

# OF THE INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE ON STATISTICS OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN SERVICES

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## FOCUS

# Compilers Guide for MSITS 2010 has been Finalized

Dear Reader,

The Compilers Guide for MSITS 2010 was developed under guidance from the Inter-agency Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services (TF-SITS) with strong support by the UN Expert Group on compilation of SITS, as mandated by the United Nations Statistical Commission. This whole process itself was organized by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD).

Already in the beginning of the process, national statistical agencies, national central banks, international and regional organizations were consulted on the annotated outline of the Compilers Guide

through world-wide consultation. Based on this consultation, initial drafts of each chapter were produced and reviewed during four consecutive virtual meetings in 2012 and early 2013, involving an extended Expert Group, and one face-to-face meeting of the actual UN Expert Group in June 2013. In addition to those meetings the Task Force also met separately on the development of the guide in meetings in 2012, 2013 and 2014. The consultation, reviews, and virtual and in-person meetings were coordinated by UNSD, OECD and WTO. The process benefited immensely from the advice (and country examples) received during the various meetings.

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## The Task Force Metadata Template for EBOPS 2010 and International Supply of Services

At its October 2014 meeting, the Task Force on International Trade Statistics (TFITS) agreed on a joint metadata questionnaire to be used by OECD, Eurostat as well as UNSD for their first round of metadata collection according to EBOPS 2010/BPM6 standards in 2014-2015.

The metadata questionnaire, that will be sent out to all countries (Eurostat and OECD for their respective memberships and UNSD for all other countries), collects

methodological information on trade in services by detailed EBOPS 2010 categories and by partner. It includes questions on complementary groupings and modes of supply and extends, without duplicating, the IMF's BPM6 metadata questionnaire. It also complements the streamlined Eurostat-OECD Annual Trade in Service data collection according to EBOPS 2010 which is based on the codes of the Balance of Payments Data Structure Definition (BOP DSD).

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More about the Compilers Guide @ <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/tradeserv/msits/CGmsits2010.htm>



## A Common Conversion Algorithm for Moving to an EBOPS 2010 Presentation of Trade in Services Databases – Take a Closer Look at the Impact of the Changes!

International agencies work closely together to ensure a smooth transition to the EBOPS 2010 presentation. To achieve this, a new conversion table has been produced to convert BPM5/EBOPS2002 classified data into BPM6/EBOPS2010. This common algorithm was agreed upon by the inter-agency Task Force on International Trade Statistics (TFITS) in October 2014.

How is this tool different from other conversion tables?

This new tool was designed with the vision to summarise already existing conversion tables. It is complete and provides the basis for a common approach of international

agencies to data conversion. It will help compilers to approximate BPM6/EBOPS2010 trade in services data classified according to BPM5/EBOPS2002 without losing too much information. This matrix also provides additional explanations for changes and clarifications introduced in BPM6/EBOPS2010 as well as integrity rules for EBOPS2010/BPM6 services items.

Happy conversion! Use it, share it and help us improve this new tool by providing feedback!

For further details, please click [here](#).

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The Guide serves the purpose of harmonizing and improving the ways in which statisticians at the national level collect, compile and disseminate trade in services statistics. While the international standards in economic statistics are in the process of being implemented, this Guide comes timely, providing the statistical community with guidelines, best practices, case studies, and practical advice on the compilation of the trade in services statistics. These statistics consist of transactions between residents and non-residents in services classified by the Extended Balance of Payments Services (EBOPS) categories and by the country of residency; they also include foreign affiliates statistics (FATS) and statistics on modes of

supply. The overarching aim of this Guide is to increase the availability and quality of these statistics in order to fulfil the urgent needs and demands for such data by policy makers, researchers, market analysts and the public in general.

The unedited white cover version is available in pdf at [http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/publications/MSITS2010\\_Compilers%20Guide%20-%20Unedited%20White%20Cover%20Version%20-%202019%20December%202014.pdf](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/publications/MSITS2010_Compilers%20Guide%20-%20Unedited%20White%20Cover%20Version%20-%202019%20December%202014.pdf)

<sup>1</sup> *System of National Accounts 2008*, United Nations et al., 2009, and *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual, Sixth Edition*, Washington, D.C.: International Monetary Fund, 2009.

