



COMESA Activities in the Field of International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS)

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COMESA Activities in the Field of IMTS



Agenda:

- ❖ **Country Technical Assistance and Training**
- ❖ **Reconciliation of Trade Statistics in COMESA**
 - COMESA-EU Mirror Study – Dec 2006
 - Round Table Reconciliation Meeting for EAC – Nov 2006
 - Survey of Major Mining Companies in Zambia – June 2006
 - National Reconciliation Workshops - 2007
- ❖ **Data Quality Metrics for IMTS in COMESA - 2008**
- ❖ **National Consultancies on CPCs**
- ❖ **Data Dissemination**



1. Technical Assistance and Training

- Provided to countries reporting problems
- Technical assistance normally in use of Eurotrace
- Via mail/phone or mission
- Trouble-shooting and re-fresher training
- No traditional training workshops for 2007 wp!
- In 2007, missions mounted to ZW, MW, ET, KE, SZ, EG, SD, DJ and KM

3



2. Reconciliation of Trade Statistics

- Generally trade between two countries, A and B, should be a mirror image of each other.
- In practice however, disparities exist between bilateral merchandise trade flows published by two countries.
- Need for reconciliation studies to identify, explain and assess the causes, in the short term
- Harmonisation of conceptual frameworks of countries in the long-term.

4



2. Reconciliation of Trade Statistics

2.1 COMESA-EU Mirror Study – Dec 2006

- Conducted in last quarter of 2006
- COMESA and EU regions
- Annual data for 2004 and 2005
- Sourced from COMESA Secretariat and EUROSTAT
- EU lead consultant working with COMESA member states' trade statisticians (7)
- Used EU25, COMESA14 and COMESA15 datasets

5



2.1 COMESA-EU Mirror Study – Dec 2006

COMESA Imports from the EU:

- Much lower than EU mirror Exports!
- In 2005, COMESA recorded imports of \$11.6 billion from EU while EU recorded exports to COMESA of \$16.5 billion
- The discrepancy of \$4.9 billion represents 43 per cent of COMESA's imports from EU

6



COMESA Imports from the EU:

Probable contributing factors to divergence:

- Undervaluation of imports for purposes of tax evasion
- Unprocessed data
- Non-declaration due to the dumping of goods in transit
- Egyptian imports
- COMESA imports of aircraft
- COMESA imports of banknotes
- Confidential trade

7



2.1 COMESA-EU Mirror Study – Dec 2006

COMESA Exports to the EU:

- Figures more plausible compared with EU mirror imports figures!
- In 2005, COMESA recorded exports worth US\$7.9 billion to EU while EU recorded imports from COMESA worth US\$11.8 billion
- The CIF-FOB adjustment partly accounts for the difference of US\$3.9 billion

8



COMESA Exports to the EU:

Probable contributing factors to divergence:

- Indirect trade
- Transit trade
- Export taxes
- Deliberate over-valuation
- Egyptian exports
- Confidential trade

9



2.1 COMESA-EU Mirror Study – Dec 2006

Recommendations:

- Study of Egypt's trade with EU
- Need to identify confidential items included by EU
- Methods sought to include imports of aircrafts
- Product level reconciliation analysis be undertaken
- General improvement in quality of trade data through training and collection methodologies

10



2.2 Round Table Reconciliation Meeting for East African Countries – November 2006

- Held in Nairobi – Kenya, November 2006 at CBS
- Involved three countries, Burundi, Kenya and Uganda
- Considered three major products, Petroleum, Coffee and Tea.
- Based on 2005 and 1st half of 2006 data only
- Attended by ISTEEBU, CBS, KRA, CBS and COMESA

11



2.2 Round Table Reconciliation Meeting for East African Countries – November 2006

Major findings – Tea:

- Uganda's tea erroneously recorded as destined to Kenya
- Detailed info given to KRA and deficient to URA
- Burundi's tea recorded as destined to Kenya when in transit as recorded by KE!
- Burundi's tea undervalued from Burundi
- Tea blending activities take place in Kenya EPZs for tea from Malawi, Vietnam Kenya and other countries!
UG/BI??

12



2.2 Round Table Reconciliation Meeting for East African Countries – November 2006

Major findings – Coffee:

- Uganda's coffee erroneously recorded as destined to Kenya
- Probable undervaluation on Kenya side owing to amount of transit bond in force to be paid
- Burundi's coffee also erroneously reported as destined to Kenya when in transit

13



2.2 Round Table Reconciliation Meeting for East African Countries – November 2006

Major findings – Petroleum:

- Discrepancies exist in trade figures for Uganda and Kenya

14



2.3 Survey of Major Mining Companies in ZM – June 2006

- **Conducted in June 2006**
- **Objective** : Collect detailed information on the realized values and quantities of copper and cobalt exports and their actual final destinations.
- **Covered period 2004 and 2005**
- **8 mining companies in 7 mining districts covered**
- **By staff of CSO, BOZ and COMESA**

15



2.3 Survey of Major Mining Companies in ZM – June 2006

Summary of Major findings:

- ⊙ **Vast amounts of Zambian copper and cobalt are shipped from the ports of Dar and Durban to various destinations in Europe and Egypt**
- ⊙ **ZRA erroneously record exports as destined to Tanzania and South Africa!**

16



2.3 Survey of Major Mining Companies in ZM – June 2006

Recommendations made:

- * **ZRA to urges mining companies to be completing the invoices correctly by recording proper countries of first and final destinations in the appropriate boxes provided for on the forms**
- * **ZRA officials should always check that the mining invoices are filled correctly and appropriate data capturing done accordingly.**
- * **KCM sends monthly insurance/shipping lists with final destinations of the copper to CSO for updating their database.**
- * **CSO should continue the process of collecting the export figures from the mines on a regular basis using the contacts established during the survey.**

17



2.4 National Reconciliation Workshops - 2007

- * **Selected Member States asked to organize national workshops**
- * **Funded by COMESA**
- * **Involve all stakeholders producing and using IMTS**
- * **Disseminate reconciliation finds and map way forward**

18



3. Data Quality Metrics in COMESA

Scoreboard for quality and basis of computation for IMTS

- Methodological Soundness (concepts/definitions/classifications/)
- Accuracy and Reliability Dimension (source/surveys/ports covered)
- Serviceability Dimension (periodicity/timeliness/consistency)
- Revision Policy and Practice (revision schedule/reasons)
- Data Accessibility (NSO websites/COMSTAT)
- To be publicly available on COMSTAT

19



4. National Consultancies on CPCs

- COMESA Common Statistical Rules
- Harmonization and Update of CPCs – Asycuda++
- Streamlining CPCs/Release codes in Egypt
- COMESA funded
- Planned for Kenya and Djibouti

20



5. Data Dissemination

- COMSTAT on-line Database <http://comstat.comesa.int>
- Trade Statistics Bulletins
- COMESA Statistical Briefs
- Country Profiles
- Ad hoc data requests
- Trade Indicators



Thankyou