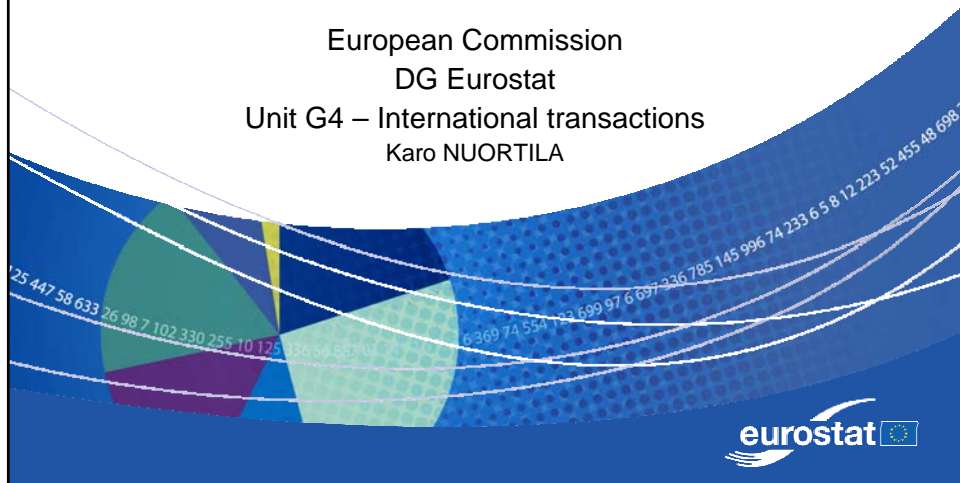


# EU Statistics relating to trading of goods

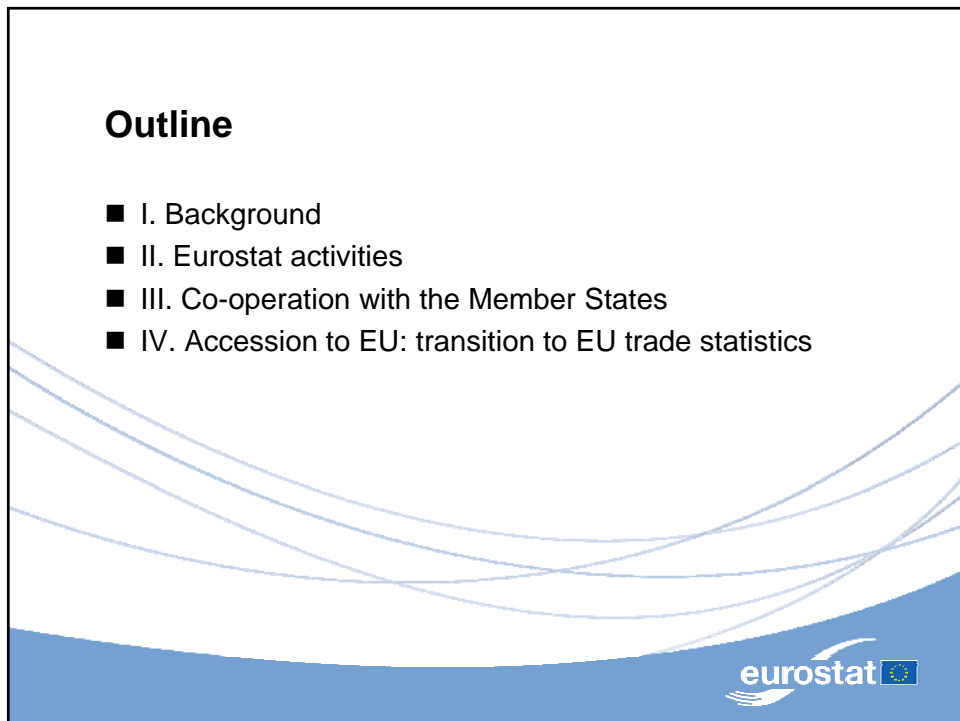
## Trading of goods between Member States (Intrastat) and with non-member countries (Extrastat)

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## Outline

- I. Background
- II. Eurostat activities
- III. Co-operation with the Member States
- IV. Accession to EU: transition to EU trade statistics

