



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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**REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION
TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL**

**on the experience acquired from the statistical survey on plantations of certain species
of fruit trees, carried out by the Member States in 2002 in application of Directive
2001/109/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 December 2001**

1. The 2002 basic survey on plantations of certain species of fruit trees was carried out in the 15 EU Member States in application of the Directive 2001/109/EC¹ of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 December 2001 and in accordance with the Commission Decision 2002/38/EC of 27 December 2001² setting out the survey parameters and laying down the code and standard rules for the transcription, in machine-readable form, of the data.

The present report on experience acquired during the 2002 survey is submitted in accordance with Article 7 of the Directive 2001/109/EC.

The previous report (on experience acquired during the 1997 survey) was presented by the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council as document COM(2000) 362 final of 14 June 2000.

2. In the 2002 basic survey, the following species were surveyed:

- (a) dessert apples (in the Member States of EU-15);
- (b) dessert pears (in the Member States of EU-15, except Ireland and Finland);
- (c) peaches (in France, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Spain and Austria only);
- (d) apricots (in France, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Spain and Austria only);
- (e) oranges (in France, Greece, Italy, Portugal and Spain only);
- (f) lemons (in France, Greece, Italy, Portugal and Spain only);
- (g) small-fruited citrus fruit (in France, Greece, Italy, Portugal and Spain only).

Data on plantations producing apples for uses other than dessert fruit were sent optional by Germany, Spain, Ireland, Luxembourg, Portugal and United Kingdom.

Data on plantations producing pears for uses other than dessert fruit were sent optionally by Germany, Spain, Luxembourg and Netherlands.

3. In accordance with Article 4 (4) of Directive 2001/109/EC, Member States sent to the Commission methodological reports on how the survey was carried out. A summary table of the national survey methods is included in Annex 1 of this Commission report.

The 2002 survey was

- a complete enumeration in Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Austria, Finland, Sweden and United Kingdom (for large holdings);
- an area frame sampling in Spain;

¹ OJ L 13 of 16.1.2002, p. 21.

² OJ L 16 of 18.1.2002, p. 35.

- a farm sample survey in the other Member States.
4. The data from all Member States were transmitted in accordance with the rules and technical parameters indicated in the Commission Decision 2002/38/EC.

Article 4 of Directive No 2001/109/EC states that the Member States shall notify the Commission of the results of the basic survey before 1 October of the year following the survey year. The transmission dates are presented in Annex 2.

All Member States provided data on each variety representing more than 3% of the area of the species.

Compared with the 1997 survey, progress was made regarding "the area of orchard considered". All Member States sent the 2002 survey results in terms of net orchards area ("net area" means surface solely occupied by trees).

According to Directive 2001/109/EC, Article 1 (3), "the survey shall apply to all holdings with an area planted with fruit trees, provided that the fruit produced is entirely or mainly intended for the market". In practice, the situation is different from Member State to Member State, ranging from "no threshold (all holdings surveyed" to "threshold \geq 50 ares)". Furthermore, some Member States have changed their threshold from one survey to the other.

With the improvements mentioned above, namely in relation with the common use of the concept of net areas, the 2002 survey can be considered satisfactory in overall terms. With regard to future surveys, consideration should be given to the update of the list of varieties and codes, and the harmonisation of thresholds. The integration of this survey with other surveys, such as the survey on the structure of agricultural holdings, should be explored.

5. The main results of the 2002 survey are presented in Annex 3 and are available through Eurostat's databases.

87,5% of the EU orchard area was concentrated in Spain, Italy, Greece and France.

The EU orchard area declined by approximately 161 000 ha (13% in relative terms) from 1997 to 2002. This decline was particularly notable for apple and peach trees (both in absolute values and in relation to the total area under these species). On the other hand, there was an increase for small-fruited citrus trees (resulting mainly from a significant rise in Spain). With the exception of Greece, Ireland and Finland, areas under fruit trees shrank in all Member States.

