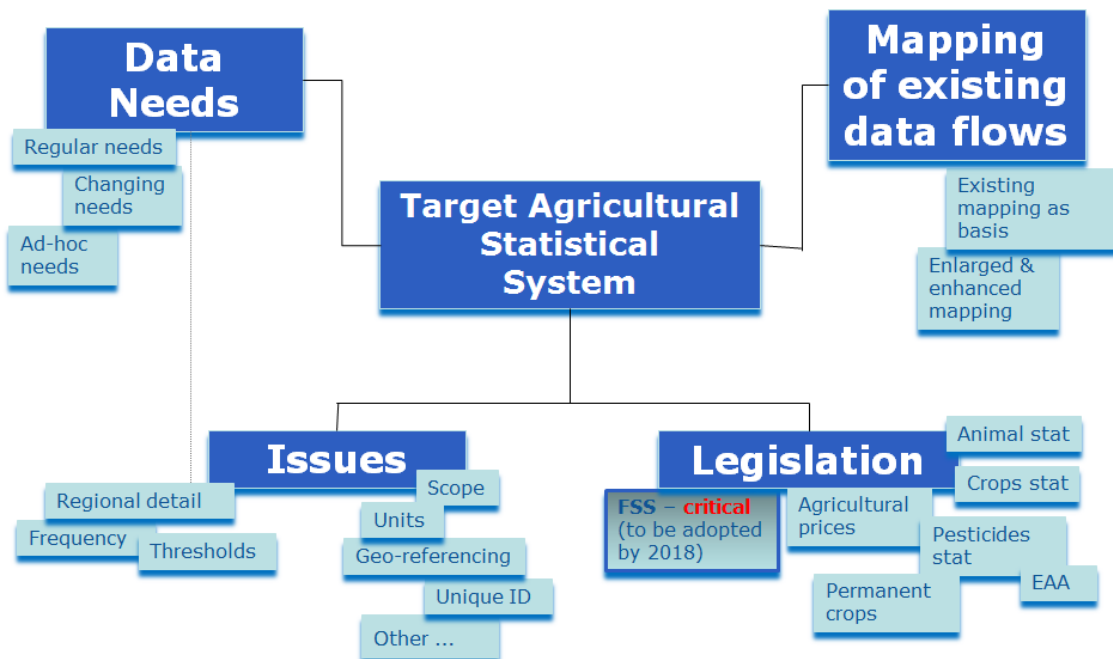


Fig.1. Towards the target agricultural statistical system 2020 and beyond

### 3.2. STATUS OF THE PROCESS

The first discussions around the new strategy for agricultural statistics towards 2020 and beyond were raised in a seminar and meeting of the CPSA which took place in November 2013. In the recent ESSC meeting, the committee gave a mandate to the CPSA to start the process of reflection on the Strategy for agricultural statistics 2020 and beyond. As a follow-up, and in agreement with the CPSA, Eurostat enhanced the mapping of current data flows in agricultural statistics and started identifying the main issues to be addressed in the process as well as launched an exercise with the partner DGs in the Commission with an objective of identifying the data needs, all of which is described in more details below.

#### 3.2.A. DATA NEEDS – ON-GOING EXERCISE WITH PARTNER DGs

Understanding the needs for agricultural information is the most important input for defining the strategy and design of an architecture for future agricultural statistics. Besides the types of data needed, the details, regional breakdowns and required frequency needs to be defined. On this basis, and complemented by the mapping of the existing information, it will be possible to get a clearer picture of the European agricultural statistical system needed in the forthcoming years.

Therefore, Eurostat launched an exercise with the partner DGs (DG AGRI, DG CLIMA, DG ENV, DG SANCO and JRC) requesting to provide a list (in order of priority) of the expected future data needs in the agricultural statistics area, as well as indicating their desired frequency, level of detail and purpose for which this data would be used.

The details of this exercise and results so far received can be found in Annex I. Additional replies from partner DGs will be included in due course.

