

COMMISSION DECISION**of 28 April 2004****authorising Austria to make use of the system established by Title I of Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000 to replace surveys of bovine livestock***(notified under document number C(2004) 1557)**(Only the German text is authentic)***(Text with EEA relevance)***(2004/412/EC)*

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Directive 93/24/EEC of 1 June 1993 on the statistical surveys to be carried out on bovine animal production,¹ and in particular Article 1(2) and (3) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Title I of Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000 of the European Parliament and of the Council² establishes a system for the identification and registration of bovine animals.
- (2) Commission Decision 1999/571/EC recognises the fully operational character of the Austrian database for bovine animals³.
- (3) Pursuant to Directive 93/24/EEC the Member States may, at their request, be authorised to use administrative statistical sources instead of surveys of bovine animals on condition that they satisfy the obligations arising out of that Directive.
- (4) In support of its request of 12 June 2003, Austria has submitted technical documentation as to the structure and the updating of the database referred to in Title I of Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000 and the methods of calculating the statistical data.
- (5) Austria has previously been authorised, by Commission Decision 2000/554/EC⁴, to make use of the register of bovine animals to partially replace surveys of bovine livestock; however, that authorisation expired on 31 December 2003.

¹ OJ L 149, 21.6.1993, p. 5; Directive as last amended by Regulation (EC) N° 1882/2003 of the European Parliament and the Council (OJ L 284, 31.10.2003, p. 1).

² OJ L 204, 11.8.2000, p. 1.

³ OJ L 217, 17.8.1999, p. 62

- (6) Following examination of the request based on the technical documentation provided by the Austrian authorities, the request should be met.
- (7) This Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the Standing Committee on Agricultural Statistics set up by Council Decision 72/279/EEC⁵,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Austria is authorised to replace the surveys of bovine animals provided for by Council Directive 93/24/EEC by using the system for the identification and registration of bovine animals as referred to in Title I of Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000 to obtain all the statistical data required to comply with the obligations arising out of that Directive.

Article 2

If the system referred to in Article 1 ceases to be operational or if its content no longer makes it possible to obtain reliable statistical information regarding all or certain categories of bovine animals, Austria shall return to a statistical survey system for the purpose of estimating the cattle population or the relevant categories.

Article 3

This Decision is addressed to the Republic of Austria.

Done at Brussels, 28 April 2004.

For the Commission
Pedro SOLBES MIRA
Member of the Commission

⁴ OJ L 235, 19.9.2000, p. 23.

⁵ OJ L 179, 7.8.1972, p. 1