

TASK FORCE ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE STATISTICS

Vienna, 21-23 March 2000

Summary of agenda items for action

Agenda item	Action
3 (a) The Compilers' Manual for International Merchandise Trade	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- IMF to provide a draft text on shuttle trade.- IMF to forward to UNSD the names of some national experts that could contribute to the drafting of the Manual.- EUROSTAT to send material on the "Acquis Communautaires" translated into a more understandable form.- UNCTAD to provide names of experts that could be used for technical assistance.- UNSD to report on progress.
3 (b) The Statistical territories of the world for use in International Merchandise Trade Statistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- UNSD to post the database onto the EDG prior to publication.- OECD to e-mail the name of Taiwan Province of China contact to WTO.- UNSD to report on progress.
3 (c) Technical information on index numbers of international trade	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- EUROSTAT to post information on their methodology onto the EDG.- UNSD to post the list of countries that replied to the questionnaire onto the EDG.- ITC to post their methodology onto the EDG.- UNSD to report on progress.
3 (d) Use of CPC and other classifications for aggregating trade data	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- UNSD to provide the "CPC Trade in goods" CD-ROM to members of the TF.- UNSD to provide to EUROSTAT the list of SITC3 codes not correlated with HS96.- Members of the TF to provide feedback on the CPC data before end 2000.- UNSD to post the Excel file HS96BEC on the EDG.- Members of the TF to provide comments to UNSD on the contents of the HS96/BEC correlation, its possible uses, and further course of action.- UNSD to report on progress.
4 (a) Aggregate trade data and trade conversion factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- IMF to provide a note on its new methodology (to be posted on the EDG).- UNSD to send to IMF the list of cases where the exchange rate had not been available.- UNSD/IMF to report on progress.

4 (b) Comparison of annual totals between IFS, MBS, and COMTRADE	- UNSD/IMF to pursue the alignment exercise and report on progress.
4 (c) Differences between annual figures in EUROSTAT and OECD, and 4 (e) Treatment of EU in international trade statistics	- EUROSTAT is invited to set up a procedure that would allow an easy access to harmonised intra and extra EU aggregate exports and imports. - EUROSTAT to provide OECD and UNSD with harmonised detailed statistics for EU as a whole.
4 (d) Exchange of detailed trade data between OECD and UNSD	- Update by OECD/UNSD.
4 (g) Internet site with aggregate exports and imports by country	- ITC/WTO to prepare a report on this issue for the next meeting.
5 (a) COMTRADE status	- Update by UNSD.
5 (b) HS to Rev.3 to Rev.2 versus HS to Rev.2 direct	- UNSD to report on the course of action during the year, or at the latest at the next meeting.
5 (c) COMTRADE for Windows	- Update by UNSD.
5 (d) Y2K compatible COMTRADE	- Update by UNSD.
5 (e) Client/server COMTRADE	- Update by UNSD.
6 (a) Improving the estimation of aggregate exports and imports	- UNSD to analyse the WTO estimates and report comparing the two sets.
6 (b) Estimation of world export matrix by commodity groups and regions	- UNSD to update their series of document on estimations methodology and post it onto the EDG. - UNSD and WTO to see if any harmonisation of their large commodity groups can be achieved. - FAO to prepare a report on estimates of agricultural product trade.
7 (a) HS revision	- WCO to post the HS02 / HS96 draft correlation onto the EDG. - WCO to report on progress.
7 (b) Treatment of split HS codes	- UNSD to report on progress.
7 (c) Simplification of data elements in Customs procedures	- WCO to make available the documents related to both the G7 initiative and the Kyoto Convention (to be posted onto the EDG). - Members of the TF to exchange information.
8 HS/SITC/ISIC correlations	- UNSD and OECD to co-operate on HS96/ISIC3 correlation and circulate the results to other members of the TF for assessment. - TF members to let OECD know if they wish to take part in the exchange of views and prepare a methodological note for the next OECD Trade

	<p>Statistics meeting to be held in November.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNSD/OECD to report on progress.
9 (a) Status of the globalisation projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EUROSTAT and OECD to report on progress.
9 (b) Alternative trade data sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IMF to provide a draft text on the recording of processing trade (net and gross) for inclusion into the CM. - EUROSTAT and ITC to draft a few paragraphs on the fuller use of all the data in a customs transaction for inclusion into the CM.
10 INTRASTAT, EUROTRACE and ASYCUDA projects, and 12 Review of technical assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EUROSTAT and UNCTAD to report on progress. - Members of the TF to provide information on their respective technical assistance programmes.
11 Price and volume indices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EUROSTAT to share their methodology and end-products with IMF and other interested organisations. - UNCTAD and EUROSTAT to update the TF on progress and future plans.
14 EU efforts to study the interaction between BOP, SNA and external trade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EUROSTAT to update the TF on progress. - ITC to make proposals with regard to possible further actions. - Members of the TF to share ideas and information with EUROSTAT.
15 Electronic commerce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Members of the TF to post information onto the EDG.
16 (b) OECD meeting on Trade Statistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - OECD to brief the TF on the outcome of the November 2000 meeting.
16 (c) Rationalisation of the agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WTO to prepare a revised structure and to post it onto the EDG for comments.