



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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NOTE

from: Presidency
on : 2 July 2008
to : Working Party on Statistics

No. Cion prop.: 8823/08 + rev. 1 (bg,es,cs,da,de,et,el,fr,it,lv,lt,hu,mt,nl,pl,pt,ro,sk,sl,fi,sv)

Subject: Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council
concerning crop statistics

Delegations will find enclosed a Presidency note on the above.

1. Introduction

A proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning crop statistics (COM(2008) 210 final) has been transmitted by the Commission to the Parliament and the Council.

The Slovenian Presidency has launched a written consultation procedure on the proposal and transmitted the comments received to the French Presidency.

2. General position

The Member States broadly support the Commission proposal but nevertheless wonder about the extent of the request thus presented and whether it meets the needs of the CAP.

3. Main problems identified

Replies were received from 13 Member States. An examination of their initial comments reveals several types of difficulty:

- a. Insufficient capacity to respond in the case of some Member States, which consider that this proposal gives rise to a significant increase in the administrative burden and is more restrictive than the previous texts; they also wonder about the justification for including, for instance, land use and vegetables with such a detailed breakdown of headings.
- b. Difficulties in providing totals or in adding "different" headings, which make it necessary to collect exhaustive information, even for marginal crops; also, difficulty in making a distinction between products for fresh consumption and those intended for processing.

- c. Difficulties concerning certain definitions, especially the concept of 'harvested area' in place of "sown area", and the provision of information on yields and production in dry equivalent.
- d. Questions regarding the timetable for transmitting data to Eurostat and the number of these transmissions.

During this first meeting the Presidency would like each Member State to express any comments it has regarding this proposal.

Delegations are also invited to mention any elements to improve and modify the text that they feel would contribute to a future compromise.