### **3.2.B. MAPPING OF AGRICULTURAL DATA FLOWS**

The initial mapping exercise has already been performed and consisted of two main steps:

#### *a) Screening of agricultural statistics*

The objective of this exercise was to get an overview of the statistics collected and identify the possible overlaps (or gaps) between the different surveys. Farm Structure Surveys (Reg. 1166/2008) was used as a basis for the screening and compared with EAA, crops and animal statistics.

#### *b) Comparison of different surveys*

This exercise had a broader scope and included an analysis of the following surveys: Farm Structure Survey (FSS), Farm Accounting Data Network (FADN), Crop statistics, Livestock statistics and Permanent crops. These primary surveys were chosen because they relate to farm level information. The objective of this exercise was also broader, and it included a comparison of the reference periods, coverage, scope, geographic level and time aspects. Additionally the purpose of the surveys and their main clients/users were considered and a list of all synergetic characteristics was made.

The results of both these exercises were a starting point for assessing the current situation with respect to the desired target system of agricultural statistics. For completeness, the existing mapping was further developed to enlarge the analysis by including - except for FSS, crops statistics, animal statistics, FADN and permanent crops, also the Economic Accounts for Agriculture (EAA). It has also been further enhanced to include in the analysis additional aspects such as thresholds, frequency, population and precision aspects. The final results of the enhanced mapping of agricultural statistics are summarised in Annex II.

This mapping may still need to be completed taking into account other elements. Also, the lessons drawn from the exercise should be transformed into issues to be included in the list mentioned in the next section.

### **3.2.C. OUTLINE OF THE MAIN ISSUES**

There are a number of issues to be considered when defining the strategy and design of the future agricultural statistics. Some issues are of more general nature, and should be considered in the context of the whole agricultural statistical system, others are more specific for the FSS, and a number of them are inter-connected. The outline of the main issues includes:

- Basic issues (scope of agriculture and definition of harmonised agricultural unit)
- Infrastructure issues (registers, statistical units and links with other administrative data sources)
- Coherence issues (within the numerous agricultural domains)
- Methodological issues (alignment and harmonisation of the concepts)
- Technical issues (list of characteristics and level of detail to be provided)
- Organisational aspects (frequency of the surveys, census vs. sample surveys)

- Financing elements (budgetary resources, grant management)
- Legal aspects (legal architecture - the future framework regulation with associated implementing acts)

All these aspects need to be approached in a systematic way in the development of strategy for the future agricultural statistics. An initial reflection devoted to the launch of the strategy analysed the main aspects to be considered, breaking them into issues and describing the related difficulties and challenges – it is presented in the following Table:



**Table 1 – Main issues to be considered in the Strategy for agriculture 2020 and beyond**

<i>Issue</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Difficulty/Challenge</i>	<i>Order of priority</i>	<i>Action plan</i>
<b>Future data needs</b>	Understanding the need for agricultural information is a key to defining the design of architecture for future agricultural statistics. There are a number of information requirements linked to on-going policy developments, in particular related to the review of the CAP as well as climate change, environmental and food chain monitoring policies, which require a sound system of agricultural statistics to fit the purpose.	Needs are evolving according to policy and societal concerns - new and ad-hoc needs may emerge.  Prioritisation is needed and the level of difficulty should be assessed, in order to balance the new needs against what is realistically feasible.	High	Exercise with partner DGs is ongoing. The first results are presented in Annex I
<b>Changing and ad-hoc data needs</b>	Needs are evolving according to policy and societal concerns so that new and ad-hoc needs may emerge and a flexible way of addressing them should be established. In relation to this there would be a need for development of a method for establishing certain fixed maximum 'volume' of the surveys allowing for adapting to the changing needs via comitology, while assuring the overall burden would remain the same.	Ideally the legal framework would provide a certain flexibility to adapt the characteristics to be collected or their precision – however in practice the data collection is often subject to financial and legal constraints and needs lengthy and intensive preparation and there is understandable reluctance of data providers towards flexible solutions in the absence of possibility for an objective measuring of the burden.		
<b>Mapping of existing data flows</b>	There are certain overlaps and synergies in different agricultural data collection systems which could be taken advantage of, for simplification and efficiency gains.	While certain elements could be overlapping, it could be difficult to integrate them without trade-offs, due to differences in the objectives and the purpose served by different surveys.	High	Analysis of the agricultural datasets related to the structure of farms, production, agro-monetary, and FADN – the mapping exercise has been enlarged and enhanced for completeness – results in Annex II - It is necessary to draw conclusions from the exercise and formulated them as additional issues to be tackled in the future.

