


Procedure file

Basic information	
COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Regulation	Procedure completed 2007/0084(COD)
Farm structure surveys and the survey on agricultural production methods Amended by 2013/0367(COD) Repealed by 2016/0389(COD)	
Subject 3.10.01 Agricultural structures and holdings, farmers 3.10.30 Agricultural statistics	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development	Rapporteur PSE HARANGOZÓ Gábor	Appointed 04/07/2007
	Committee for opinion BUDG Budgets	Rapporteur for opinion The committee decided not to give an opinion.	Appointed
Council of the European Union	Council configuration Environment	Meeting 2898	Date 20/10/2008
European Commission	Commission DG Eurostat	Commissioner ALMUNIA Joaquín	

Key events			
09/05/2007	Legislative proposal published	COM(2007)0245	Summary
24/05/2007	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
26/02/2008	Vote in committee, 1st reading		Summary
04/03/2008	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A6-0061/2008	
21/05/2008	Results of vote in Parliament		
21/05/2008	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T6-0216/2008	Summary
20/10/2008	Act adopted by Council after Parliament's 1st reading		
19/11/2008	Final act signed		
19/11/2008	End of procedure in Parliament		

01/12/2008

Final act published in Official Journal

Technical information

Procedure reference	2007/0084(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
	Amended by 2013/0367(COD) Repealed by 2016/0389(COD)
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 285-p1
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AGRI/6/49535

Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal	COM(2007)0245	10/05/2007	EC	Summary
Committee draft report	PE393.868	19/12/2007	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee	PE400.512	30/01/2008	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A6-0061/2008	04/03/2008	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading	T6-0216/2008	21/05/2008	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2008)3593/2	12/06/2008	EC	
Draft final act	03642/2008/LEX	19/11/2008	CSL	

Additional information

National parliaments	IPEX
European Commission	EUR-Lex

Final act

[Regulation 2008/1166](#)
[OJ L 321 01.12.2008, p. 0014](#) Summary

Farm structure surveys and the survey on agricultural production methods

PURPOSE: to specify the requirement for the collection of comparable Community statistics on the structure of agricultural holdings and to specify the requirement for a survey on agricultural production methods.

PROPOSED ACT: Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council.

CONTENT: the legislation for the existing series of structural surveys does not contain any provisions for the farm structural surveys from 2010 onwards. This proposal therefore provides the legal framework for the next farm structure census in 2010 and for the interim surveys in 2013 and 2016. In addition, the proposal includes a survey on agricultural production methods with reference year 2010.

The present proposal will replace Council Regulation (EEC) No 571/88 of 29 February 1988 on the organisation of Community surveys on the structure of agricultural holdings. Nevertheless, core structural statistics relating to crops, livestock, labour and equipment will continue to be collected. Some structural information has been dropped and some new characteristics have been added. The number of interim surveys has been reduced from three to two and a new survey on production methods has been introduced.

Farm structure surveys and the survey on agricultural production methods

The Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development adopted a report drafted by Gábor HARANGOZO (PES, HU) and amended the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on farm structure surveys and the survey on agricultural production methods and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 571/88. The Committee notes that the next general farm survey in form of a census shall be carried out in 2010 (in some Member States at the end of 2009). In 2013 and 2016 interim-surveys in form of sample surveys must be carried out. Member States need enough time to prepare the surveys, and the amendment aim to reach a compromise between the 'need-to-know' and 'simplification'.

The main amendments are as follows:

- the implementation of the farm structure survey in 2010 and the decennial population census in 2011 would place a heavy burden on the statistical resources of Member States if the periods of fieldwork for these two major surveys overlap. Provision is made for a derogation which allows Member States to implement the farm structure survey in 2009;
- the use of the agricultural holding's location by the Commission should be limited to statistical analyses and should exclude drawing samples and carrying out surveys. The necessary protection of confidentiality of data should be ensured, among other means, by limiting the precision of the location parameters and by appropriate aggregation when publishing statistics;
- it is recognised that the requirements of the satellite recognition and identification of agricultural holdings present significant methodological and technical difficulties in many Member States. Upon the entry into force of the Regulation, the Commission shall provide the necessary technical and advisory assistance in respect of the satellite recognition of agricultural holdings to those Member States which request it;
- the Committee inserted new definitions for 'livestock units' and 'location of the holding';
- if a Member State decides to use an administrative source other than those specified in the proposal, the Member State shall inform the Commission in advance and shall provide details concerning the method to be used and the quality of the data from this administrative source;
- the Committee deleted the clause permitting the Commission to determine additional precision requirements;
- the farm structure survey data shall not be used by the Commission for drawing samples or for carrying out surveys;
- the proposal for an additional survey of some 100 characteristics concerning agricultural production methods in accordance with Article 11 and Annex V, is rejected. The Committee states that it goes beyond the existing Directive (EEC) No 571/88. The substantial increase in the administrative burden for citizens cannot be justified by the additional information obtained which, it is recognised, will be limited. The results of this survey would not be usable, since this one-off survey provides no basis for making projections. It would generate further unnecessary bureaucratic costs;
- in addition to the National Methodological Reports required at the end of each survey, Member States shall provide the Commission with any additional information that may be required concerning organisation and methodology of the survey;
- Member States shall receive a maximum financial contribution of 75% (rather than 50%) from the Community towards the cost of carrying out the surveys defined in the Regulation;
- for the combined costs of the Farm Structure Survey 2010 and the Survey on Agricultural Production Methods, the maximum Community contribution of EUR 0.15 million each for Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia and the Slovak Republic is deleted;
- for the Farm Structure Surveys in 2013 and 2016, the maximum amounts specified in the text shall be reduced by 50% (rather than 60%);
- the financial envelope for the implementation of this programme, including the appropriations necessary for the management, maintenance and development of the database systems used within the Commission to process the data supplied by Member States under the provisions of this Regulation, shall be EUR 58 850 000 (rather than EUR 54.27 million) for the period 2008 ? 2013;
- the Committee made some amendments to Annex III (List of farm structure survey characteristics). 'Agricultural production under certified or labelled contractual frameworks (other than organic farming)' and 'other gainful activities (non-farm work on the holding and work outside the holding)' are rejected. These characteristics are difficult to survey because they are so differentiated and in any case only have limited use as information.
- amendments were also made to Annex IV and Annex V. As regards animal housing.
 - cattle, the amendment is intended to make it easier for persons included in the survey to answer questions and provides clearer information for those using the data (for a database for emission reporting) than the layout of the Commission proposal. For example: the cubicle housing system used in dairy farming could only be entered under the Commission proposal as 'completely slated floors' or 'partially slated floors' or 'other'. This would mean a considerable loss of information. Moreover, those asked would not understand the purpose of such questions.

Farm structure surveys and the survey on agricultural production methods

The European Parliament adopted, by 649 votes to 28 with 11 abstentions, a legislative resolution and amended the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on farm structure surveys and the survey on agricultural production methods and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 571/88. The report had been tabled for consideration in plenary by Gábor HARANGOZO (PES, HU) on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development.

The amendments were the result of a compromise between Parliament and Council. The main amendments were as follows:

- the implementation of the farm structure survey in 2010 and the decennial population census in 2011 would place a heavy burden on the statistical resources of Member States if the periods of fieldwork for these two major surveys overlap. Provision is made for a derogation which allows Member States to implement the farm structure survey in 2009;