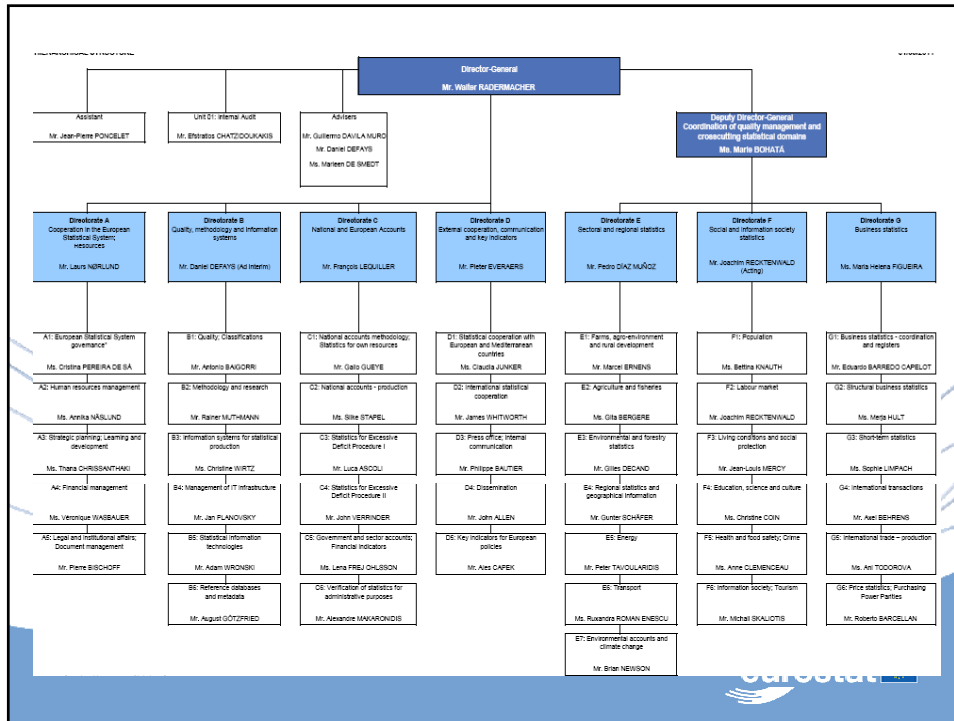


## I. Background

- The statistics on the trading of goods are an instrument of primary importance for numerous public and private sector decision makers in the EU
  - enable Community authorities to prepare multilateral and bilateral negotiations within the framework of the common commercial policy;
  - enable Community authorities to evaluate the progress of the Single Market and the integration of EU economies;
  - constitute an essential source of information for balance of payments statistics, national accounts and economic studies;
  - help EU companies to conduct market research and define their commercial strategy
- EU trade statistics must respond to these needs by taking into consideration of several underlying issues
  - Customs union
  - Single market with free movement of goods
  - Legal aspects: “Acquis Communautaire”
  - Community data needs vs. National data needs
  - Data sources

## I. Background

- EU trade statistics is based on two statistical systems
  - **Intrastat: trade between Member States**
    - Direct collection of information from companies
    - A close link with the VAT system
    - A threshold system: smallest traders are exempted from statistical reporting
  - **Extrastat: trade with non-member countries**
    - Data are issued from Customs declarations
    - Dependent from Customs rules
    - Total coverage



## II. Eurostat activities in the area of international trade in goods statistics

- Methodology and legislation
- Quality and compliance
- Production
- Dissemination
- Co-operation with third countries

## II. Methodology and legislation

### International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS)

#### ■ International recommendations: IMTS Concepts and Definitions 2010

- is not legal text
- is not legally binding for EU Member States
- seeks to harmonise methodologies across the countries and ensures comparability of the data

### International Trade in Goods Statistics (ITGS)

#### ■ EU Regulations in trade statistics :

- Directly applicable and binding in all EU Member States
- Without the need for any national implementing legislation
- The EU Regulations follow to the maximum extent International Recommendations

## II. Methodology and legislation

### Legislation on trade in goods statistics

#### Intrastat

Regulation No 638/2004 EP & Council  
*amended by Regulation No 222/2009  
of 11 March 2009*

#### Extrastat

Regulation No 471/2009 EP & Council  
Commission Regulation No 92/2010  
Commission Regulation No 113/2010

Commission Regulation No 1982/2004  
*amended by Regulation No 91/2010  
by Regulation No 96/2010  
by Regulation No 1915/2005*

#### Nomenclatures

- Goods:**
- Council Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87: Combined Nomenclature (CN)
  - Commission Regulation (EC) No 861/2010: amending the codes of the CN
  - Communication: explanatory note to the CN 2008/C133/01
- Countries:** - Commission Regulation: 1833/2006 of 13 December 2006 nomenclature of countries and territories