<b>Harmonisation of definitions</b>	While there are certain synergies, there are also differences between different data collections, in particular in the area of definitions applied. Analysis of the concepts used and, where necessary, adaptation of concepts needed to obtain an optimal alignment between different data sources, including those used for administrative register, is needed.	It is a complex as well as time and resource consuming exercise to harmonise the definition between all different data flows. The recently amended FSS list of characteristics for FSS 2016 requires an implementing Regulation specifying the definitions which should be finalised urgently (before the end of 2014)	High	The - in preparation - implementing Regulation on definitions for FSS 2016 is taken as an opportunity for harmonising, as much as possible with other domains e.g. crop statistics.
<b>Definition of a harmonised unit for agricultural statistics</b>	Harmonised agricultural unit for statistical purposes should be established. The current FSS definition of agricultural unit leaves a wide margin of interpretation - in practice different types of unit can be defined (local unit, legal unit, holding, household)	This is a challenging task which will require an in-depth analysis and work.		
<b>Scope</b>	A common agreement of the definition of the scope of agriculture should be established and the borders should be drawn between forestry, aquaculture, land use, rural households, agro-food industry, etc.			
<b>Use of administrative data sources</b>	The use of administrative sources should be facilitated for reduction of burden and efficiency gains. This aspect will build on the recent joint AGRI-Eurostat Task Force on the use of administrative data for statistical purposes, and profit from the fact that many of these sources are covered by EU legislation.	The use of administrative registers doesn't automatically mean lower burden for the statistical offices. Coverage, concepts and definitions need to be analysed in detail, as well as quality.	High	Actions will aim at supporting Member States in developing policies, means and tools for access to the relevant information and aligning concepts between the administrative and statistical worlds – they have already been defined.
<b>Data collection modes</b>	Several data collection modes may be used, depending on their efficiency (cost/benefit) and relevance (fit for purpose). Ad-hoc surveys, farm and other registers (such as tax or population register), other administrative data, big data, modelling, land use data and other sources such as FADN illustrate the diversity of possible sources. An important aspect would also be an analysis of potential alternatives to the census operation.	The use of various sources of information can be fully effective only once different sources can be easily connected to specific farm unit via e.g. a unique ID		Define different possible scenarios.
<b>Instruments - Geo-referencing and unique farm ID</b>	In order to optimise the use of various possible modes of data collection, there are important instruments to be considered, in particular (i) geo-referencing and (ii) unique farm identifiers. These instruments would constitute a key element of the system, in order to ensure the links between different sources			

	and to facilitate the maintenance of the statistical farm registers.			
<b>Tier approach</b>	Tier approach to the collection of agricultural statistics should be considered.			
<b>Level of detail</b>	The precision requirements need to be established for the core, module and satellites to be used in the future FSS.	Ideally it would be possible to keep the precision requirements relatively flexible to have the possibility of adjusting them in case of ad-hoc survey needs in order to keep the overall burden equal.		The investigations on an optimum level of precision for different types of FSS surveys (core, modules and satellites) have been completed in 2013/2014 and preliminary results are available.
<b>Frequency</b>	The frequency of different data collections and possibility for sporadic surveys should be considered.			
<b>Frequency and census operation</b>	The necessary frequency of the surveys should be analysed to see if certain yearly operations could be perhaps less frequent. A reflection is also needed on the need for census vs. sample surveys			
<b>Timeliness</b>	Improvement of the ESS production chain on agricultural statistics in order to make it more rapid, efficient and achieving higher data quality.			
<b>Financing</b>	Development of the details of the co-financing system for the future system of farm surveys in particular needs to be worked out, including the grant management system which could be more efficient.			
<b>Global Strategy</b>	There are certain aspects to be considered in the context of the overall System of European Statistics in order to facilitate the set up and functioning of the new architecture of agricultural statistics. Coherence of EU statistics with global approaches is to be sought and investigations are needed to achieve a better coordination at international, national and regional levels between data producers.			

