



Brussels, 22 October 2026
(OR. en)

14593/26

AGRI 760
AGRIFIN 182
AGRIORG 130
AGRISTR 49
STATIS 71

NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	AOB item for the meeting of the “Agriculture and Fisheries” Council on 26-27 October 2026: Integrated Farm Statistics from 2030 onwards - Reducing the reporting burden on farmers – <i>Information from Austria, supported by Czechia, Netherlands and Slovenia</i>

Reducing administrative burdens on farmers must deliver tangible results. The preparation of the future legal framework for Integrated Farm Statistics from 2030 onwards offers an important opportunity to reduce reporting requirements for agricultural holdings while safeguarding the information needed for effective agricultural policy.

Regulation (EU) 2018/1091 provides for core structural data collection in 2020, 2023 and 2026, with a census required for 2020 and sample-based collection permitted for 2023 and 2026. It is based on Article 338 TFEU, which requires Union statistics to be produced in a cost-effective manner and without imposing excessive burdens on economic operators.

The existing framework has provided high-quality structural information on European agriculture. However, farmers already face numerous administrative obligations. Repeated statistical surveys require additional time and resources. Many Member States are observing a gradual decline in farmers' willingness to participate in statistical surveys. A future statistical framework must therefore strike a credible balance between information needs and the burden placed on farmers.

We consider that a meaningful reduction in reporting obligations cannot be achieved merely by removing individual variables from questionnaires. While this may reduce the workload to some extent, eliminating an entire survey round would provide substantially greater relief for farmers and reduce the workload of national authorities.

We therefore propose that, from 2030 onwards, core structural data should be collected at five-year intervals: a census in 2030, an intermediate sample survey in 2035 and the next census in 2040. Compared with the current model, this would remove one intermediate survey round per decade.

This approach would preserve regular and reliable structural information while better reflecting the fact that many key characteristics of agricultural holdings evolve over longer periods. It would also allow national statistical institutes and Eurostat more time to analyse the results, make better use of the information collected and incorporate lessons learned into subsequent surveys.

Reliable and up-to-date information remains essential for the design, monitoring and evaluation of agricultural policy. A reduced survey frequency must therefore be accompanied by greater use of suitable administrative data and other existing sources, in line with the principle of collecting data once and reusing them. The revised framework should ensure timely access to such data, with appropriate quality, coverage and comparability. The scheduling of modules should also be aligned with the revised cycle, so that the removal of one survey round is not offset by additional separate reporting obligations.

Austria, Czechia, Netherlands and Slovenia therefore call on the Commission to provide for a five-year interval for core structural data collection in the future legal framework for Integrated Farm Statistics, combining a census every ten years with one intermediate sample survey. The Commission should reflect this approach in its forthcoming proposal and ensure that the revised framework delivers a real reduction in the reporting burden on farmers while continuing to meet essential policy information needs.