An analysis of the proportion of the individual varieties, within a given species, reveals considerable developments linked to changes in consumer preferences.

ANNEX 1

SURVEY METHODS USED BY THE MEMBER STATES-BASIC SURVEY 2002

	BELGIUM	DENMARK	GERMANY	GREECE
1. Coverage				
1.1 Species surveyed				
1.1.1 Based on Directive	Apples, pears	Apples, pears	Apples, pears	Apples, pears, peaches, apricots, oranges, small-fruited citrus, lemons
1.1.2 Others		None	peaches, apricots, plums, cherries, walnuts	cherries
1.2 Holdings (minimum threshold of orchards)	No threshold: all holdings producing fruit for sale 1 are: all holdings producing species not for sale	All holdings with surfaces planted with apple and pear trees	Holdings with at least 30 ares of the defined species, producing fruit for sale	Holdings with at least 10 ares (0,1 hectare) planted with the defined species
2. Type of survey	Complete enumeration	Complete enumeration	Complete enumeration	Random sampling in one stage
3. Survey date	1 November 2002	June 2002	January-June 2002	May-July 2002 Reference period
4. Survey characteristics				
4.1 Orchard area considered	Net area	Net area	Net area	Net area
4.2 Varieties	Pre-selected list of major varieties, plus "others"	Pre-selected list of major varieties, plus "others"	Exhaustive coverage of varieties	Pre-selected list of major varieties, plus "others"
4.3 Age	Age classes determined from the year of planting	Age classes determined from the year of planting	The actual year of planting (autumn or spring)	The actual year of planting (autumn or spring)
4.4 Density	Surveyed directly on site or calculation based on planted area	Calculation based on planted area and the number of trees	Calculation based on the number of trees per hectare or on tree spacing in and between rows	Calculation based on planted area

	SPAIN	FRANCE	IRELAND	ITALY
1. Coverage				
1.1 Species surveyed				
1.1.1 Based on Directive	Apples, pears, peaches, apricots, oranges, small-fruited citrus, lemons	Apples, pears, peaches, apricots, oranges, small-fruited citrus, lemons	Apples	Apples, pears, peaches, apricots, oranges, small-fruited citrus, lemons
1.1.2 Others	Cherries, plums	Plums, cherries, kiwis, nuts		Kiwis, cherries, plums and figs
1.2 Holdings (min. threshold of orchards)	Holdings with at least 50 ares producing fruit for sale (smaller plots included if producing for sale)	Holdings with at least 30 ares of orchard area	All holdings with commercial orchard area	All holdings producing fruit mainly for sale
2. Type of survey	Area Frame sampling	Random sampling	Complete enumeration	Random sampling with a margin of error of 3% at national level and 5% for the regional level.
3. Survey date	February-December 2002	January- June 2002	July-December 2002	October-December 2002
4. Survey characteristics				
4.1 Orchard area considered	Net area (calculated from gross area surveyed); including (pro-rata) areas of associated plantations. Trees in rows and isolated trees are not covered	Net area	Net area	Net area; including pure area, (pro-rata) areas of mixed plantations. Isolated trees are not covered
4.2 Varieties	Pre-selected list of major varieties, plus "others"	Pre-selected list of major varieties, plus "others"	Exhaustive coverage of varieties	Exhaustive list, plus "others"
4.3 Age	The actual year of planting	The actual year of planting (autumn or spring)	The actual year of planting	The actual year of planting or grafting (
4.4 Density	Calculated on the basis of tree spacings in and between rows	Calculated on the basis of tree spacings in and between rows giving the number of trees per hectare	Calculation based on planted area and the number of trees per hectare	Calculated on the basis of planted area

