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**Brussels, 15 July 2021**

**WK 9494/2021 INIT**

**LIMITE**

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### WORKING PAPER

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### **CONTRIBUTION**

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
N° Cion doc.:	5865/21 + ADD1
Subject:	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 - Written comments from the AT delegation

With a view to the upcoming informal video conference of the Council Working Party on Statistics on 16th July, delegations will find in annex written comments from the AT delegation.

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WK 9494/2021 INIT

**LIMITE**

**EN**

## Proposal for ad-hoc safeguards (AT)

Building on previous discussions and the working paper by Eurostat (WK 6769/2021 INIT), we understand the need for consistency with other statistical framework regulations as well as the need for adequate safeguards. Therefore, we have worked out the following proposal which could be a potential base for further discussion:

-We leave the definition of variable in Article 2(10) as it is in the Commission proposal, since this definition is consistent with other statistical framework regulations.

-However, it is clear that clarification is needed due to the complexity of SAIO. Eurostat has provided the following clarification in the working paper:

*"In this agreement it was understood that a variable not only 'means a characteristic of a unit being observed that may assume more than one of a set of values' as defined in Article 2, but that it is the combination of a characteristic and a measurement unit. This means in IFS that the combination of the characteristic "Common wheat and spelt" and the measurement unit "Total main area" creates the variable "Hectares of common wheat and spelt". However, the combination of an additional dimension "of which organic farming certified and/or under conversion", and "Common wheat and spelt" is an additional variable."*

We would add the key elements of this clarification to Article 6 (3) -where the safeguards are specified – as proposed further down below in red.

-For the upper limit for ad-hoc data collection, we support our previously circulated proposal to use a % upper limit on the number of variables per domain, as a balance between flexibility and limiting cost and burden. The wording we propose is based on the IFS and Social statistics (2019/1700) Regulations.

Combined, this results in the following wording:

Article 6(3) (a): *"a list of variables to be transmitted to the Commission (Eurostat), **not exceeding by more than [5] % the number of variables for each domain of those already required as set out in the first implementing act adopted for that domain pursuant to Article 5(9); where the transmission of each combination of a characteristic with a measurement unit is counted as one variable as defined in Article 2(10), and the transmission of each additional dimension (such as regional or organic information) is also counted as one variable.**"*

Article 6(4): *"**Delegated acts referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article and the implementing acts referred to paragraph 3 of this Article shall not impose significant additional costs and disproportionate and unjustified burden on Member States and respondents.**"*