

Resolution 818 (1984)¹

Data-processing in agriculture

Parliamentary Assembly

The Assembly,

1. Convinced that electronic data-processing has a vast though as yet largely untapped potential in agriculture, which is particularly dependent on rapid decisions based on large amounts of data ;
2. Believing that electronic data-processing by ordinary farmers can lead to better stock-management, financial analysis, production control and information on prices and market developments, as well as a more rapid spread of new technology and production methods ;
3. Aware that the possibilities of member states of the Council of Europe to further the development and to influence its direction are particularly pronounced at the present early stage in the introduction of electronic data-processing,
4. Calls on the governments of member states :
 - 4.1. to strengthen the role of agricultural co-operatives, credit institutions and advisory services in familiarising farmers in the use of computers ;
 - 4.2. to enable farmers both to have access to information in central computers and to establish programmes independently based on their particular needs and circumstances ;
 - 4.3. to consider, for tax purposes, investments by farmers in computer equipment as an ordinary investment to increase productivity, similar to the purchase of machinery or any other input factor, and to help such investments through grants, etc. ;
 - 4.4. to create at national as well as European level a "bank" of available computer programs, thus reducing duplication of effort within and among countries ;
 - 4.5. to try to ensure the greatest possible compatibility among programs drawn up by different specialist professions in agriculture, so that the data collected can be more fully utilised ;
 - 4.6. to encourage competition among producers for the purpose of speeding up technological development and bringing down prices to a level where all farmers will be able to afford the new equipment ;
 - 4.7. to consider electronic data-processing as a means of stimulating economic activity in rural areas, and to encourage, to this end, the establishment of computer servicing industries in these areas ;
 - 4.8. to apply the above policies also in the management of fisheries in order, for instance, to assess the size of fish stocks, trace migratory species, gauge price developments and assist in financial management, and to promote European co-operation in this field.

1. Text adopted by the Standing Committee, acting on behalf of the Assembly, on 21 March 1984. See [Doc. 5159](#), report of the Committee on Agriculture.

