

COUNCIL DIRECTIVE

of 26 July 1971

concerning the statistical surveys to be carried out by the Member States in order to determine the production potential of plantations of certain types of fruit trees

(71/286/EEC)

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;

Having regard to the Opinion of the European Parliament¹;

Whereas the Commission, in order to perform the task conferred upon it by the Treaty and by Community provisions governing the common organisation of the market in fruit and vegetables, needs to be kept well informed on the production potential of plantations of certain species of fruit trees within the Community and to have available medium-term estimates of production and supply on the markets;

Whereas surveys of fruit tree plantations are currently carried out only by some Member States; whereas these surveys do not permit the precise, uniform and synchronised observation of the production and supply of fruit on the markets; whereas a medium-term estimate of production and supply on the markets is now being made only by some Member States;

Whereas it is therefore advisable to carry out surveys concurrently in all Member States on plantations of fruit trees of the same type in accordance with the same criteria and with comparable accuracy; whereas new plantations attain their full yield only after a certain number of years; whereas these surveys should therefore be repeated every five years; whereas in this way reliable statistics may be obtained on production potential taking account of the fruit trees which are not yet productive;

Whereas, in theory, surveys should be limited to undertakings in which a minimum area of 1500 square metres is planted with apple, pear, peach or orange trees, with a view to fruit production for sale; whereas orchards less than 1500 square metres in area may be disregarded because of their negligible influence on market supply;

Whereas uniform surveys should be carried out in each Member State on the main varieties of each type of fruit endeavouring at the same time to establish subdivisions according to variety which are as complete as necessary;

Whereas, since the annual calculations of production potential should be based on the results of these surveys, indications as to the age of trees, the density of plantation and, where appropriate, irrigation should also be obtained; whereas these results should be notified to the Commission as rapidly as possible;

Whereas a Member State which, immediately before the entry into force of this Directive, carried out or prepared surveys on orchards should be permitted to use the results of these surveys if the latter enable the objective of this Directive to be achieved and comply with essential Community criteria;

Whereas the preparation of medium-term estimates requires that each year Member States should estimate and notify the Commission of the area of fruit trees which has been cleared; whereas the Commission should also be sent details every year of new plantations of fruit trees of the above-mentioned species;

Whereas, in any Member State where, since the last survey on fruit tree plantations, exceptionally extensive clearing has been noted, special and more detailed surveys should be carried out on the volume of clearing and the results thereof notified to the Commission;

¹ OJ No C 11, 5.2.1971, p. 32.

Whereas consideration should also be given to statistics resulting from the application of Council Regulation (EEC) No 2517/69 of 9 December 1969 laying down certain measures for reorganising Community fruit production,¹ as last amended by Regulation (EEC) No 2476/70²;

Whereas the Commission must submit reports so that the Council may examine to what extent the surveys and estimates carried out enable the objective of this Directive to be achieved and must suggest, where appropriate, that methods should be aligned;

Whereas, in the interests of optimum co-ordination, all questions raised by the application of this Directive must be dealt with by consultation and standing collaboration between the Commission and Member States;

Whereas the financial responsibility of the Community needs to be established with regard to expenditure incurred by the Member States for the first survey laid down by this Directive;

HAS ADOPTED THIS DIRECTIVE:

Article 1

1. Member States shall carry out in 1972, and in the spring of each fifth year thereafter, surveys on plantations of fruit trees existing on their territory for the production of dessert apples, dessert pears, peaches and oranges.

2. The survey required under paragraph 1 shall apply to all undertakings having an area planted with the species of fruit trees referred to in paragraph 1, provided that the area covers at least 1500 square metres and that the fruit produced are entirely or mainly intended for sale.

The survey shall cover pure and mixed crops, that is to say plantations of fruit trees of several of the species referred to in paragraph 1 or of one or more of them together with other species.

The survey shall also cover areas cultivated not only for fruit production but also for other kinds of agricultural production, provided fruit trees of the species referred to in paragraph 1 are the main crop.

3. The survey may be either exhaustive or based on random sampling.

4. Any Member State which, during the two years preceding the entry into force of this Directive, carried out surveys on its territory on orchards or which prepared the material for them, may use the results of these surveys, provided that they meet the objectives defined and the essential Community criteria fixed in this Directive. However, in subsequent surveys, that Member State must observe the Community criteria and the timing of the survey fixed for the Community.

Article 2

1. In carrying out the surveys provided for in Article 1, the following characteristics are to be noted in respect of the species of fruit referred to in Article 1 (1).

These surveys must be organised so that the results may be presented in various combinations of these characteristics.

A. Variety of fruit

For each species of fruit, and in order of importance, enough varieties must be shown to enable a separate assessment to be made for each Member State, by variety, of at least 80% of the total area planted with fruit trees of the species in question and, in any case, all varieties representing 3% or more of the total area planted with fruit trees of the species in question.

Belgium, Germany, Luxembourg and the Netherlands do not need to distinguish between varieties of peach trees. The survey relating to orange trees shall be carried out in France and Italy only, and in France no distinction between varieties shall be made.

B. Age of trees

Age of trees must be calculated from the time of their planting in the orchard. The planting season extending from the autumn to the spring shall be considered as a single period. When there has been double grafting, the time when this was carried out shall be the determining factor.

The following classes of age shall be laid down:

Less than

1 year	5 — 9 years
1 year	10 — 14 years
2 years	15 — 24 years
3 years	25 years and over
4 years	

¹ OJ No L 318, 18.12.1969, p. 15.

² OJ No L 266, 9.12.1970, p. 2.