

**United Nations Statistical Commission**

**Fifty-third session**

Item 3 (v) of the provisional agenda

**Items for discussion and decision: international statistical classifications**

**Document E/CN.3/2022/26 – Report of the Committee of Experts on International Statistical Classifications**

<i>Statement provided by:</i> Belgium	
<i>Statement:</i> Belgium takes note of the draft revised structure for ISIC and thanks the task team regarding the fourth revision of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities for the preparatory work.  Belgium has a major concern regarding the newly introduced division of ISIC45. In Belgium, year after year, more than 50% of the registered new cars are salary and company cars. These sales are considered as wholesale, since the cars are purchased by companies (B2B) as a part of an extralegal wage packet for their employees. Most car traders which today are classified in ISIC 4510, sell cars to consumers (retail sale) and to companies (wholesale). Although they all exercise the same activity, these companies will be classified in 2 different divisions, with a part of them balancing between wholesale trade and retail trade and shifting yearly from one activity to another. From our point of view, to obtain consistent and comparable series and figures, a merge between these two classes is necessary, which would consequently result in a reconstruction of the classification for car trade in ISIC 4510. Beside difficulties in distinction between wholesale and retail trade, we are of the opinion that the consequences of the caveats mentioned in the guidance note (“The sale and repair of motor vehicles are often closely linked, which makes data collection difficult, and may cause instability in classification”) are underexposed. Therefore, we propose to keep division 45 for all activities related to motor vehicles.  Moreover, Belgium proposes that the approval of the draft structure of the ISIC would be obtained by written procedure only after the 53rd UNSC meeting, since valuable input can still emerge during the 53rd meeting. This would allow countries to take into account and evaluate all elements which were raised during the UNSC.	
<i>Submitted on:</i>	2/18/2022