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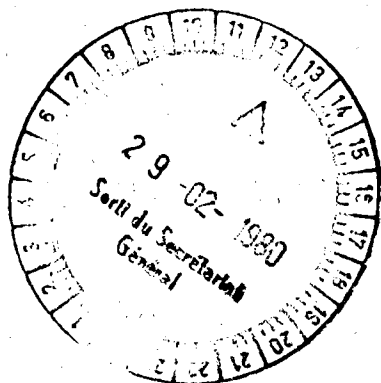
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COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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Brussels, 12th February 1980



ANNUAL REPORT ON THE ESTIMATED CLEARINGS AND NEW PLANTATIONS OF CERTAIN TYPES OF FRUIT TREES

Submitted by the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council in conformity with Article 8 of the Council Directive of 20 July 1976 (76/625/EEC) as amended by Article I of the Council Directive of 14 February 1977 (77/159/EEC).

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Council Directive of 20 July 1976, 76/625/EEC¹⁾, as amended by Council Directive 77/159/EEC²⁾ of 14 February 1977, concerning the statistical surveys to be carried out by Member States in order to determine the production potential of plantations of certain species of fruit trees, requires in Article 8 that the Commission shall submit to the European Parliament and the Council from 1 January 1977 annual reports on the subject of Articles 5 and 6.
2. This third report relates to estimates made by Member States of the areas of fruit trees cleared and newly planted during the 1977/78 season.

II. OBJECTIVE

3. The objective of Articles 5 and 6 of the Directive is to provide the Commission with annual estimates of changes in the area of certain species of fruit trees (dessert apples, dessert pears, peaches and oranges). These estimates give an indication of the trend in the area under fruit trees between the quinquennial surveys on fruit tree plantations, the last one having been conducted in 1977.

III. INFORMATION RECEIVED

4. The Directive requires Member States to supply annual estimates of the areas of fruit trees cleared and newly planted by species. For new plantations the estimates must distinguish between varieties "in so far as possible", but in fact most Member States sub-divide both clearings and plantings into major varieties or varietal groups. However, two countries are only able to supply global estimates in the case of new plantations, and three countries in the case of clearings.

IV. AREAS CLEARED (Table 1)

5. The total area of apple, pear, peach and orange trees cleared in 1977/78 was 17 019 hectares, only some 60 % of the area cleared in 1976/77. Within this total, reductions in the clearings of apple and pear trees (approximately 55 % and 50 % respectively of the 1976/77 totals) occurred mainly in France, Italy and the Netherlands. The area of peach trees cleared was 25 % below the 1976/77 level.

1) O.J. N° L 218, 11.8.1976, p. 10.

2) O.J. N° L 48, 19.2.1977, p.31.

6. The information available on varieties of fruit cleared indicates that there were no significant changes compared with last season, clearings being mainly of the major varieties in each country.

V. AREAS PLANTED (Table 2)

7. New plantations amounted to 17 980 hectares in 1977/78, an increase of 30 % compared with 1976/77. The increase was reflected in all the species with the exception of oranges, where plantings were only two-thirds of the previous season's level. The 1977/78 total was, however, only about 10 % above the average level of the previous 5 years since increased plantings of apples and pears were offset by lower-than-average plantings of oranges (see table 2A). As in the case of clearings, there were no significant developments in the varieties of fruit planted in 1977/78.

VI. NET CHANGE IN AREA (Table 3)

8. Slight increases in the overall areas under apple, peach and orange trees during 1977/78 were offset by a decrease in the area under pears. The total area of commercial orchards of the four species therefore remained virtually stable, the net change being an increase of only 961 hectares.
9. In the case of apples no major changes in any particular variety were recorded, but the information available indicates that for the Communities as a whole, slight decreases occurred in the areas of Morgenduft, Cox's Orange Pippin and Worcester Pearmain, while the areas under Red Delicious and Golden Delicious showed slight increases.
10. For pears, slight increases in the area under Doyenné du Comice and Williams in Italy were more than offset by decreases in the areas of Passe Crassane, Coscia and Jules Guyot in Italy and Conférence in the U.K. In France, the area under all types of pear (summer, autumn and winter) was slightly reduced.
11. In France, the area of both white and yellow-flesh peach varieties showed a net reduction in area, while in Italy, slight reductions in the area of the varieties Dixired, Cardinal, Redhaven and J.H. Hale were more than offset by increases in the area of other varieties.

VII. CONCLUSIONS

12. As has already been mentioned in paragraph 8, there was no significant change in the total area under apples, pears, peaches and oranges during 1977/78.
13. As for the question of accuracy and level of detail of the estimates, the methodology used and problems encountered were discussed at a meeting of the "Vegetable Products Statistics" (Orchard fruit surveys) Working Party held in Luxembourg in October 1979. The conclusions drawn from the discussion were as follows:
 - (i) the three Member States who are currently unable to sub-divide areas cleared into major varieties, and two of these three Member States who are also unable to sub-divide new plantations by variety, agreed to examine the possibility of providing these details in the future;
 - (ii) more accurate estimates could be provided if the deadline date for their submission (31 December) was postponed. An alternative date of "31 March of the following year" was agreed;
 - (iii) it was not possible to estimate the age of trees cleared.
14. As a result of these discussions, EUROSTAT will now investigate ways of making medium-term production forecasts which are more suited to the level of detail of the data available. In addition, the postponement of the deadline date (mentioned in para. 13 (ii) above) will be included in a draft Directive amending Council Directive 76/625/EEC. It is hoped that these measures will enable a reasonable assessment of trends in orchard-fruit production to be made in future between the quinquennial surveys.