- the use of the agricultural holding's location by the Commission should be limited to statistical analyses and should exclude drawing samples and carrying out surveys. The necessary protection of confidentiality of data should be ensured, among other means, by limiting the precision of the location parameters and by appropriate aggregation when publishing statistics;
 - it is recognised that the requirements of the satellite recognition and identification of agricultural holdings present significant methodological and technical difficulties in many Member States. Upon the entry into force of the Regulation, the Commission shall provide the necessary technical and advisory assistance in respect of the satellite recognition of agricultural holdings to those Member States which submit applications;
 - Parliament inserted new definitions for 'livestock units' and 'location of the holding';
 - if a Member State decides to use an administrative source other than those specified in the proposal, the Member State shall inform the Commission in advance and shall provide details concerning the method to be used and the quality of the data from this administrative source;
 - in duly justified cases the Commission shall allow Member States exceptions to the precision requirements for specific regions;
 - the farm structure survey data shall not be used by the Commission for drawing samples or for carrying out surveys;
 - with regard to survey characteristics, if a Member State determines that a characteristic has a low or zero prevalence, the characteristic may be excluded from the data collection. The Member State shall inform the Commission in the calendar year immediately preceding the survey year about any characteristic excluded from the data collection;.
 - in Article 11 (Survey on agricultural production methods), Parliament's amendments state that This survey may be carried out as a sample survey. For each holding surveyed, Member States shall also provide an estimation of the volume of water used for irrigation on the holding (in cubic metres). The estimation may be produced by means of a model. The Commission shall provide Member States with methodological and other support in order to construct the model. In addition, the Commission shall promote the necessary cooperation and sharing of experiences between Member States in order to obtain comparable results.
- If a Member State determines that a characteristic has a low or zero prevalence, the characteristic may be excluded from the data collection. The Member State shall inform the Commission in the calendar year immediately preceding the survey year about any characteristic excluded from the data collection. The data on agricultural production methods shall not be used by the Commission for drawing samples or for carrying out surveys;
- in addition to the National Methodological Reports required at the end of each survey, Member States shall provide the Commission with any additional information that may be required concerning organisation and methodology of the survey;
 - Member States shall receive a maximum financial contribution of 75% (rather than 50%) from the Community towards the cost of carrying out the surveys defined in the Regulation;
 - for the combined costs of the Farm Structure Survey 2010 and the Survey on Agricultural Production Methods, the maximum Community contribution of EUR 0.15 million each for Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia and the Slovak Republic is deleted;
 - for the Farm Structure Surveys in 2013 and 2016, the maximum amounts specified in the text shall be reduced by 50% (rather than 60%);
 - the financial envelope for the implementation of this programme, including the appropriations necessary for the management, maintenance and development of the database systems used within the Commission to process the data supplied by Member States under the provisions of this Regulation, shall be EUR 58 850 000 (rather than EUR 54.27 million) for the period 2008 ? 2013;
 - Parliament made some amendments to Annex III (List of farm structure survey characteristics). Amendments were also made to Annex IV (Precision requirements) and Annex V (list of characteristics for the survey on agricultural production methods).

Farm structure surveys and the survey on agricultural production methods

PURPOSE: to establish a framework for the production of comparable Community statistics on the structure of agricultural holdings and for a survey on agricultural production methods.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Regulation (EC) No 1166/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on farm structure surveys and the survey on agricultural production methods and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 571/88.

CONTENT: having reached agreement with the European Parliament at first reading, the Regulation establishes a framework for the production of comparable Community statistics on the structure of agricultural holdings and for a survey on agricultural production methods. This Regulation repeals Council Regulation (EEC) No 571/88 on the organisation of Community surveys on the structure of agricultural holdings until 2007. The surveys referred to in the Regulation shall cover:

- (a) agricultural holdings where the agricultural area utilised for farming is one hectare or more;
- (b) agricultural holdings where the agricultural area utilised for farming is less than one hectare, if those holdings produce a certain proportion for sale or if their production unit exceeds certain physical thresholds.

In practice, the Regulation provides the legal framework for the next farm structure census in 2010 and for the interim surveys in 2013 and 2016. In addition, it includes a survey on agricultural production methods with reference year 2010. A derogation is provided for in order to enable Member States to implement the farm structure survey in 2009. Member States shall transmit to the Commission validated survey data for the farm structure survey for 2010 by 31 March 2012. For the farm structure surveys in the survey years 2013 and 2016, Member States shall transmit validated survey data to the Commission within 12 months of the end of the survey year.

Member States shall receive a maximum financial contribution of 75% from the Community towards the cost of carrying out the surveys. For the farm structure surveys in 2013 and 2016, the maximum amounts specified in the Regulation shall be reduced by 50%. Upon the entry into force of this Regulation, the Commission shall provide the necessary technical and advisory assistance in respect of the satellite recognition of agricultural holdings, to those Member States which submit applications.

The financial envelope for the implementation of this programme of surveys shall be EUR 58 850 000 for the period 2008?2013. The amount

for the period 2014?2018 shall be fixed by the budgetary and legislative authority on a proposal from the Commission on the basis of the new financial framework for the period commencing in 2014.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 21/12/2008.

APPLICATION: from 01/01/2009.