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**National Accounts - Services**

**OUTLINE PLANS FOR COMPILATION GUIDANCE FOR STATISTICS OF INTERNATIONAL  
TRADE-IN-SERVICES**

**Paper prepared by OECD and EUROSTAT**

*OECD-EUROSTAT MEETING OF EXPERTS ON TRADE-IN-SERVICES STATISTICS  
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## **OUTLINE PLANS FOR COMPILATION GUIDANCE FOR STATISTICS OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE-IN-SERVICES**

### **A Eurostat-OECD Secretariat Discussion Paper**

This paper outlines initial proposals for the development of compilation guidance for trade-in-services statistics to be developed jointly through the Interagency Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services (ITFSITS). **Delegates comments and suggestions are invited on what type of information might usefully be included in such guidance.**

The United Nations Statistics Commission in March 2001 recommended that the ITFSITS focus its work on preparation of a “users' manual on data collection” as the next step.

It is proposed that the purpose of such a ‘manual’ would be to help users compile statistics on international trade in services. It would expand on the guidance on measuring trade in services in the IMF’s Balance of Payments Compilation Guide published in 1995.

The ‘manual’ would be preceded by webpages with case studies; catalogue of national metadata; classifications; development news; links to useful sites; draft chapters of the users’ manual; statistics and helpline.

The UN has a webpage specifically to provide guidance on trade-in-services statistics and other sponsoring agencies are improving their web information. OECD has set up an email helpline (see web resources below).

### **Topics covered in the guidance could include:**

#### ***1. Data sources for international trade in services***

- Enterprise registers
- International trade statistics
- International transaction reporting systems
- Enterprise surveys
- International transportation surveys
- Person and household surveys
- Official sources
- Partner country data

**2. *Compiling the balance of payments current account component - trade in services***

- for selected types of service include business models, market description, types of transactors
- Transportation
- Travel - link to Eurostat report of the possible ways to record Travel (a complete report and different valuable documents).
- Communications
- Construction services
- Insurance
- Financial
- Other private services
- Government services

**3. *Classifications of cross-border trade***

- *Verbal description of services items- Eurostat document indicating operational definition that can be used by reporting enterprises. It uses wording that can be easily understood by enterprises.*
- *Geographical breakdown*

**4. *Compiling statistics on foreign affiliates trade in services***

- inward FATS;
- outward FATS;
- enterprise statistics;
- FDI sources;
- Ownership databases

**5. *Use of indicators*****6. *Modes of supply*****7. *Quality assessment***

**Web Resources:**

UN website <http://esa.un.org/unsd/tradeserv>

OECD website: <http://www.oecd.org/oecd/pages/home/displaygeneral/0,3380,EN-statistics-423-15-no-no-no-423,FF.html> and trade-in-services statistics helpline: [std.servstat@oecd.org](mailto:std.servstat@oecd.org)

WTO website: [http://www.wto.org/english/res\\_e/statis\\_e/statis\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/res_e/statis_e/statis_e.htm)

Eurostat website

IMF website: [www.imf.org](http://www.imf.org)

UNCTAD website: <http://www.unctad.org/en/pub/pubframe.htm>

*Possible contributions from Eurostat (in the future: 2002...)*

- **Registers**

Some work is being done by the Technical Group (TG) on Direct Reporting

- **-Database on ownership (FDI & FATS)**

A new TG will work on it. The project is promising (but difficult!)

- **-Transport**

Some work is already done. Work will be finished probably in 2003.

- **-Other Services**

It would be helpful for compiling agencies to have some description of the market and the main types transactors for each service. This is also interesting to users (including policy makers).

There is already some information available (ESIF report). Some additional information is available at Eurostat or in other departments of the Commission. This work will need for being complete contributions from other Members of the Interagency Task Force.