### 3.3. GENERAL TIMETABLE

The FSS framework (basic act and implementing acts) needs to be in place by 2018. As the strategy discussions will touch a wide range of agricultural statistics, the available time has to be used efficiently. There may not be sufficient time to prepare a comprehensive system for harmonised agricultural statistics by 2018. For this reason the preparations will need to be scheduled in such a way that the framework covering only the new farm survey system will be prepared in parallel with more profound restructuration of agricultural statistics that may have to be fully implemented later. However the new legislative framework needs to be a priority, because there will be no legal basis for the FSS after 2016 and it is vital that a continuation of information is ensured.

Therefore two time-horizons are relevant for setting up such the strategy:

(i) Before 2020 – the redesigned FSS as the main pillar of the system - the efforts already made during 2012 to re-design the FSS system will be used as the basis for this work, therefore it will likely consist of core, module and satellite surveys - with the other agricultural collection systems (mainly crop statistics and animal statistics) adapted only to the extent that will be initially possible. In parallel, a general reflection on the whole system aiming at its optimization and efficiency gains by identifying the possible synergies.

(ii) Horizon beyond 2020 - allowing for a comprehensive legal and organizational framework aiming to achieve a systematic and more consistent integrated system for agricultural statistics in the longer-term.

An overview of the possible roadmap is as follows:

Main milestones	Year
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Defining the scope, framework and details of the new legal act for FSS post 2016</i></li> <li>- <i>Establishing working structures to address the open issues according to defined planning (for CPSA May 2015)</i></li> </ul>	2014
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Drafting of the legislation for future FSS along with necessary consultations, task force and thematic seminars</i></li> <li>- <i>Evaluating coherence with other domains and decision on what could be done in short term and what should be left for future</i></li> </ul>	2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Impact assessment</i></li> <li>- <i>Adjustments to the final details of the legal acts</i></li> </ul>	2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Transmission to EP and Council of a new FSS for 2020 and beyond – If feasible, discussion on possible other framework legislative packages covering crop and animal production statistics</i></li> </ul>	2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Further discussion on a more consistent system for agricultural statistics to be applied after 2020, including other legislative packages</i></li> </ul>	2018-2020

## **4. PARTNERSHIP GROUP PLUS MEETING (11<sup>th</sup> September 2014)**

Participants: M. Jortay (Chair), B. Kestemont (BE), T. Semerdzhieva (BG), P. V. Jensen (DK), P. Seoane Spiegelberg (ES), B. Sédillot (FR), J.-P. Hoffmann (LU), G. Lengyel (HU), V. Vosselman (NL), B. Schmidt (AT), A. Laczynski (PL), C. Carvalho (PT), J. Laiho-Kauranne (FI), A.-M. Karlsson(SE), I. Lonsdale (UK), M. Kotzeva (DDG-Eurostat), M. Ernens (E1), R. Forti (E1), M. Henrard (E1), G. Mahon (E1), J. Selenius (E1), V. Tronet (E1), and G. Wesseler (DG AGRI)

### **4.1. INTRODUCTION**

The Chair welcomed the members and briefly introduced the items to be discussed concerning the draft paper on strategy for agricultural statistics 2020 and beyond. In particular, the main issues to be considered in the strategy for agriculture 2020 and beyond, the order of priority of the raised issues and the discussion of the way forward and feasible roadmap for implementing progress on future strategy for agricultural statistics were highlighted. The agenda of the Partnership Group Plus meeting was approved.

The Chair introduced Mrs Mariana. Kotzeva, Deputy to the Director-General of Eurostat. M. Kotzeva highlighted the importance of the strategy for agriculture 2020 and beyond: (1) the need to build an agriculture information system, by exploiting synergies, creating linkages between different data sources and using new data sources i.e. the big data, (2) the objective of an appropriate balance of national/European level, (3) the relevance of agricultural data as key data source for others domains and policies (environmental, climate change and food supply chain par instance) and (4) the need to develop a plan, a sequence of steps by which the strategy would be implemented.