	LUXEMBOURG	NETHERLANDS	AUSTRIA	PORTUGAL
1. Coverage				
1.1 Species surveyed				
1.1.1 Based on Directive	Apples, pears	Apples, pears	Dessert apples, dessert pears, peaches, nectarines, apricots	Apples, pears, peaches, oranges, apricots, small-fruited citrus, lemons
1.1.2 Others	Plums, cherries, nuts	Plums, cherries, bilberries, raspberries, berries, stone fruits	Berries, elderberries, nuts, cherries, plums	Cherries, plums and kiwis
1.2 Holdings (minimum threshold of orchards)	Holdings with at least 15 ares of fruit trees of the defined species producing fruit for sale Concerning tall stem plantations, all plots with at least 100 trees are covered.	Holdings with 40 ares of pear trees and 50 ares of apple trees in standard holding units	Holdings with at least 15 ares of fruit trees of the defined species producing fruit for sale	Holdings with at least 15 ares of fruit trees of the defined species producing fruit for sale
2. Type of survey	Complete enumeration	Complete enumeration by post	Complete enumeration	Random sampling
3. Survey date	During 2002	April-June 2002	June 2002-September 2002 (date of reference: 1 June 2002)	April-May 2002
4. Survey characteristics				
4.1 Orchard area considered	Net planted area (certain rows of trees are considered :walnut and pear trees)	Net orchard area	All areas densely planted with species based on the Directive and other species (net orchard area)	Net area, including pro-rata areas of mixed plantations
4.2 Varieties	Pre-selected list of major varieties, plus "others"	Pre-selected list of major varieties, plus "others"	Exhaustive coverage of varieties	Pre-selected list of as many varieties as possible, plus "others"
4.3 Age	Actual year of planting (autumn or spring)	Actual year of planting (autumn or spring)	Actual year of planting (autumn or spring)	Actual year of planting (autumn or spring)
4.4 Density	In accordance with the direct survey of density	Number of trees per hectare in the plantation	Number of trees per hectare in the plantation	Calculation based on planted area

	FINLAND	SWEDEN	UNITED KINGDOM
1. Coverage			
1.1 Species surveyed			
1.1.1 Based on Directive	Apples	Apples, pears	Apples, pears
1.1.2 Others			Plums, cherries and other species
1.2 Holdings (minimum threshold of orchards)	Holdings with an area of at least 1 are planted with apples intended for sale	2500m ² of open-air horticultural crops (limited to fruits for sale)	Orchard areas with at least 30 areas of fruit trees producing fruit for sale
2. Type of survey	Complete enumeration by post	Complete enumeration by post	Complete enumeration for large holdings and sampling for smaller holdings
3. Survey date	June and July 2002	31.12.2002	June 2002
4. Survey characteristics			
4.1 Orchard area considered	Net area	Net area	Net area.
4.2 Varieties	Pre-selected list of major varieties, plus "others"	Pre-selected list of major varieties, plus "others"	Pre-selected list of major varieties, plus "others"
4.3 Age	The actual year of planting	The actual year of planting or grafting is recorded	The actual year of planting
4.4 Density	Calculation based on planted area and the number of trees	Number of trees per hectare calculated from the number in the field	Number of trees per hectare

ANNEX 2

2002 basic survey of fruit trees

Country	Data transmission	Latest corrections
BELGIUM	17.04.2003	-
DENMARK	14.10.2003	1.06.2004
GERMANY	27.10.2003	22.06.2004
GREECE	30.07.2003	23.07.2004
SPAIN	15.09.2003	10.08.2004
FRANCE	12.06.2003	29.07.2004
IRELAND	3.03.2004	28.06.2004
ITALY	22.10.2003	21.07.2004
LUXEMBOURG	04.07.2003	4.06.2004
NETHERLANDS	15.05.2003	-
AUSTRIA	22.04.2003	-
PORTUGAL	24.07.2003	21.07.2004
FINLAND	9.07.2003	-
SWEDEN	11.09.2003	-
UNITED KINGDOM	3.10.2003	-

ANNEX 3

Table A: Breakdown of the various fruit species by Member State and for EU-15, 2002