Table 1: Area and proportion¹⁾ of orchard fruit cleared in 1977/78 by country and species

Country	Apples		Pears		Peaches		Oranges	
	ha	%	ha	%	ha	%	ha	%
BR Deutschland	421	1,6	35	1,4	11	3,9	-	-
France 2)	1 874	2,9	846	3,4	3 386	8,4	-	-
Italia	2 210	3,2	1 776	4,0	2 455	3,1	775	0,8
Nederland	967	4,8	282	4,9	-	-	-	-
Belgique/België	104	1,2	23	0,6	6	-	-	-
Luxembourg	3	0,5	-	-	-	-	-	-
United Kingdom	1 282	6,6	262	5,6	-	-	-	-
Ireland	6	1,3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Danmark	225	3,7	70	9,6	-	-	-	-
EUR-9	7 092	3,3	3 294	3,8	5 858	4,9	775	0,8

Table 2 : Area and proportion¹⁾ of orchard fruit planted in 1977/78 by country and species

Country	Apples		Pears		Peaches		Oranges	
	ha	%	ha	%	ha	%	ha	%
BR Deutschland	822	3,1	17	0,7	7	2,5	-	-
France 2)	1 974	3,1	386	1,5	1 856	4,6	-	-
Italia	3 916	5,6	1 133	2,5	5 239	6,6	817	0,8
Nederland	712	3,6	82	1,4	-	-	-	-
Belgique/België	163	2,0	36	1,0	-	-	-	-
Luxembourg	2	0,3	1	8,3	-	-	-	-
United Kingdom	610	3,2	82	1,7	-	-	-	-
Ireland	19	4,0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Danmark	93	1,6	8	1,1	-	-	-	-
EUR-9	8 316	3,9	1 745	2,0	7 102	6,0	817	0,8

- 1) Areas cleared and planted as a proportion of the areas recorded at the 1977 orchard fruit survey.
- 2) For France, estimates of areas cleared and planted are based on the annual "Evolution des vergers" survey (Orchard Trends Survey). These results should be used in relative terms only (as a percentage of the corresponding area in the same "Evolution des vergers" survey) when comparisons are made with the quinquennial "Structure des vergers" survey (Orchard Structure Survey).

Table 2A : % change in the area of orchard fruit planted in 1977/78 compared with the average area¹⁾
planted in the previous five years

Country	Apples	Pears	Peaches	Oranges
BR Deutschland	+ 39	- 21	+ 9	-
France	+ 22	+ 1	+ 10	-
Italia	+ 65	+ 97	+ 1	- 55
Nederland	- 7	- 17	-	-
Belgique/België	- 57	- 67	-	-
Luxembourg	- 33	0	-	-
United Kingdom	- 14	- 6	-	-
Ireland	+ 19	-	-	-
Danmark	- 30	- 20	-	-
EUR-9	+ 26	+ 36	+ 3	- 55

1) Average of the areas of trees aged from 0 to 4 years old recorded at the 1977 orchard fruit survey.

Table 3 : Net change in area under orchard fruit in 1977/78

ha

Country	Apples	Pears	Peaches	Oranges
BR Deutschland	+ 401	- 18	- 4	-
France	+ 100	- 460	- 1 530	-
Italia	+ 1 706	- 643	+ 2 784	+ 42
Nederland	- 255	- 200	-	-
Belgique/Belgie	+ 59	+ 13	- 6	-
Luxembourg	- 1	+ 1	-	-
United Kingdom	- 672	- 180	-	-
Ireland	+ 13	-	-	-
Danmark	- 127	- 62	-	-
EUR-9	+ 1 224	- 1 549	+ 1 244	+ 42

Table 4 : Estimated area under orchard fruit in 1978 ¹⁾

ha

Country	Apples	Pears	Peaches	Oranges
BR Deutschland	27 121	2 437	277	-
France	60 972	23 566	37 621	-
Italia	71 083	43 983	82 670	102 879
Nederland	19 787	5 508	-	-
Belgique/Belgie	8 383	3 602	-	-
Luxembourg	648	13	-	-
United Kingdom	18 648	4 538	-	-
Ireland	486	-	-	-
Danmark	5 928	664	-	-
EUR-9	213 056	84 311	120 568	102 879

1) Areas recorded at the 1977 orchard fruit survey adjusted by the net change in area given in Table 3 above.

2) Data not available (Belgium was not required to record the area under peaches at the 1977 survey).