

**United Nations Statistical Commission**

**Fifty-second session**

1–3 and 5 March 2021

Item 3 (e) of the provisional agenda

**Items for discussion and decision: business and trade statistics**

**Document E/CN.3/2021/9 – Report of the Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics**

***Statement provided by:***

PORTUGAL (Statistics Portugal)

***Statement:***

Item 3(e) - Business and Trade Statistics:

(a) The progress of work of the task teams of the Committee:

Portugal welcomes the progress of the Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics and of the several task teams, in particular the intention of creating a global enterprise group register. This will be of extreme importance in the context of a globalized economy, with special relevance in terms of the Multinational enterprises (MNEs) analysis. However, the sharing of data among countries will be very relevant to have a complete and real picture of the global value chains and of the global group register. We look forward for the guidance to be provided for the Task teams on exhaustive business registers and capacity-building (leaving no one behind) on statistical business registers, for the development of the global group register.

We also welcome the creation of the Task team on communication, which is extremely relevant in the context of the globalization. It will be also important to use this task team to better know the users' needs, and to better promote and disseminate new statistical analysis, most of them produced without increasing the burden on respondents, by using more often the micro data linking and the so called experimental statistics.

(b) The future work programme of the Committee for 2021–2022, which includes the preparation of a manual on the global core set of principal business and trade indicators and a manual on the maturity model for statistical business registers:

Portugal welcomes the work done by the Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics and by the several task teams, namely concerning the monitoring of the COVID-19 crisis. We all found out that specific (and most of them already available) statistical indicators are crucial to monitor this crisis, and should be considered also as core business and trade statistical indicators. It will be important to have a set of indicators available for all the countries, with similar methodologies, in order to allow its comparability. The preparation of the specific manual on the global core set of principal business and trade indicators should take the new reality (COVID-19 crisis) into account.

As referred above, we look forward for the guidance to be provided for the Task teams on exhaustive business registers and capacity-building (leaving no one behind) on statistical business registers, for the development of the global group register.

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(c) The launch of the revision of the manual International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Concepts and Definitions 2010 and the Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services 2010:

Portugal agrees with the launching of the revision in both manuals (International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Concepts and Definitions 2010 and the Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services 2010).

(d) The creation of a new task team to coordinate the joint research agenda between business and international trade statistics, and the related processes and mechanisms of the revision of the trade-related standards:

Portugal fully supports the creation of a new task team to coordinate the joint research agenda between business and international trade statistics. In the context of a globalized economy and taking into account the goals to produce more statistical indicators on globalization, it is crucial to guarantee the harmonization of procedures, concepts and methodologies amongst the several areas (business, trade, national accounts and Balance of Payments). Also the creation of a global enterprise group register, to foster the MNEs analysis and the global value chains approach, will benefit from this integrated and harmonized joint work.

(e) The role of the Committee to actively coordinate the integration of the work programmes with the Inter-Agency Task Force on International Trade Statistics as recommended by the Friends of the Chair group on economic statistics to advance a common research agenda and the revision of the manuals:

Portugal supports this role of the Committee for an active coordination and integration of the work programmes amongst different agencies, in order to avoid duplications, and double efforts from the NSA, in the current scenario of scarce resources. We need to have more concrete and clear priorities, to be more relevant and to be more agile to respond to new emerging needs (such as the ones derived from the COVID-19 crisis).

Submitted on:	2/17/2021
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