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COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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2007/0132 (CNS)

Proposal for a

COUNCIL REGULATION

**on the measures to be undertaken by the Commission in 2008-13
making use of the remote-sensing applications developed
within the framework of the common agricultural policy**

(presented by the Commission)

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Decision No 2066/2003/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council covers, inter alia, the pilot project applying remote-sensing techniques to the monitoring of the agricultural markets in 2003-07. Experience gained over that period has enabled the agro-meteorological system for forecasting yields and monitoring land and crop conditions to become operational. Remote sensing has, moreover, demonstrated that it offers a response tailored to the management needs of the common agricultural policy, and that the needs identified could not be met by the traditional agricultural statistics and forecasting systems.

Provision should therefore be made for the continued application of these operational measures with financing from the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF).

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on the measures to be undertaken by the Commission in 2008-13 making use of the remote-sensing applications developed within the framework of the common agricultural policy

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular the third subparagraph of Article 37(2) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal by the Commission¹,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament²,

Whereas:

- (1) Under Article 33 of the Treaty establishing the European Community, the common agricultural policy is to take account of the particular nature of agricultural activity, which results from the social structure of agriculture and from structural and natural disparities between the various agricultural regions. There is considerable need for information on the condition of land and crops in this context, in particular for the management of the common organisations of the markets. Remote-sensing applications can provide some of the information required to this end, provided that they can cover all the areas of interest for the management of the agricultural markets.
- (2) Experience gained in 2004-07, within the framework of Decision No 1445/2000/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 May 2000 on the application of aerial-survey and remote-sensing techniques to the agricultural statistics for 1999 to 2003³, as amended, and the decisions which preceded it⁴, has enabled the agrometeorological system for forecasting yields and monitoring land and crop conditions to achieve an advanced operational and development stage and to demonstrate its effectiveness.
- (3) Remote sensing has thus demonstrated that it provides a response tailored to the management needs of the common agricultural policy, and that the needs identified cannot be met by the traditional agricultural statistics and forecasting systems. It has also enhanced the accuracy, objectivity, speed and frequency with which observations are made and helped perfect agricultural forecasting models, in particular by establishing regionally based models. Finally, it has facilitated the development of specific and ancillary applications for the establishment and collection of agricultural statistics, and has enabled savings to be made in the costs of monitoring and control of

¹ OJ C ..., ..., p.

² OJ C ..., ..., p.

³ OJ L 163, 4.7.2000, p. 1. Decision as last amended by Decision No 786/2004/EC (OJ L 138, 30.4.2004, p. 7).

⁴ In particular Council Decision 88/503/EEC (OJ L 273, 5.10.1988, p. 12).

agricultural expenditure. Provision should therefore be made for the continuation of these applications using financing from the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) in the period 2008-13, pursuant to Article 3(2)(e) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1290/2005 of 21 June 2005 on the financing of the common agricultural policy⁵.

- (4) The detailed implementing rules for measures to be undertaken by the Commission within the framework of the common agricultural policy making use of remote sensing should, however, be adjusted and reorganised, and the operational measures carried out within the framework of this system should be separated from those which require more research and development work. Separate provision should therefore be made for the latter measures in the framework programme for research and development.
- (5) It should also be laid down that the information and estimates which result from the measures undertaken and are held by the Commission should be made available to the Member States, and the European Parliament and the Council should be informed by means of an interim and a final report of the conditions for implementation of the remote-sensing measures undertaken and on the use of the resources made available to the Commission, accompanied, where appropriate, by a proposal to continue these measures beyond the period laid down in this Regulation,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

1. From 1 January 2008, for a six-year period, the measures undertaken by the Commission making use of remote-sensing applications within the framework of the common agricultural policy may be financed by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund, pursuant to Article 3(2)(e) of Regulation (EC) No 1290/2005, where their aim is to give the Commission the means to:
 - (a) manage agricultural markets;
 - (b) ensure agro-economic monitoring of agricultural land and of the condition of crops, to enable estimates to be made, in particular as regards yields and agricultural production;
 - (c) promote access to the information referred to in point (b);
 - (d) ensure technological follow-up of the agro-meteorological system.
2. The measures referred to in paragraph 1 shall be in particular:
 - (a) collection or purchase of data needed to implement and monitor the common agricultural policy, in particular satellite data and meteorological data;
 - (b) creation of a spatial data infrastructure and a website;
 - (c) carrying out specific studies on climatic conditions;
 - (d) updating agro-meteorological and econometric models.

Where appropriate, these measures shall be carried out in close collaboration with national laboratories and bodies.

⁵ OJ L 209, 11.8.2005, p. 1. Regulation as amended by Regulation (EC) No 378/2007 (OJ L 95, 5.4.2007, p. 1).

Article 2

The Commission shall make the information and estimates which result from the measures referred to in Article 1(1) available to the Member States electronically.

Article 3

Detailed rules for the implementation of this Regulation shall be adopted in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 41(3) of Regulation (EC) No 1290/2005, in particular as regards making available the information and estimates referred to in this Regulation.

Article 4

Not later than 31 July 2010 and 31 July 2013, the Commission shall report to the European Parliament and to the Council on the implementation of the remote-sensing measures undertaken and on the use of the financial resources made available to it under this Regulation, accompanied, where appropriate, in the second report, by a proposal to continue these measures within the framework of the common agricultural policy.

Article 5

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

It shall apply from 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2013.

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

Done at Brussels, [...]

For the Council
The President

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

1. BUDGET HEADING: 05 08 03 - Restructuring of agricultural survey systems	APPROPRIATIONS (2007): EUR 1.78 million in CA EUR 4.03 million in PA			
2. TITLE OF MEASURE: Council Regulation on the measures to be undertaken by the Commission in 2008-13 making use of the remote-sensing applications developed within the framework of the common agricultural policy				
3. LEGAL BASIS: Article 37 of the EC Treaty				
4. AIMS: To obtain the means to manage the agricultural markets, ensure agro-economic monitoring of agricultural land and of the condition of crops to enable estimates to be made, in particular as regards yields and agricultural production, and ensure technological follow-up of the agro-meteorological system.				
5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR 2007 (EUR million)	FOLLOWING FINANCIAL YEAR 2008 (PDB) (EUR million)	FINANCIAL YEAR 2009 (EUR million)	
5.0 EXPENDITURE CHARGED TO – THE EC BUDGET (REFUNDS / INTERVENTIONS) – NATIONAL AUTHORITIES – OTHER	–	CA 1.90 PA 1.14	CA 1.46 PA 1.64	
5.1 REVENUE – OWN RESOURCES OF THE EC (LEVIES / CUSTOMS DUTIES) – NATIONAL	–	–	–	
	2010	2011	2012	2013
5.0.1 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE	CA 1.46 PA 1.46	CA 1.46 PA 1.46	CA 1.46 PA 1.46	CA 1.46 PA 2.04
5.1.1 ESTIMATED REVENUE	–	–	–	–
5.2 METHOD OF CALCULATION: –				
6.0 CAN THE PROJECT BE FINANCED FROM APPROPRIATIONS ENTERED IN THE RELEVANT CHAPTER OF THE CURRENT BUDGET?				YES NO
6.1 CAN THE PROJECT BE FINANCED BY TRANSFER BETWEEN CHAPTERS OF THE CURRENT BUDGET?				YES NO
6.2 WILL A SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET BE NECESSARY?				YES NO
6.3 WILL APPROPRIATIONS NEED TO BE ENTERED IN FUTURE BUDGETS?				YES NO
OBSERVATIONS: No additional administrative costs in relation to the current situation.				