### **4.2. DISCUSSION ON THE DRAFT PAPER ON STRATEGY FOR AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS 2020 AND BEYOND**

#### **A) GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT PAPERS PROVIDED**

The Chair presented the mandate approved by the ESSC in mid-May 2014 asking the CPSA to launch discussions on the elaboration of a new strategy on agricultural statistics onwards to 2020 and beyond, and the events leading to creation of CPSA Partnership Group Plus. Eurostat introduced the working paper "Strategy for agricultural statistics 2020 and beyond".

Participants had been invited to give their opinion on a series of issues (Table 1):- future data needs, changing and ad hoc data needs, mapping of data flows, harmonisation of definitions, definition of the agricultural unit, scope, use of administrative sources, data collection modes, geo-referencing and the unique farm identifier, tier approach, level of detail, frequency, census operation, timeliness, financing, and the global strategy. For each issue, comments were invited under several headings:- description, difficulty/challenge, order of priority, how to tackle, when to address, and (miscellaneous) comments. The input received from countries had been assembled and summarised in the working document "Summary of the comments on the

strategy for agricultural statistics 2020 and beyond" and this document was presented to the meeting.

Other DG's (AGRI, CLIMA and JRC) had been asked about their needs for agricultural data under the following headings:- data needs (in order of priority), required frequency, required level of detail, purpose for which it will be used, and other comments (optional). DG-AGRI had expressed its data needs in detail in an official note addressed to Eurostat; replies from some other DG's (i.e. DG CLIMA and JRC) were summarised in a document "Annex 1 – The agricultural data needs – outcome of the exchange with partner DGs".

Finally, Eurostat had compared existing data flows, notably:- FSS, crop survey, livestock survey, FADN, permanent crop, and EAA; under the following headings:- objective, purpose/aim, reference period, frequency, population, coverage, precision, thresholds, geographical level for data availability, time aspect, data users, stratification of the sample, treatment of common land, and synergetic characteristics with FSS. The outcome of the comparison was presented in a document "Annex II – Mapping of data flows in agricultural statistics.

## **B) MAIN ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE STRATEGY FOR AGRICULTURE 2020 AND BEYOND**

The outline of the main issues includes:- basic issues, infrastructure, coherence, methodology, technical issues, organisation, finance, and legal aspects. A more detailed list was included in Table 1 of the Strategy paper (see point a above). There was a lively discussion amongst the participants on the basis of the draft strategy paper, the contributions of user DG's, DG AGRI, DG CLIMA and JRC, and the participants' advance comments. Inter-relationships amongst the points, and the difficulty of allocating priorities, were underlined.

A discussion took place on the way of working. Some participants pointed out that the starting point of reflection should be the knowledge of needs. Consequently, more preliminary work should be done at Commission level to identify the needs for agricultural data. In time of budget constraints, the strategy would have to take into account the related burden to avoid a significant increase of costs on the respondents and data providers.

## **C) LIST OF ISSUES HIGHLIGHTED BY MEMBERS (TABLE 2)**

The members of the group validated the list of issues shown in Table 1 and commented on the interpretation of the underlying issues and the relationships amongst them. In addition, some new topics were suggested:- balancing administrative burden, a census vs. sample surveys, and the establishment of uniform estimation methods and models. General comments by participants included:-

- Access to microdata, including those from administrative sources, would allow the construction of certain statistics;
- New data needs are easily established, but abandoning or streamlining existing streams tends to be difficult;
- The distinction between two periods, before and after 2020, is artificial and could be misleading;
- The process of consultation with users, including but not limited to Commission DG's, should be completed quickly; and

- The most important basic issues were felt by some to be the definition of a unit for agricultural statistics and the scope of agricultural statistics.

