COMMISSION DECISION

of 25 February 1998

approving the 1998 technical action plan (first part) for improving agricultural statistics

(Text with EEA relevance)

(98/186/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Decision 96/411/EC of 25 June 1996 on improving Community agricultural statistics [1], as amended by Council Decision 98/3/EC of 18 December 1997 [2],

Whereas in accordance with Article 4(1) of Commission Decision 96/411/EC the Commission establishes a technical action plan for agricultural statistics each year;

Whereas there is a need to consolidate some of the actions started under the 1996/1997 [3] [4] technical action plan and to continue the work undertaken by Member States;

Whereas the measures set out by this decision are in conformity with the opinion of the Standing Committee on Agricultural Statistics,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The 1998 technical action plan (first part) for improving agricultural statistics, which appears in Annex, is approved.

Article 2

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 25 February 1998.

For the Commission

Franz FISCHLER

Member of the Commission

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[1] OJ L 162, 1. 7. 1996, p. 14.
[2] OJ L 1, 3. 1. 1998, p. 9.
[3] OJ L 6, 10. 1. 1997, p. 45.
[4] OJ L 240, 2. 9. 1997, p. 10.

ANNEX

1998 TECHNICAL ACTION PLAN

(FIRST PART)

1. The action projects set out in the first part of the technical action plan for improving agricultural statistics (TAPAS) in 1998 are aimed at continuing those projects started under the 1996/1997 action plan which require the extension and validation of the methods tested in 1997 in order to provide better statistics in the following areas:

   (i) early estimates on sowings:

   (ii) improvement and fast transmission of statistics on fruit and vegetables;

   (iii) balance sheets.

   The Commission will participate in the funding of projects undertaken in these areas with a contribution per Member State not exceeding the amounts indicated at the end of this Annex.

2. The action projects presented by the Member States should relate to:

   (i) **early estimates on sowings**

   The aim here is to obtain by the end of February 1998 an estimate of the areas sown with soft wheat, durum wheat, barley, rye, other winter cereals and rape in the different EU Member States. This estimate is to be updated before the end of May and to include spring cereals, oilseed and protein crops.

   The Commission will bear the cost of action projects undertaken by the Member States, with a view to consolidating, extending and validating the method established in this field on an experimental basis in 1997, within the limits indicated at the end of this Annex.

   (ii) **the improvement and fast transmission of statistics on fruit and vegetables**

   The aim here is to obtain reliable statistics of EU production of the main types of fruit and vegetables. The Member States will transmit to Eurostat the area and production data on these products as soon as possible after the harvest.

   The Commission will grant financial aid within the limits indicated at the end of this Annex to those Member States which establish further means of improving their knowledge about their national production of fruit and vegetables.

   (iii) **balance sheets**

   The aim here is to improve data for the balance sheets on the following items:

   (a) cereals and other field crops, fruit and vegetables, dairy products, other items;

   (b) fodder balance sheets.

   In order to continue the work done on this subject by Member States under the 1996/1997 TAPAS action plan, the Commission will grant a financial contribution within the limits indicated at the end of this Annex to Member States which present new action projects in this field.

TECHNICAL ACTION PLAN 1998 — FIRST PART

Community financial contribution to expenses incurred

Break-down by Member States

(in thousands of ecus)

Countries	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	Total
Early sowing estimates	13	25	75	22	75	90	13	50	11	12	18	16	20	20	40	500
Fruit and vegetables	19	13	32	37	77	44	13	88	12	28	14	22	13	13	25	450
Balance sheets	20	20	60	25	55	70	25	55	10	35	20	25	15	15	50	500