Country	Total	Apple	Pear	Peach	Apricot	Orange	Lemon	Small-fruited citrus
	ha							
<i>EU-15</i>	1,085,944	241,991	110,550	201,324	59,301	252,475	68,865	151,436
Belgium	14,638	8,249	6,389	-	-	-	-	-
Denmark	1,797	1,398	400	-	-	-	-	-
Germany	33,309	31,219	2,090	-	-	-	-	-
Greece	102,079	10,828	3,647	35,152	5,227	33,387	7,001	6,838
Spain	452,737	43,334	31,385	69,476	22,615	131,435	43,851	110,640
France	93,038	47,593	9,039	19,691	14,924	29	37	1,725
Ireland	634	634	-	-	-	-	-	-
Italy	303,406	54,285	38,420	73,091	15,574	76,042	17,620	28,374
Luxembourg	1,148	1,014	134	-	-	-	-	-
Netherlands	17,506	11,176	6,329	-	-	-	-	-
Austria	8,172	6,952	470	280	470	-	-	-
Portugal	43,591	13,632	10,034	3,636	491	11,582	357	3,859
Finland	516	516	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sweden	1,515	1,342	172	-	-	-	-	-
United Kingdom	11,860	9,819	2,041	-	-	-	-	-

Table B: Breakdown of the various fruit species by Member State and for EU-15, 1997*

Country	Total	Apple	Pear	Peach	Apricot	Orange	Lemon	Small-fruited citrus
	ha							
EU-15	1,246,828	293,961	131,799	244,434	66,564	282,738	85,693	141,639
Belgium	19,850	13,532	6,318	-	-	-	-	-
Denmark	1,921	1,522	399	-	-	-	-	-
Germany	38,165	35,793	2,372	-	-	-	-	-
Greece	101,696	10,673	3,185	37,092	4,417	33,349	8,429	4,551
Spain	455,737	50,672	35,838	76,855	27,616	126,511	45,348	92,898
France	106,246	54,359	11,837	23,027	14,923	98	36	1,966
Ireland	500	500	-	-	-	-	-	-
Italy	425,644	71,841	51,458	102,279	18,673	111,939	31,452	38,002
Luxembourg	1,221	1,063	159	-	-	-	-	-
Netherlands	21,187	15,166	6,021	-	-	-	-	-
Austria	8,433	7,091	505	401	437	-	-	-
Portugal	47,887	16,275	10,842	4,780	498	10,841	428	4,222
Finland	402	402	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sweden	1,892	1,653	239	-	-	-	-	-
United Kingdom	16,044	13,418	2,626	-	-	-	-	-

* 1997: data was recalculated from gross into net area for Finland, France and Spain.

Table C: EU-15, 2002 (EU-15, 1997* = 100%)

Country	Total	Apple	Pear	Peach	Apricot	Orange	Lemon	Small-fruited citrus
	%							
EU-15	87.1	82.3	83.9	82.4	89.1	89.3	80.4	106.9
Belgium	73.7	61.0	101.1	-	-	-	-	-
Denmark	93.6	91.8	100.2	-	-	-	-	-
Germany	87.3	87.2	88.1	-	-	-	-	-
Greece	100.4	101.5	114.5	94.8	118.3	100.1	83.1	150.3
Spain	99.3	85.5	87.6	90.4	81.9	103.9	96.7	119.1
France	87.6	87.6	76.4	85.5	100.0	29.6	102.3	87.8
Ireland	126.9	126.9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Italy	71.3	75.6	74.7	71.5	83.4	67.9	56.0	74.7
Luxembourg	94.0	95.3	84.4	-	-	-	-	-
Netherlands	82.6	73.7	105.1	-	-	-	-	-
Austria	96.9	98.0	93.0	69.8	107.5	-	-	-
Portugal	91.0	83.8	92.6	76.1	98.6	106.8	83.4	91.4
Finland	128.3	128.3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sweden	80.1	81.2	72.1	-	-	-	-	-
United Kingdom	73.9	73.2	77.7	-	-	-	-	-

* 1997: data was recalculated from gross into net area for Finland, France and Spain.