#### **D) ORDER OF PRIORITY**

DG-AGRI, in particular, underlined the difficulty of setting priorities:- all requests deserved to be followed up. Policy was evolving and becoming more complex, and it was important to ensure that money was well spent. Participants explained the role of efficiency gains within existing work, in releasing resources to address new needs. The way in which the new needs could be addressed would be conditional on the resources available. Participants pointed out that the system of agricultural statistics was not the only, or in every case the best, means of answering the data needs of DG-AGRI and other DG's. DG-AGRI remarked that with the new Commission, new political priorities could be expected.

#### **E) DISCUSSION OF THE MAPPING EXERCISE**

Eurostat drew attention to Figure 1 in the Strategy document, which illustrated the place of the mapping of data flows within the target agricultural statistical system 2020 and beyond. Participants confirmed the interest of the mapping exercise but noted the resource requirement. It was recalled that much mapping had already been done.

#### **F) DISCUSSION OF THE WAY FORWARD AND FEASIBLE ROAD MAP FOR DISCUSSIONS ON FUTURE STRATEGY FOR AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS**

Eurostat stated that the draft strategy paper would be presented to the CPSA meeting of November 2014. After discussion, it was agreed that three subgroups would be set up as follows and they would discuss respectively:-

- Sub-group 1 : "Future data needs".  
Members: Finland, Portugal, Sweden and United Kingdom
- Sub-group 2 : "Data collection modes and data flows".  
Members: Denmark, Spain, France, Hungary and Poland
- Sub-group 3 : "Main issues to be considered for the future of agricultural statistics".  
Members: Belgium, Austria, Netherlands and Bulgaria.

Each group would be coordinated by Eurostat and it would draft a document on its own topic to be discussed during the second day of the CPSA seminar which would be held on 10-11<sup>th</sup> November 2014. The reflection on the strategy would be pursued after the CPSA meeting.

### **4.3. MISCELLANEOUS**

The Chair reminded the group of the approach used in social statistics (SILC, LFS etc.), some aspects of which could serve as a model for agricultural statistics. A participant underlined the need for a strategy, a vision; another participant recalled the Eurostat vision.

The Chair thanked the participants and looked forward to seeing them again in the November CPSA seminar and meeting. He closed the meeting.

## 5. MANDATE OF THREE SUB-GROUPS

During the CPSA Partnership Group Plus meeting, three sub-groups were created to deal everyone with specific issues. The first group deals with the future data needs, the second group investigates the data collection mode and the data flows and the third group goes into the main issues to be considered for the future of agricultural statistics. It is planned that the groups will complete their work until March 2015.

Thereafter the mandates of these groups are presented.

### 5.1. SUB-GROUP 1: “WHAT”, - FUTURE DATA NEEDS IN AGRICULTURE STATISTICS

Mandate:

- To create an overview of current and future data needs, to classify them according to several different modes.
- To define the level of detail, i.e. the variables and breakdowns of the needs
- To define the scope of future agricultural statistics for the possible different domains that can be identified from the data needs
- To identify the frequency in which the identified needs should/could be collected, based not only on the needs, but also on the expected rate of change, and other criteria
- To express the priority of the needs.

*PG + Members of the group:* FIN; PT, SE; UK.

*Commission potential representatives:* AGRI, ENV, CLIMA, JRC

*Eurostat coordinator:* Johan Selenius, back-up and support: Pol Marquer

### 5.2. SUB-GROUP 2: “HOW”, - DATA COLLECTION MODES AND DATA FLOWS

Mandate:

- To create an overview of the available data collection methods (surveys, panels, administrative data, expert estimates, models, academic research projects, big data, etc.)
- To analyse the strengths and weaknesses of various types of data collection methods
- To improve the mapping of the current data flows
- To identify the potential role of various data collection modes in the future data flows (AS 2020): opportunities and challenges
- To analyse potential of various methods with a view to the data needs (Group A results)

*PG + Members of the group:* DK, ES, FR, HU, PL

*Commission potential representatives:* AGRI, ENV, CLIMA, JRC

*Eurostat coordinator:* Garry Mahon, back-up and support: Marjo Kasanko



### **5.3. SUB-GROUP 3: MAIN ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS**

*Mandate:*

- a) To agree on the list of main issues that are currently faced with agricultural statistics,
- b) To review the list in the perspective of the future of agricultural statistics 2020 and beyond,
- c) To describe clearly the issues with the related difficulties and challenges (based on concrete examples),
- d) To identify how far the main issues could be linked or grouped together,
- e) To identify possible options in order to cope with the issues and to make a SWOT analyse of them,
- f) To make concrete recommendations on how to cope with the issues with quick wins (low hanging fruits) and potential actions for the middle and long term.

