

# Presidency Flash

Paris, 4 May 2022

## Council Working Party on Statistics meeting on 11 May

Dear colleagues,

We are pleased to invite you to the fifth meeting of the Council Working Party on Statistics (CWPS) under the French Presidency. Two legislative dossiers will be on the agenda: the proposal for a Regulation on harmonized rules on fair access to and use of data (Data Act) and the proposal for a SAIO Regulation.

The first part of the meeting will be dedicated to a presentation by Eurostat of the proposal for a Data Regulation, and an update on the progress of negotiations on this text in the Council Working Party on Telecommunications and Information Society.

The Commission (Eurostat) will make a presentation mainly focused on the provisions concerning official statistics (chapter V). Then, Mr Michaël Reffay, Deputy Advisor for Digital, Telecommunications and Postal Services at the Permanent Representation of France to the European Union, in charge of negotiating this text under the French Presidency of the Council of the EU, will present the discussions underway in the Council Working Party on Telecommunications and Information Society on this proposal for a Data Regulation.

Afterwards, the delegations will be invited to share their analyses and questions on this proposal for a Regulation with the Presidency and delegates of the CWPS.

The second part of the meeting will be dedicated to the negotiations on the proposal for a Regulation on agricultural statistics (the SAIO Regulation). The Presidency will present the results of the second political trilogue, which was held on Thursday 28 April. Four items were on the agenda: statistics on biocides, veterinary medicinal products, organic farming, and plant protection products. This second trilogue followed a series of nine inter-institutional technical meetings.

At the end of the exchanges during this trilogue, a provisional agreement was reached on the statistics on biocides and veterinary medicinal products.

Concerning the measure of organic farming, the discussions focused on the compromise proposal submitted by the Presidency. This would allow, by delegation to the Commission, to expand the collection of data on organic farming, in line with the development of organic farming in the Union. Discussions on these provisions should continue at the next technical meetings.

On statistics on plant protection products (PPPs), the Council's mandate was far from the Commission's proposal and the Parliament's mandate. To reconcile these positions, the two co-legislators and the Commission agreed, during the trilogue, on the establishment of a transitional period, offering the NSIs the time needed to produce, under certain conditions, annual statistics on the use of PPPs in agriculture from the reference year 2028.

The Presidency was prepared to support this compromise, if electronic records at farmer level are available, before the switch to annual statistics on the use of PPPs in agriculture. During this transitional period, which would last for three years, the Presidency demanded that only one data collection, corresponding to the reference year 2026, is carried out. The Commission could provide grants for the implementation of the data collection during the transitional period as well as for the target annual data collection scheme.

The collection during this transitional period would cover a list of crops representative of the use of PPPs in the EU, which would initially be restricted and then progressively extended at the end of the transitional phase, in order to have a good representativeness at European level of the use of PPPs in agriculture. Technical adjustments to legally write the provisions of this transitional period into the SAIO Regulation still need to be undertaken.

After this presentation of the results of the political trilogue, the Member States will be invited to react to the 4-column document distributed to delegates in preparation of this meeting (document WK 6728/2/22 REV 2).

The Presidency will then briefly present the work that remains to be done in order to reach an overall compromise text. This concerns in particular the safeguard clauses relating to the modification of the detailed topics and their variables, provided for in Article 5, and relating to ad hoc modules, provided for in Article 6. The Presidency will also present the ongoing work on the provisions regarding feasibility studies and exemptions in the SAIO Regulation.

Delegations will then be invited to react to the above-mentioned points, and will be asked to provide information to the Presidency on an acceptable transmission frequency of statistics on organic fertilisers, which the Council's mandate would like to be every five years, whereas the Commission and the Parliament would like it to be annual.

Looking forward to a productive meeting,

The French Presidency team