

PREPARATORY WORKING PARTY
FOR THE EUROPEAN CONFERENCE
ON THE ORGANISATION OF AGRICULTURAL MARKETS

RESTRICTED

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14th October 1952
Or. Fr.

SECOND PROGRESS REPORT OF SUB-GROUP N°2
ON GENERAL PROBLEMS

1. Sub-Group N°2, consisting of Representatives of the following countries : Germany, Denmark, France, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Turkey, held its second Session at the Palais de Chaillot on 6th, 7th and 8th October 1952, under the chairmanship of Dr. Hermes (Germany).

The Representatives of Austria, Belgium, Luxemburg and Sweden were present as observers.

2. The following Agenda was discussed :
 - a) Critical examination of the documentation collected by the Secretariat on the factors affecting production.
 - b) Proposed plan for the final Report of the Sub-Group. Preparation of a draft summary.
 - c) Working method for the preparation of the final Report.

3. Information available on general production conditions

The Sub-Group examined the memorandum prepared by the Secretariat (Ag. GT/SG/2 Doc/4) giving the data supplied by the Governments consequent on the previous decisions of the Sub-Group and the data already available from international Organisations.

The Sub-Group was satisfied with the progress already achieved in collecting the information required for preparing the Report to be submitted to the Working Party.

It hoped that the data on certain countries which had not sent in any documentation direct, would be completed, as far as possible, from that already available.

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The Sub-Group asked the Secretariat to request the Governments to clarify and complete the information already collected. It was decided that this elaboration could be done, at least partially, by the Delegates present, immediately after the Session.

The Sub-Group also decided that :

- i) the following information should be included in the Report :
 - farmers' prices for certain important commodities;
 - total area of the participating countries;
 - part played by foodstuffs as such, in the foreign trade of participating countries;
 - conversion rate (in dollars) used in preparing certain tables;
- ii) reference should be made to labour questions;
- iii) the Report should state that the Sub-Group had not been in a position to deal with matters concerning fisheries.

4. Proposed plan for the final Report

The Sub-Group had before it a draft summary prepared by the Secretariat (Ag/GT/SG/2/Doc.6) which regrouped the available data under five chapters. The French Delegation proposed that the data should be regrouped under three headings :

- i) Importance and structure of agriculture in the various countries.
- ii) Data on the degree of development and intensification of agriculture in the various countries.
- iii) Economic factors affecting production.

Since the proposals of the Secretariat and the French Delegation appeared to complete each other, the Secretariat was instructed to use the French proposals as a basis when revising the draft summary.

The Sub-Group decided that the final Report should consist of two parts :

- i) The Report proper, consisting of an analysis of the statistical data collected, to be given in the main part of the

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Report in the form of brief tables, a selection would be made from the data, which varied in importance;

ii) An Annex, containing the detailed statistical data used.

5. Working methods for the preparation of the final Report

The Sub-Group decided to set up a Drafting Group to help the Secretariat with the final Report. This Group, which would be convened by the Officers, would consist of Representatives of the following countries : Germany, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Turkey, Denmark.

The Sub-Group, on the proposal of various Delegations, considered that it would be strongly advisable for the Drafting Group, in co-operation with the Secretariat, to call on the help of experts for certain important questions.

6. Third Session of Sub-Group N°2

The Sub-Group asked the Chairman to fix the date of its third Session, in agreement with the Officers.