COUNCIL DIRECTIVE

of 15 May 1973

on the statistical surveys to be carried out by the Member States on bovine livestock, on forecasts on the availability of bovine animals for slaughter and on statistics on slaughtered bovine animals

(73/32/EEC)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Articles 43 and 209 thereof;

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 805/68 (1) of 27 June 1968 on the common organization of the market in beef and veal, as last amended by Regulation (EEC) No 187/73 (2), and in particular Article 2 thereof;

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission;

Having regard to the Opinion of the European Parliament;

Whereas in order to fulfil the task assigned to it under the Treaty and by Regulation (EEC) No 805/68, the Commission requires precise information on trends in bovine livestock and the production of beef and veal in the Member States and must also have a short-term forecast, established on the basis of this trend, of the availability of beef and veal on the market;

Whereas surveys on bovine livestock at present carried out in the Member States do not enable precise and standard short-term observations to be made of the market; whereas monthly statistics on animals slaughtered are not sufficient for this purpose and short-term forecasts on the availability of cattle and calves intended for immediate slaughter are made at regular intervals in only some of the Member States;

Whereas surveys should be carried out in all Member States on bovine livestock, on the basis of standard categories and with a similar degree of precision; whereas monthly statistics on animals slaughtered should be supplemented and standardized and forecasts by category covering identical periods in each Member State should be made on the production of bovine animals for slaughter;

Whereas, in the case of sample surveys, sampling criteria should be kept up to date and fixed margins of error should be observed in order to ensure that there is a similar degree of precision; whereas observational errors should be reduced as much as possible and an assessment should be made of their size;

Whereas since the structure and regional distribution of the rearing of bovine animals are constantly changing, the regional distribution should be recorded annually and a special analysis of the results of the survey should be made by size-of-herd class at least every two years;

Whereas both the statistics on animals slaughtered and forecasts of production of bovine animals for slaughter should be broken down into categories in order to enable the market to be observed with a distinction being made on the basis of the types of meat;

Whereas, since the results of the surveys, forecasts and statistics on animals slaughtered are intended to serve as a basis for decisions adopted within the framework of the common organization of the market in beef and veal, they must be communicated to the Commission as soon as possible and at the same dates;

Whereas the procedure to be followed by the Standing Committee for Agricultural Statistics set up by the Council Decision of 31 July 1972 (3) should be laid down, so as to ensure that when this Directive is applied cooperation between the Member States and the Commission will be as effective as possible;

Whereas, since the statistics proposed here constitute only a minimum programme, the Commission

(1) OJ No L 148, 28. 6. 1968, p. 24.
(2) OJ No L 25, 30, 1. 1973, p. 23

(3) OJ No L 179, 7. 8. 1972, p. 1.

must submit a report every three years so that the extent to which the measures proposed have enabled the objectives of this Directive to be attained may be examined, and it must, if necessary, propose that the methods used be harmonized or improved;

Whereas the financial contribution of the Community towards the expenditure incurred by the Member States in carrying out the surveys provided for under this Directive must be defined;

HAS ADOPTED THIS DIRECTIVE:

Article 1

1. Each year the Member States shall carry out a statistical survey of total cattle numbers, using the reference date any day in December.

2. The first survey shall take place in 1973.

Article 2

1. For the purposes of this Directive 'cattle' means domestic animals of the bovine species falling under heading 01.02 A of the Common Customs Tariff.

2. The surveys referred to in Article 1 shall cover all cattle on holdings of an agricultural or industrial type.

For the purposes of this Directive holdings of an agricultural or industrial type are holdings with a utilized agricultural area of not less than 1 hectare or those with not less than one cow or three other cattle, provided these are not raised for private consumption.

3. Member States whose surveys concern, in addition, holdings other than those referred to in paragraph 2 shall also supply data relating to those holdings.

Article 3

1. Statistics of cattle numbers shall be so compiled as to show a breakdown at least into the following categories:

A. *Cattle of less than 12 months:*

(a) Intended for slaughter as calves

(b) Other:

(aa) males
(bb) females

B. *Cattle under 2 years but not under 1 year:*

(a) males

(b) females:

(aa) slaughter animals
(bb) other

C. *Cattle of 2 years and over:*

(a) males

(b) females:

(aa) heifers:
(1) slaughter animals
(2) other

(bb) cows:
(1) dairy cows
(2) other

D. *Buffaloes:*

(a) female breeding animals

(b) buffaloes, other.

2. If necessary, the categories referred to in paragraph 1 may be altered in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 9.

3. The categories shall be defined by the Commission after consulting the Standing Committee on Agricultural Statistics set up by the Council Decision of 31 July 1972, hereinafter called 'Committee'.

Article 4

1. The surveys shall be carried out in the form of exhaustive surveys or by random sampling.

2. As regards the basis on which the sampling is to be carried out, the Member States shall take whatever measures they deem appropriate for the purpose of maintaining the quality of survey results.

3. Sampling errors shall not exceed 1% of the total number of cattle or 1·5% of the total number of cows in each of the Member States, these percentages representing a confidence margin of 68%.

Notwithstanding the provisions of the foregoing subparagraph, sampling errors of 1·5% and 2·5% shall be acceptable in respect of Italy up to and including 1975, unless the Council, on a proposal from the Commission, decides to extend this period.

4. The Member States shall take appropriate measures to assess and limit errors of observation.