



Amendments Regulations for Compiling and Disseminating IMTS in COMESA

Anthony J. Walakira
ADP Expert - Eurotrace

**Workshop on Updated and New
Recommendations for IMTS and their
Implementation in the Sub-Saharan Region**
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Agenda:

- Background
- Rationale
- The Amendments
- The Committee on Statistics
- Way Forward and Next Steps



Background

- ❖ **April 1997** : COMESA Common Statistical Rules (CSR) and Regulations developed and adopted by COMESA Council of Ministers
- ❖ **Based on UNSD Concepts and Definitions**
- ❖ **Objective** : Data made comparable at all levels
- ❖ **December 2000**: CSR Revised according to new Concepts and Definitions of the UNSD
- ❖ **May 2001**: Proposed changes adopted by Directors of Customs and Statistics



Rationale

- ❖ The CSR over the years have been overtaken by events!
 - HS product codes change every 5 years
 - Most countries using Asycuda++/World
 - Advancement in technology for data remittance
- ❖ Articles become obsolete
- ❖ Revised UNSD Concepts and Definitions - IMTS2010



The Amendments

- a) Name should be changed to read : Regulations for Compilation of International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) in the COMESA Region.
- b) List of Customs Procedure Codes (CPCs) in **Article 5** to follow standard format of Asycuda++ codes whenever possible
- c) **Article 7:** The Regional COMESA tariff shall be based on the latest WCO's six digit HS of codification
- d) **Article 11** : Reference to COMESA regional tax codes deleted
- e) **Article 12:** Form Number limitation to 6 digits, item number 2 digits and office code 4 digits deleted.



The Amendments ctd

- f) Article 13:** Registration date changed to assessment date.
- g) Article 17:** Regional Centre replaced with Secretariat
- h) Article 18:** Items country of last consignment, first destination, freight, insurance and amount of taxes moved to compulsory data.
- i) Article 19 :** On statistical tables produced deleted.
- j) Article 20:** Date of registration changed to assessment
- k) Article 22:** Minimum of 3 years for keeping data deleted.
- l) Article 23:** Reference to Article 19 deleted.
- m) Article 24:** Changed to include SITC and BEC as other nomenclatures



The Amendments ctd

- n)** **Article 25:** Computerize processing of IMTS deleted
- o)** **Article 26:** Rephrased to empower the Committee on Statistical Matters
- p)** **Article 29:** To refer to Regulations
- q)** **Appendix II** for Country and Currency codes updated
- r)** **Appendix IV** for CPCs deleted
- s)** **Appendix VI** part b) for HS codes deleted.
- t)** **Appendix VII** for tax codes deleted.



The Committee on Statistics

- **The amendments were presented to the Committee on Statistical Matters for COMESA**
- **The Committee was requested to consider and adopt the recommendations for onward presentation to next Council.**
- **The Committee adopted the recommended amendments.**



Way forward and Next Steps

- **Amended IMTS Rules and Regulations taken to Legal Drafting Committee**
- **Drafted IMTS Rules and Regulations presented to Council**
- **Council adopted new IMTS Rules and Regulations**
- **New Rules and Regulations came into force – August 2010!**



Thank you