

ISSUES RELATED TO THE WORK OF THE  
TASK FORCES AND INTERSECRETARIAT WORKING GROUPS

Interagency Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services

Report by OECD

**Coordination matters:**

Following the approval of the Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services by the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) in March 2001, the Task Force is preparing a joint publication of the Manual by the six participating organisations<sup>1</sup>, with the UN leading coordination of the publication. Initially in English, the Manual will ultimately be published also in Arabic, Chinese, French, Spanish, and Russian.

The UNSC also endorsed the Task Force's suggestions for agency cooperation on new data collection<sup>2</sup>. OECD has begun to collect from its members, and in cooperation with Eurostat, trade in services data by partner country for the first time in 2001.

The UNSC asked the Task Force to make development of compilation guidance a priority. The Task Force will consider initial plans to realise this guidance at its meeting on 12 December 2001. An OECD hot line to deal with questions on the Manual has been set up and the UNSD and OECD are developing webpages with useful information and contacts.

There are no outstanding coordination questions to bring to the attention of the ACC.

---

<sup>1</sup> Eurostat, IMF, OECD, UN, UNCTAD and WTO

<sup>2</sup> The Task Force proposed that:

- IMF would collect balance of payments in services data (no breakdown by partner country, no modes of supply) according to the Extended Classification (EBOPS) data. N.B. The IMF would not require countries to compile data at a level of detail beyond that recommended in BPM5;
- The UN could collect balance of payments trade in services data by partner country, similar to the existing merchandise trade collection, taking what the EU and OECD would collect and completing the data collection for other countries;
- UNCTAD would collect FDI/FATS data in conjunction with OECD and Eurostat;
- OECD and Eurostat would cooperate in collection of data for their own members;
- Wherever possible Agencies would cooperate in using common reporting systems for data collection.

A report of the last two meetings of the Task Force on 13 December 2000 and 3-4 May 2001, as well as the explanatory introduction of the Task Force report to the UN Statistical Commission in March 2001 are provided separately for reference.