

Fw: AW: Global Consultation on Integrated Economic Statistics 12/01/2011 10:43 AM

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11/01/2011 09:14 AM

PESENDORFER Konrad, PECKSTEINER Waltraud, Internationale Beziehungen

Dear ladies and gentlemen,

please find attached some general remarks from Statistics Austria regarding the Guidelines on Integrated Economic Statistics.

The following notations in particular concern Question 1 and 2:

- Institutional and legal framework:

The institutional and legal frameworks of the UN Member States show an immense variety. This aspect complicates the effort of harmonizing statistical production processes. Beside the legal framework, the organizational and institutional setting in countries plays an important role when a new statistical system should be implemented or the existing system should be reorganized.

Furthermore, as concerning the European Union, Member Countries are bound to supranational law and has to act within this framework.

- Implementation of these Guidelines:
- By developing Guidelines on Integrated Economic Statistics, a focus should also be put on the practical application possibilities of the theoretical explanations. Member States should be able to implement a program step by step into their existing system (keep systems workable).
- Usage of terms:

Concerning the text passages referring to merchandise trade statistics, different terms are used to describe merchandise trade. It would ease the readability of the document, if just one term is used continuously.

Yours sincerely, Esther Hörantner

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