#### Custom provisions

Modernised Custom Code and its  
implementing provisions

#### Fiscal provisions VAT Directive

## II. Quality and compliance

- Eurostat's mission is to provide the European Union with a **high-quality** statistical information service.
- Eurostat – as a part of the European Commission - is responsible for ensuring that the EU Member States apply the Regulations and fulfil their statistical obligations
  - Code of practice
  - Quality reporting
  - Quality assessment and compliance monitoring

## II. Production

- EU Member States need to transmit data to Eurostat on monthly basis
- Third countries' data
- Huge volume of data
- Data reception, treatment, validation, preparation for dissemination

## II. Dissemination

- Database: Comext
  - On-line system
  - DVD-FTP
  - User support
  - Training
- Publications
  - Monthly news release
  - Monthly bulletin
  - Yearbook
  - Eurostat webpage

## II. Co-operation with third countries

- Candidate and potential candidate countries
- Other
  - Mediterranean
  - ACP
  - ALA
  - International organisations
- Co-ordinated by co-operation units

### III. Co-operation with Member States

- European statistical system
  - The ESS is the partnership between Eurostat, and the national statistical institutes (NSIs) and other national authorities responsible in each Member State for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics.
  - Multi-annual and annual programmes
  - ESSC

### III. Co-operation with Member States

- Comitology
  - Committee is established in the Basic Act (-> Intrastat Committee, -> Extrastat Committee)
  - Role of the committee is to assist the Commission in preparing implementing acts
  - Committee is composed of representatives of the Member States
  - Committees offer also a forum for discussion between the Commission and the national administrations of the Member States with view to seeking the most satisfactory solution

### III. Co-operation with Member States

#### ▪ Working Group

- Set up after an agreement of the Committee (Intrastat / Extrastat Committee)
- Its role is to report results back to the Committee
- It has a clearly defined technical mandate/scope
- It is composed of technical experts from Member States statistical administrations

### IV. Accession to EU: transition to EU trade statistics

#### New Extrastat and Intrastat Regulations

- New Intrastat Regulation - entered into force 2009
  - To respond to the burden reduction initiatives
  - To enhance data quality requirements
  - To produce new statistics – trade data by business characteristics
- New Extrastat Regulation - entered into force 2010
  - To reflect changes in Customs systems within the Modernised Customs Code and find solutions for statistics in case of Centralised Customs clearance
  - To enhance data quality requirements
  - To produce new statistics and better use of SAD data – trade data by business characteristics, currency, nature of transaction, etc.



#### **IV. Accession to EU: transition to EU trade statistics**

##### **Intrastat and Extrastat statistical data elements**

- **Obligatory data elements**
  - Commodity code: CN, Taric (E)
  - Partner country: country of origin, consignment and destination
  - Value of goods: Taxable amount (I), statistical value
  - Quantity of goods: net mass, supplementary unit
  - Mode of transport: mode of transport, internal mode of transport (E), container (E)
  - Trader identification number: VAT ID number (I), EORI number (E)
  - Nature of transaction
  - Importing or exporting Member State (E)
  - Other: Customs procedure code (E), Preferential treatment (E), currency (E)
- **Optional data elements in Intrastat**
  - with harmonised definition
  - without harmonised definition

#### **IV. Accession to EU: transition to EU trade statistics**

##### **Important issues to note**

- There are a number of issues which the trade statistics needs to address in preparation to EU accession
- For Intra-EU trade statistics (Intrastat): a completely new statistical system has to be implemented
  - The change from administrative data sources to direct data collection
  - Change of organisational and administrative responsibilities for data collection, processing and dissemination
  - Identification and monitoring of parties responsible for providing the information (trade register)
  - Exhaustiveness and quality control through fiscal information (VAT system)
  - Adjustments for trade below the threshold and late response

## IV. Accession to EU: transition to EU trade statistics

Important issues to note (cont.)

- Adaptation of current trade statistics to the Extrastat system
  - Extended list of data elements
  - Community concept: special trade
- Specific movements
  - Goods or movements which, by their very nature, call for specific methodological provisions
    - Additional data sources
    - The scope (whether, how and what shall be included)
    - Simplification for the PSI
    - Deviation from general provisions due to methodological problems
- Data transmission to Eurostat
  - Preparation of data files according to Community transmission agreements (Doc Meth 400)



Thank you for your attention !

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