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**NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Special Committee on Agriculture

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Subject: Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL amending Regulation (EC) No 138/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards regional economic accounts for agriculture  
*- Mandate for negotiations with the European Parliament*

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1. With a view to the 1650th meeting of the Special Committee on Agriculture taking place on 21 June, delegations will find in Annex a clean text of the proposal for a Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 138/2004 as regards regional economic accounts for agriculture, as agreed at Working Party level through an informal written procedure last Monday the 14th of June.
2. The Special Committee on Agriculture is invited to adopt the text without discussion as a mandate for negotiations with the European Parliament.

**Proposal for a**

**REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL**

**amending Regulation (EC) No 138/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards regional economic accounts for agriculture**

(Text with EEA relevance)

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 338(1) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

After transmission of the draft legislative act to the national parliaments,

Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure,

Whereas:

(1) Regulation (EU) No 549/2013 of the European Parliament and the Council<sup>1</sup> contains the reference framework of common standards, definitions, classifications and accounting rules for drawing up the accounts of the Member States for the statistical requirements of the Union ('ESA 2010').

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU) No 549/2013 of the European Parliament and the Council of 21 May 2013 on the European system of national and regional accounts in the European Union (OJ L 174, 26.6.2013, p. 1).

(2) Regulation (EC) No 138/2004 of the European Parliament and the Council<sup>2</sup> sets up the economic accounts for agriculture (EAA) in the Union by providing for the methodology and the time limits for the transmission of the agricultural accounts. The economic accounts for agriculture are satellite accounts of national accounts, as defined by ESA 2010, with the purpose of obtaining results that are harmonised and comparable between the Member States in order to draw up the accounts for the purposes of the Union.

(3) The regional economic accounts for agriculture (REAA) are a regional-level adaptation of the EAA. National figures alone cannot reveal the full and sometimes complex picture of what is happening at a more detailed level. Therefore, regional-level data help to increase the understanding of the diversity that exists between regions, complementing information for the Union, the euro area and individual Member States. The REAA therefore need to be integrated into Regulation (EC) No 138/2004 both in terms of methodology, **transmission programme of data**, and appropriate transmission deadlines.

(4) Statistics are no longer considered to be just one among many sources of information for policymaking purposes but instead play a central role in the decision- making process. Evidence-based decision- making requires statistics that meet high- quality criteria, as set out in Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>3</sup>, in accordance with the purposes they are serving.

(5) Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 provides the legal framework for European statistics and requires Member States to comply with the statistical principles and quality criteria specified in the Regulation. Quality reports are essential for assessing, improving and communicating on the quality of European statistics. The European Statistical System Committee (ESSC) has endorsed the single integrated metadata structure as the ESS standard for quality reporting, thereby helping to satisfy, through uniform standards and harmonised methods, the statistical quality requirements laid down in Regulation (EC) No 223/2009, in particular those set out in Article 12 (3) thereof.

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<sup>2</sup> Regulation (EC) No 138/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 December 2003 on the economic accounts for agriculture in the Community (OJ L 33, 5.2.2004, p. 1).

<sup>3</sup> Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on European statistics and repealing Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1101/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the transmission of data subject to statistical confidentiality to the Statistical Office of the European Communities, Council Regulation (EC) No 322/97 on Community Statistics, and Council Decision 89/382/EEC, Euratom establishing a Committee on the Statistical Programmes of the European Communities (OJ L 87, 31.3.2009, p. 164).

(6) In order to ensure uniform conditions for the implementation of this Regulation, implementing powers should be conferred on the Commission in respect of the arrangements for and the content of the quality reports. In addition, implementing powers should also be conferred on the Commission in respect of possible derogations from regional economic accounts for agriculture requirements. Those powers should be exercised in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

(7) The EAA provide important annual macroeconomic data to European policymakers three times a year; ~~first and second estimates are followed by the final data.~~, **as foreseen in Annex II of the regulation.** The current transmission deadline for the EAA second estimates does not provide much time after the end of the reference period to collect improved data compared to the data provided for the EAA first estimates. To improve the quality of these second estimates, the transmission deadline needs to be slightly postponed.

(8) Regulation (EC) No 138/2004 should therefore be amended accordingly.

(9) The ~~European Statistical System Committee~~ **ESSC** has been consulted,

HAVE ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

*Article 1*

Regulation (EC) No 138/2004 is amended as follows:

(1) In Article 3 (2), the following sentence is added:

‘2. The first transmission of data for the regional economic accounts for agriculture **at NUTS 2 level in the meaning of the Regulation (EC) 1059/2003** shall take place ~~by 30 June 2022 at the latest~~ **within 21 months of the end of the first reference year. The first reference year is the year in which this Regulation enters into force.**’

(2) The following Articles are inserted:

Article 4a

**Quality assessment**

1. Member States shall take the measures necessary to ensure the quality of the data and metadata transmitted.
2. For the purpose of this Regulation, the quality criteria set out in Article 12(1) of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 shall apply to the data to be transmitted in accordance with Article 3 of this Regulation.
3. The Commission (Eurostat) shall assess the quality of the data transmitted. **For that purpose, Member States shall transmit a quality report to the Commission (Eurostat), for the first time by 31 December of the year [insert the year starting 1 January following 24 months after adoption], and thereafter every 5 years, for the data sets transmitted during the period.**
4. In applying the quality criteria referred to in paragraph 2 to the data covered by this Regulation, the Commission shall, by means of implementing acts, define the modalities, structure, ~~periodicity~~ and assessment indicators of the quality reports ~~and set the deadline for providing the reports to the Commission (Eurostat)~~. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 4c(2). **They shall not impose significant additional burden or cost on the Member States.**
5. Member States shall inform the Commission (Eurostat) as soon as possible of any relevant information or change with regard to the implementation of this Regulation that would influence the quality of the data transmitted.
6. Upon a duly justified request from the Commission (Eurostat), Member States shall provide necessary additional clarification to evaluate the quality of the statistical information.

## Article 4b

### **Derogations**

1. Where the application of this Regulation would necessitate major adaptations in a national statistical system of a Member State as regards the implementation of the content of Annex I, point VII. 'Regional economic accounts for agriculture' and of the transmission programme of data for regional accounts for agriculture as referred to in Annex II, the Commission may adopt implementing acts granting derogations to that Member State for a maximum duration of ~~two~~ **three** years.

**2. Where a derogation as referred to in paragraph 1 remains justified by sufficient evidence at the end of the period for which it was granted, the Commission may, by means of implementing acts, grant a subsequent derogation for a maximum period of two years.**

~~2.3.~~ **For the purpose of a derogation as referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2, the relevant Member State concerned shall submit a duly reasoned request for such a derogation to the Commission within three months of [insert the date of the entry into force of this Regulation]. the date of the entry into force of this Regulation or six months before the end of the period for which a current derogation has been granted.**

3.4. These implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 4c.

## Article 4c

### **Committee procedure**

1. The Commission shall be assisted by the European Statistical System Committee established by Regulation (EC) No 223/2009. That Committee shall be a committee within the meaning of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011.

2. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 shall apply.’

(3) Annex I is amended in accordance with Annex I to this Regulation.

(4) Annex II is amended in accordance with Annex II to this Regulation.

### *Article 2*

This Regulation shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels,

*For the European Parliament*

*The President*

*For the Council*

*The President*