



The Preparation of the Green Report

Summary

The preparation of the Green Report, which concerns the development and economic situation of agriculture and is to be submitted by the Federal Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management pursuant to the Agriculture Act (Landwirtschaftsgesetz) on a compulsory basis, incurred annual costs of between some EUR 3.5 million and some EUR 3.8 million (in the period of 2010 and 2014). A large amount of this sum (some EUR 3.1 million) was paid to an external consulting company (LBG Österreich GmbH Wirtschaftsprüfung & Steuerberatung), in particular for the collection of revenue data in some 2.200 voluntarily accounting agricultural holdings. The Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (BMLFUW) has entrusted this company with such tasks for more than 55 years. Despite the fact that the accounting services for the Green Report had been tendered EU-wide, no competition could be created. Late invitations to tender, insufficient service specifications and the lack of specific tender requirements resulted in the fact that no further (valid) offers were submitted.

The methodology for collecting and analysing revenue data clearly deviated from the EU-wide revenue collection regarding agricultural holdings and from the Economic Accounts for Agriculture issued by Statistics Austria, due to which the results were not comparable. The selection of holdings, in the course of which the focus was on part-time businesses, was limited and therefore failed to secure the representativeness of the Green Report's results.

Against the background of the high annual costs, the BMLFUW itself always pondered about a reform. However, structural steps with cost saving effects have not yet been taken.

Downloads

- Bund_2016_07_5.pdf
(http://www.rechnungshof.gv.at/fileadmin/downloads/_jahre/2016/berichte/teilberichte/bund/Bund_2016_07/Bund_2016_07_5.pdf) 416 KB

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