

EU Protein Balance Sheet

DRAFT Explanatory note

- **Objective**

The EU Protein Balance Sheet (PBS) aims to provide a **comprehensive overview of the supply and demand situation for proteins used for feed purposes in the EU.**

Publication of this comprehensive EU PBS should accordingly contribute to further market transparency in the feed protein sector.

- **Scope**

In terms of protein supply, the scope of the PBS includes **an exhaustive list of feed protein sources**. Accordingly the list of protein sources being considered is not limited to protein concentrates (like soya meal for instance) but also includes other sources with a lower protein content (like cereals for instance).

In addition to plant protein sources, also protein sources of animal origin are included (processed animal proteins, fish meal, skimmed milk powder).

Note: Roughage (like pasture, green forage, silage) has been excluded from the PBS due to the lack of reliable quantitative information about production and consumption, even if this type of fodder is an important source of protein, in particular for ruminants.

In terms of protein demand, the scope of the PBS is **focused on feed uses**, which represent the vast majority of plant protein uses.

Note: on-farm feed uses are excluded from the PBS due to the lack of reliable information, except for protein sources under the "crops" category (ie cereals, oilseeds and pulses), for which data extracted from the existing EU balance sheets have been used.

- **Format**

The PBS is based on an exhaustive list of protein sources (see scope).

For each protein source the PBS provides quantitative data on EU production, EU trade (imports/exports), feed use and protein content.

Ultimately the PBS quantifies the volumes of crude protein being used for feed, including the percentage of crude protein from EU origin.

Information on stocks of proteins and other uses than feed are not included since this would make the PBS more complex to develop and to read, without providing significant added-value.

In practice the **various protein sources are sub-divided in three main categories**

- **Crops** (cereals, oilseeds and pulses)
- **Co-products** (protein-rich feed materials, mainly meals resulting from the crushing and processing of crops)
- **Other sources** (non-plant proteins)

For each of these three categories a sub-total in million tonnes of crude protein used for feed and a percentage of EU origin are included, providing **a quantification of the EU self-sufficiency**.

It should be noted that there is only limited inter-changeability between proteins from different categories, for instance between proteins from cereals and proteins from soya meal (due to its amino acid pattern, soya protein is used more efficiently than other plant proteins in animal nutrition).

Adding-up all quantities into a "grand total" of crude protein used for feed is therefore of limited added-value and significance.

- **Data sources**

The main sources of information for supply and demand are the EU cereals and oilseeds balance sheets being established by DG AGRI on a monthly basis.

Trade data (imports and exports) are extracted from the EUROSTAT – COMEXT database.

The annexed methodology explains in more details the alternative sources of information (to EU Commission data), the calculations and assumptions which have been used (for instance the crushing factor being used between seeds/beans and meals or the distinction being made between meals resulting from crushing of imported soybean, rapeseed or sunflower and meals resulting from crushing of EU raw materials).

For protein sources for which reliable information is currently not available, the indication "n.a". has been inserted in the table for the time being.

For data on "protein content" in particular, input from major stakeholders has been used (protein suppliers like COPA-COGECA, COCERAL, FEDIOL and protein users like FEFAC). It should be noted that **data on protein content in particular represent a factor of uncertainty since it varies from year to year, between different varieties and different regions**.

- **Stakeholders consultation**

During the development of this comprehensive EU protein balance sheet between autumn 2016 and spring 2017, DG AGRI has consulted stakeholders during ad hoc technical meetings as well as during meetings of the "Civil Dialog Groups" on arable crops and on animal products.

- **Publication**

The first EU PBS to be published in spring 2017 covers the latest marketing year for which data are being available ie the marketing year 2015/16 (from 1st July 2015 to 30th June 2016).

A second EU PBS will be published after summer 2017 once data are being available for the whole marketing year 2016/17 (from 1st July 2016 to 30th June 2017).

Once published, the EU PBS for a certain marketing year will be reviewed and if need be updated twice a year.