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# COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(80) 445 final

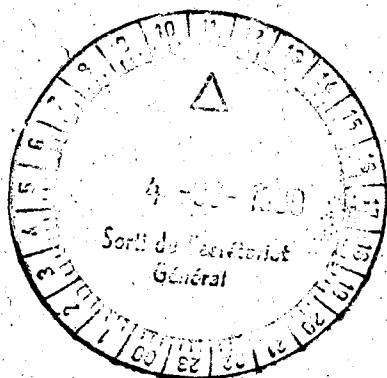
Brussels, 25 July 1980

## Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION

on the restructuring of the system of agricultural  
surveys in Italy

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(submitted to the Council by the Commission)



COM(80) 445 final

(only the Italian text is authentic)

Explanatory memorandum

As has been done, specially for Italy, in the field of the extension services, the Commission is submitting to the Council a proposal for a Regulation aiming to restructure the agricultural survey system in Italy.

The new system is based on the creation, at regional or even lower level, of a permanent body of interviewers to collect data at farm level. It will ensure a better integration of Italian agricultural statistics into the European system.

Some advantages are to be gained in the area of farm structure statistics, but the new system will be particularly useful for the formulation of agricultural structure policy with particular reference to the Mediterranean area.

COUNCIL DECISION

on the restructuring of the system of  
agricultural surveys in Italy

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,  
and in particular Article 43 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission (1),

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament (2),

Whereas it is necessary, for effective and balanced implementation of the  
common agricultural policy in Italy, especially in the Mezzogiorno regions,  
to have statistical information of satisfactory scope and reliability on  
agricultural holdings in Italy and on the production, processing and marketing  
of agricultural products;

Whereas the system of agricultural surveys traditionally carried out in Italy  
on territorial units and partially on economic units has hitherto satisfied  
Community requirements on a number of censuses in a somewhat ad hoc manner as  
regards both execution and financing, and where<sup>inter alia a</sup>as restructuring of the information  
collecting system is highly desirable in order to provide a more  
solid basis for the statistical information to be provided; whereas the system  
could at the same time be brought into line with those in other Member States, thus  
improving comparability within the Community;

Whereas, because of economic and budgetary constraints, the Italian Republic does  
not have sufficient means to make the considerable effort involved in establishing  
a statistical system comparable to those already highly developed in the other  
Member States;

Whereas an effective system for recording agricultural statistics in Italy will  
be in the interest of the Community and will contribute to the attainment of the  
objectives defined in Article 39 (1) (a) of the Treaty, including the structural  
changes necessary for the proper functioning of the common market;

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(1)

(2)

Whereas a Community contribution to the financing of the measures to be taken will be made;

Whereas the terms should be defined on which the Community will help to finance the planning and operation of a statistical programme in the Member State concerned; whereas, while the Italian Republic should retain responsibility for such planning, account being taken of existing administrative structures, certain conditions should be laid down to guarantee optimum utilization of the Community's financial contribution;

Whereas the Community must be able to check that the measures taken by the Italian Republic will help to attain the objectives of the joint action and will fulfil the conditions under which the Community financing is granted;

Whereas a procedure should be laid down whereby the Member States and the Commission will cooperate closely in the Standing Committee for Agricultural Statistics,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

#### Article 1

In order to organize in Italy a system of statistical surveys on agricultural matters which will fully satisfy Community requirements for statistical information in this field, the Italian government shall ensure:

- a) the gradual introduction of a coherent programme of statistical surveys conducted on the basis of samples at agricultural holdings level by interviewers trained for this purpose;
- b) the strengthening or creation of a regional technical and administrative infrastructure to ensure that the required surveys are carried out and that the data are forwarded to the Istituto Centrale di Statistica (ISTAT).

#### Article 2

The Italian Republic shall ensure that the organization of the system of statistical surveys referred to in Article 1 guarantees the completion of the surveys required or likely to be required at Community level and that these surveys fulfil the requirements of Community law as regards the field and purpose of the surveys, and the reliability and time limits prescribed, without obtaining, other than the contribution provided for in this Regulation, any further financial aid from the Community, except in cases where Community contributions are also provided for the other Member States.

