

Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on statistics on agricultural input and output and repealing Regulations (EC) No 1165/2008, (EC) No 543/2009, (EC) No 1185/2009 and Council Directive 96/16/EC - SAIO Regulation

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PROGRESS REPORT

STAGES IN THE PROCEDURE

European Commission

Adoption	02.02.2021
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Council of the European Union

Proposal received	02.02.2021
Council Working Party Meetings	19.02.2021 (presentation) 17.03.2021 21.04.2021 26.05.2021 18.06.2021

European Parliament

Proposal received	02.02.2021
Committee responsible	AGRI
Rapporteur	Petros KOKKALIS (GUE/NGL)
Committee draft report	21.05.2021 (PE689.690)

Summary

This proposal is the second framework regulation envisaged within the strategy on agricultural statistics for 2020 and beyond, endorsed by the European

Statistical System Committee in November 2015, complementing the framework Regulation (EU) 2018/1091 on Integrated Farm Statistics.

The proposal establishes a common framework for aggregated European statistics related to the inputs and outputs of agricultural activities, as well as the intermediate use of such output within agriculture and its collection and industrial processing. It covers agricultural production (crops and animals) as well as organic farming, agri-environmental statistics on issues such as fertilizers, nutrient balances and plant protection products, and agricultural prices.

The main aim of the Commission's initiative is to monitor and evaluate the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and other important EU policies, and to support policymaking. This proposal also aims to streamline and update agricultural statistics legislation, to reduce the burden to provide data by using various sources of information and modern technology, to take account of new data needs and to ensure better comparability of collected data.

On 3 February 2021 the Portuguese Presidency launched a written consultation on the SAIO proposal, with deadline on 24 February. The compilation of the comments received was published in the delegates portal as document WK 3137/2021 REV 1.

In the 1st meeting of the CWPS under the Portuguese Presidency, held in virtual format, on 19 February, the Commission presented the SAIO proposal and an initial exchange of views with Member States took place.

Member States in general welcomed the SAIO proposal as a step forward in the modernisation and streamlining of the European agriculture statistics, recognising the importance of its data requirements for the EU policies, namely for the CAP and for the European Green Deal with the underlying farm to fork and biodiversity strategies.

MS however expressed concerns, mainly related to: i) the additional burden and costs for MS and respondents, since the proposal introduces new data collections; ii) the lack of appropriate co-financing from the Union; iii) the broad empowerment given to the Commission, claiming the need for safeguard clauses

to avoid substantial increase of the burden on the agriculture sector and of the production costs for MS; iv) the availability of data sources for some of the new data requirements in connection with the frequency foreseen for the provision of the data; v) the limited period for derogations.

Based on the written comments from Member States and the Commission's technical clarifications in document WK 3545/2021, of 12 March, the CWPS started the examination of the articles of the SAIO file in the informal videoconference of 17 March, guided by the Presidency non-paper WK 3712/2021.

The examination continued during the informal CWPS videoconference meetings of 21 April and of 26 May, guided by the Presidency non-paper WK 5226/2021. Additional technical clarifications provided by the Commission in WK 6769/2021 were also considered during the discussions on 26 May.

Furthermore, on 26 May, one representative from the Portuguese Ministry of Agriculture and one representative of DG AGRI were invited to talk about the statistical implications of the CAP reform. The Presidency felt this participation was important to further clarify the new statistical requirements, which largely rely on the ability of the European Statistical System to respond to them in a timely and cost-effective way.

It became clear from the discussions that the SAIO proposal requires compromise solutions for most of its articles, as well as for the annex.

On 16 June, the Portuguese Presidency circulated the working paper WK 7972/2021 with drafting suggestions for articles 1-4, 6-11 and 13-14, as a first attempt to address Member States concerns.

Article 5, on the regular data requirements, was not covered by the Presidency drafting suggestions, due to its interlinkage with the annex, pending of additional work to achieve a common understanding on the additional elements to include therein.

At the CWPS informal videoconference of 18 June, the Presidency provided clarifications on the drafting suggestions in WK 7972/2021 and invited delegations to send their written comments, by 24 June. An additional clarification was given in the Presidency working paper WK 8320/2021, of 22 June.

The PT Presidency progress report (ST 9977/21), of 25 June, addressed to the Special Committee on Agriculture/Council, contains the results of the written consultation with an indication of the Presidency suggestions accepted as a good starting point for further discussions during the Slovenian Presidency.

The state-of-play of the SAIO proposal is foreseen as an information point under AoB of the last PT Presidency AGRIFISH Council, on 28-29 June.