
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1980 - 1981

9 February 1981

DOCUMENT 1-859/80

Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture

on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 1-702/80) for a Directive amending certain provisions of Directives 73/132/EEC and 78/53/EEC relating to the /statistical surveys to be carried out by the Member States on bovine livestock

Rapporteur: Mr James PROVAN

By letter of 8 December 1980, the President of the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament, pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty, to deliver an opinion on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a Directive amending certain provisions of Directives 73/132/EEC and 78/53/EEC relating to the statistical surveys to be carried out by the Member States on bovine livestock.

On 12 December 1980, the President of the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on Agriculture as the committee responsible.

On 15 January 1981, the Committee on Agriculture appointed Mr Provan rapporteur.

It considered this proposal at its meeting of 21-23 January 1981.

At the same meeting the committee unanimously adopted the motion for a resolution and the explanatory statement.

Present: Sir Henry Plumb, chairman; Mr Früh, Mr Caillavet, vice-chairmen; Mr Provan, rapporteur; Mr Clinton, Mr Dalsass, Mr Delatte, Mr Diana, Mr Gatto, Mr Gautier, Mrs Herklotz, Mr Hord, Mr Howell (deputizing for Mr Curry), Mr Key (deputizing for Mrs Castle), Mr Kirk, Mr Louwes (deputizing for Mr Jürgens), Mr Maffre-Baugé, Mr Maher, Mr Papaefstratiou, Ms Quin, Mr Sutra, Mr Tolman and Mr Vernimmen.

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A

The Committee on Agriculture hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution together with explanatory statement:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a Directive amending certain provisions of Directives 73/132/EEC and 78/53/EEC relating to the statistical surveys to be carried out by the Member States on bovine livestock

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council,¹
- having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty (Doc. 1/702/80),
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture (Doc. 1-859/80),

Approves the Commission's proposal.

¹ O.J. C321, of 10.12.1980, p.4

EXPLANATORY STATEMENTSurveys of bovine livestock

1. Directive 73/132/EEC¹ provided for the introduction of surveys on bovine livestock until 21 December 1975. Council Decision of 29 June 1976¹ provided for the continuation of the surveys.
2. The Committee on Agriculture has always stressed the importance of such surveys to market stability³. Complete and comparable statistics of likely beef production are essential, both to the Commission in carrying out its market policy and to professional organizations acting to regulate supply to demand.
3. In its second report on the experience gained from the surveys⁴, the Commission suggested a number of modifications which have now been drawn up in the form of a formal proposal. The present document therefore proposes:
 - (i) A breakdown of bovine livestock according to the main uses for which they have been bred. This is necessary, particularly to improve medium term forecasts, and to make clear the relationship between milk and beef production.
 - (ii) An extension of the forecast period. The Commission departments responsible for managing the market believe they must have the production forecasts for the following calendar year by autumn so that they can prepare price proposals and the annual report on the agricultural situation in the Community, with three half year forecasts following the May/June intermediate survey, and two half year forecasts following the December survey;
 - (iii) Cattle in the United Kingdom to be subdivided by 'standard regions'. The larger area of Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales and the English agricultural regions are to be divided into smaller regions in order to continue with the work of harmonizing regional statistics;
 - (iv) Italy is to be granted an extension of its exemption concerning sampling errors (to be allowed as 1.5% and 2.5% rather than 1% of total cattle numbers and 1.5% of the total number of cows;
 - (v) The exemption contained in Article 2(3) of Directive 78/53/EEC is to be extended until 1983; this allows numbers of certain categories of cattle to be estimated on the basis of data from national surveys.

¹ OJ No. L 153, 9.6.1973, p.25

² OJ No. L 189, 13.7.1976, page 15

³ See reports drawn up by Mr Durieux, Doc. 76/72, and by Mr Martens, Doc. 127/76

⁴ (COM(79) 662 final)

4. Two further suggestions contained in the second report are to be dealt with in the working group 'Animal Products Statistics' so that:

- Member States should draw up estimated balance sheets of young male cattle for fattening and of frozen beef and veal for processing;
- the category 'cattle of less than 12 months' in Article 3(1) of Directive 73/132/EEC should be replaced by 'cattle of less than six months' and 'cattle under one year but not under six months' in order to obtain a better idea of the significance of calves in production forecasts.

5. The Committee on Agriculture requests the Commission to report in greater detail on the collaboration laid down in Article 8 of Directive 73/132/EEC between the Standing Committee on Agricultural Statistics and the NIMEXE Committee so that surveys could be made more complete by an adjustment to take into account foreign trade statistics.