Article 3

1. The organization of the system of surveys referred to in Article 1 shall commence in 1981, and be followed by the introduction of the programme of surveys starting in 1984 based on the results obtained in the survey on the structure of agricultural holdings carried out under Council Regulation (CEE) n. 218/78  
The timetable for the organization of the new system and the introduction of the programme of surveys shall be as follows:
  - a) 1982 : Sample surveys to be held in two or three regions. This will provide an opportunity to test the methods used by the technical staff dependent on the <sup>and</sup> "Assessorati dell'agricoltura e delle foreste"/trained for this purpose.
  - b) 1983: New questionnaires and sample survey methods will be tested in two or three regions and it will be possible to draw up a series of options on the basis of the results of the survey on the structure of agricultural holdings.
  - c) 1984: The experimental surveys will be extended to other regions.
  - d) 1985: First experimental application at national level of the new system of surveys with the new organization.
  - e) 1986-87: Introduction of the new system to the whole territory of the Italian Republic (1986). In 1987, with the Commission's assistance, it will be possible to determine which, if any, definitive methodological improvements are required.
2. The Italian Republic shall be entitled to submit amendments to the programme referred to in paragraph 1

Article 4

1. Every year from 1981 to 1986, the Italian Republic shall submit an annual programme of measures to implement the programme defined in Article 1. This programme shall contain information on:
  - a) all the surveys to be carried out in <sup>the</sup> following year, specifying the field of observation, the sampling plan, the questionnaires to be used, the anticipated sampling and recording errors and the measures taken to minimize them;
  - b) experience gained from the implementation of the previous annual programme, including progress made in the institution of the new survey system at regional level.

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(1) OJ No L 35, 4.2.1978, p. 1.

2. These annual programmes shall be forwarded to the Commission by the Italian Republic before the end of June of the year before that to which they refer.

3. At the request of the Commission, the Italian Republic shall provide further information on the programme submitted in accordance with paragraph 1.

The Commission shall decide whether to approve the annual programmes in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 6, after consulting the Standing Committee for Agricultural Statistics.

#### Article 5

1. The Community's total share in the programme referred to in Article 1 is estimated to be a maximum of 20 million European units of account.

2. This contribution shall

be made available to the Italian Republic in six yearly instalments after submission and approval of the annual programme of implementation referred to in Article 4.

3. The annual distribution of the total amount referred to in paragraph 1 shall depend on the progress made in the implementation of the programme.

#### Article 6

1. Where the procedure laid down in this Article is to be followed, the matter shall be referred to the Standing Committee for Agricultural Statistics by its Chairman, either on his own initiative or at the request of the representative of a Member State.

2. The Commission representative shall submit to the Committee a draft of the measures to be taken. The Standing Committee for Agricultural Statistics shall give its opinion on these measures within a time limit which may be set by the Chairman in accordance with the urgency of the matters submitted for discussion. It shall act by a majority of 41 votes, the votes of the Member States being weighted as laid down in Article 148 (2) of the Treaty. The Chairman shall not vote.



shall be

3. The Commission shall adopt the measures, which / immediately applicable. However, if they are not in accordance with the opinion of the Standing Committee for Agricultural Statistics, the Commission shall submit them to the Council without delay; if this is done, the Commission may delay the application of the proposed measures by not more than one month after the date of submission.
- The Council may take a different decision within a period of one month, acting by a qualified majority.

Article 7

This Decision shall apply with effect from

Article 8

This Decision is addressed to the Italian Republic.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council,

The President

## Financial statement

Annex to the proposal for a Council Regulation on the restructuring of the agricultural survey system in Italy.

### 1. Title and purpose

Introduction of a new survey system based on the creation at a specific geographical level (region or lower geographical unit) of a permanent sample survey of holdings executed by means of interviews by trained agents.

### 2. Origin

The improvement of the agricultural survey system in Italy will help eliminate many of the difficulties encountered by the Italian statistical authorities in meeting Community requirements. Particular advantages are to be gained in the area of farm structure statistics, but the new system will also affect the specific surveys currently being conducted in the fields of animal and vegetable products statistics.

### 3. Justification

The implementation, at regional or even lower level, of a permanent body of interviewers will considerably increase the reliability of the results, and reduce the risk that part of the data provided in response to the Community's requirements results from experts' estimates rather than from the collection of actual data. The development of such a system of annual sample surveys at the farm level based on multi-purpose field survey teams will ensure a better integration into the European agricultural statistics system. The new system will be useful for the formulation of agricultural structure policy with particular reference to the Mediterranean area.

### 4. Allocation and estimation of cost

It is anticipated that the expenditure incurred by the Member States concerned shall be met in part by the Commission at a flat rate of 20 million European units of account from the credits entered in the budget under Chapter 31 "Expenses in the agricultural field"

This contribution shall be granted in six yearly instalments as follows (in million EUA):

1982 : 1.0	1985 : 4.0
1983 : 1.0	1986 : 7.0
1984 : 2.0	1987 : 5.0

Subject to the submission and approval of annual programmes of measures to implement the new system.