*PG + Members of the group:* BE, AT, NL and BG.

*Commission potential representatives:* AGRI, JRC

*Eurostat coordinator:* Vincent TRONET, back-up and support: Michel Henrard, Assistance: Andreas Lazar

## **6. NEXT STEPS**

It is essential that both the data users and data providers participate fully in the development of the strategy process. A discussion group for Agricultural Statistics 2020 and beyond, consisting of the representatives of the national statistical organisations, policy DGs and other data users (e.g. JRC and EEA, farmers unions) has to be further developed. In addition, the strategy will be discussed intensively in the SCAS/CPSA and in the agricultural Working Groups with regular reporting to the ESSC.

The process of new strategy for agricultural statistics is proposed to be developed among the following lines:

### **- 2015**

A) Drafting of the architecture and framework of a new strategy for agriculture statistics, evaluating coherence with other domains and decision on what could be done in the short term and what should be left for future

B) In the framework of the new designed overall strategy for agriculture statistics (see A)), elaboration of appropriate new legal acts (i.e. Basic and Implementing acts) for the future FSS along with necessary consultations, task force and thematic discussions.

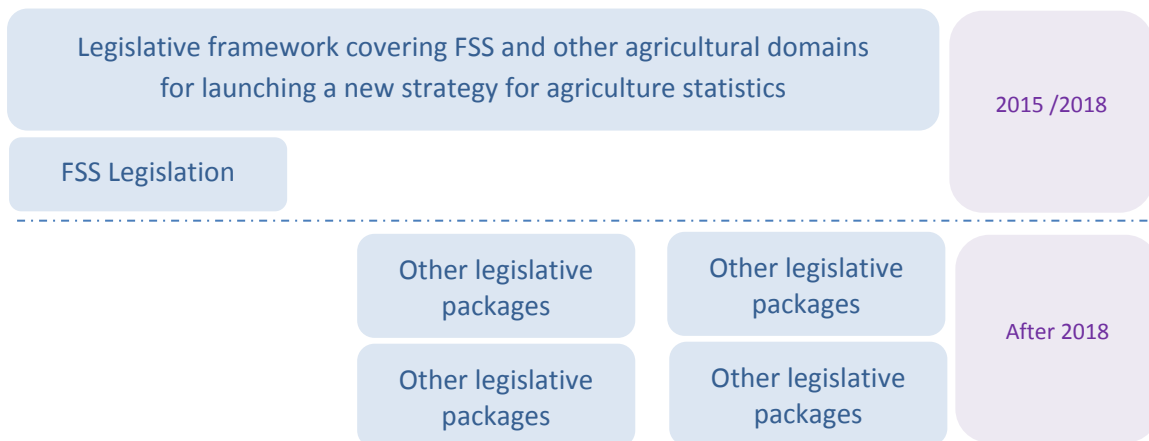


Fig. 2: Provisional timetable

**- 2017**

A) Transmission to EP and Council of a new strategy for agriculture statistics for 2020 and beyond-if feasible, accompanied by framework legislative packages covering other than FSS related to the agricultural and agri-environmental domains.

B) Transmission to EP and Council of a new FSS for 2020 and beyond.

**- From 2018 onwards**

A) Discussion/approval in Council and EP of a new strategy for agriculture statistics for 2020 and beyond as well as submitted framework legislative packages other than FSS.

B) Discussion/approval in Council and EP of FSS for 2020 and beyond, implementation of implementing acts.

C) Development of remaining legislative packages which have not been covered so far under the new strategy umbrella for agriculture statistics.