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The content of the new questionnaire is largely based on the existing joint OECD-Eurostat metadata collection on annual trade in services according to EBOPS 2002 and on the metadata elements that are described in the upcoming MSITS2010 compiler's guide. It also includes some general questions regarding Balance of Payments concepts

which are partly drawn from the **2006 Eurostat-OECD Questionnaire on the Measurement of Trade in services in the Balance of Payments**. Regarding these general questions, explanatory text emphasizes that responses should be consistent to those provided to the IMF questionnaire.

## Global Consultation on the 5th Revision of the Classification by Broad Economic Categories, July-Sept 2014

At its biennial meeting in May 2011 in New York, the Expert Group on International Statistical Classifications agreed to establish a technical subgroup for the revision of the Classification by Broad Economic Categories (BEC). The terms of reference of this group stipulated that it should improve the fourth edition of the BEC by re-defining the BEC structure to better reflect current economic reality and by extending its scope, including services as well as goods, while giving extra attention to the definition of products for intermediate consumption. This process was supported by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its meeting in 2012.

The technical sub-group held its first meeting (virtually) in May 2012 in which it agreed on some basic points, which worked out in the course of 2013 and the first half of 2014, namely:

- (1) The main purpose of the BEC is to present international trade in terms of the end-use categories of the SNA, namely intermediate and final consumption, and gross fixed capital formation;
- (2) Services should be added, and a goods-services dimension should be visible in BEC;
- (3) Important economic sectors should be visible in BEC;
- (4) Further distinctions should be included in the BEC, if possible, for
  - primary versus processed,
  - intermediate versus finished, and
  - generic intermediates versus customized intermediates;
- (5) The BEC manual should
  - elaborate on the underlying principles of the BEC,
  - give concise descriptions of the categories in the revised classification and

- provide the guidelines and principles used to allocate the basic categories of HS and CPC to the BEC categories

The draft version of the 5th Manual of the Classification by Broad Economic Categories was sent for a global consultation in June 2014 to the statistical offices of all UN member states. Offices were requested for their opinion overall on the content of the manual and on some specific questions on the proposed revisions regarding the structure, scope, and definitions of the BEC. The deadline of the consultation was set for 30 September 2014.

The responses were received from 49 institutes of 48 countries (both the NSO and the central Bank of Bolivia responded separately). Overall, the countries support the new structure of the BEC with its new 8 broad economic classes and its 6 dimensions. The respondents also agreed that a full breakdown of all combinations does not make sense in a number of cases, which implies that the final tree structure of the BEC will be pruned on certain branches. Some extra attention will need to be spent on the treatment of dual-use goods, as countries generally do not run surveys to determine the use. Finally, the majority of the respondents advised against discussing the links between BEC classes and non-standard classifications.

The suggestions received through this survey will be incorporated in the draft manual, and the final results will be shared with the technical sub-group and then will be presented to the bureau of the Expert Group on International Statistical Classifications around April 2015.

## TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND SEMINARS

### Summary of Technical Cooperation and Seminars

Organiser(s)	Location (Date)	Title of Event	Countries and Economies Targeted
IMF	Headquarters courses, regional capacity building centers, regional center courses, external sector statistics missions	Services covered generally in BOP courses/missions	Selection of countries
WTO	Geneva	Regular participation in WTO Advanced Trade Policy Courses; Trade in Services Statistics	Selection of WTO Members and Observers
SADC/WTO	Gaborone, Botswana (January 2014)	SADC/WTO 1st Workshop on Statistics of International Trade in Services	Angola; Botswana; Dem. Rep. of Congo; Lesotho; Malawi; Mauritius; Mozambique; Namibia; Seychelles; South Africa; Swaziland; Tanzania; Zambia; Zimbabwe
SADC	Angola; Botswana; Lesotho; Mozambique; Namibia; Swaziland (February-September 2014)	Development of TIS/FATS questionnaires and work with countries	Angola; Botswana; Lesotho; Mozambique; Namibia; Swaziland
SADC	Johannesburg, South Africa (March and August 2014)	SADC Regional meetings on trade in services statistics	Angola; Botswana; Dem. Rep. of Congo; Lesotho; Malawi; Mauritius; Mozambique; Namibia; Seychelles; South Africa; Swaziland; Tanzania; Zambia; Zimbabwe
UNSD, AUC, ECA	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (May 2014)	Workshop on international trade statistics	Algeria; Angola; Benin; Botswana; Congo; Cameroon; Cape-Verde; Cote D'Ivoire; Egypt; Eritrea; Ethiopia; Ghana; Equatorial Guinea; Lesotho; Mali; Malawi; Morocco; Mozambique; Nigeria; Rwanda; South Africa; Tunisia; Zambia; Zimbabwe; and BCEAO, ECOWAS, COMESA, AfDB
ALADI	Uruguay (July 2014)	Workshop on trade in services statistics, FATS Cooperation Program of trade in services statistics	Argentina; Bolivia, Plurinational State of; Brazil; Chile; Colombia; Ecuador; Mexico; Panama; Paraguay; Peru; Uruguay; Venezuela, Bolivarian Rep. of
WTO	Geneva (September 2014)	Seminar on Trade in Services Statistics for negotiators	Selection of WTO Members and Observers
ASEAN	Jakarta, Indonesia (September 2014)	ASEANstats Workshop on Statistics on International Trade in Services	Brunei Darussalam; Cambodia; Indonesia; Lao People's Dem. Rep.; Malaysia; Myanmar; Philippines; Singapore; Thailand; Vietnam

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### Summary of Technical Cooperation and Seminars (continue)

Organiser(s)	Location (Date)	Title of Event	Countries and Economies Targeted
UNSD, DGCIS of India	New Delhi, India (November 2014)	Workshop on international trade statistics	Afghanistan; Bangladesh; Bhutan; Cambodia; China; India; Indonesia; Korea, Rep. of; Maldives; Mongolia; Nepal; Pakistan; Sri Lanka; Thailand; Timor-Leste; + other ASEAN, member countries
UNWTO (with Organisation of Islamic Co-operation, OIC)	Ankara Turkey (December 2014)	Workshop/training seminar on tourism statistics	Selection of Middle East countries
CEFTA/WTO	Brussels, Belgium (December 2014)	Workshop on Foreign Affiliates Statistics	Albania; Bosnia and Herzegovina; FYR Macedonia; Moldova; Montenegro; Serbia; UNMIK/Kosovo
Eurostat	Respective economies	Pilot project in candidate countries: first round of expert missions to the countries starting June 2014 in the frame of the Instrument of Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) Multi-beneficiary Statistical Cooperation Programme for 2012	Albania; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Montenegro; UNMIK Kosovo (Service contract) / Serbia and Turkey (Grant contract)
AANZFTA	Cambodia, Laos PDR, and Myanmar (TBA)	Development of a SITS Pilot Survey	Cambodia, Laos PDR, and Myanmar
Eurostat/ MedStat Moroccan Office des Changes	TBA (mid-2014)	EuroMed Working Group on Trade statistics	Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Syria and Tunisia
UNWTO	TBA	Capacity building seminars on tourism statistics	Explore options to organise a regional capacity building event(s) for Portuguese-speaking countries (pending)
WTO	Kinshasa	WTO National Seminar on Statistics of International Trade in Services	Congo, Democratic Republic
WTO	Botswana	WTO National Seminar on Statistics of International Trade in Services	Botswana
ITC, WTO?	Ecuador	National activity on trade in services statistics	Ecuador
UNCTAD	UEMOA region	UEMOA Capacity building on trade in services statistics (3-year programme)	Benin; Burkina Faso; Côte d'Ivoire; Guinea-Bissau; Mali; Niger; Senegal; Togo
UNCTAD	Angola	Train-for trade on trade related activities (including trade in services statistics)	Angola

## PUBLICATIONS AND DATABASES

### UNSD Database/Publication on Statistics of International Trade in Services

UN ServiceTrade, a global database on International Trade in Services, is publicly and freely available at the UNSD website at the following address: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/servicetrade/default.aspx>

The main scope of UN ServiceTrade is resident to non-resident trade in services and some related data series, broken down by EBOPS category and partner country, starting with the year 2000 provided on an annual basis. The main sources of data and metadata are national statistical offices, central banks, Eurostat and IMF. All values are expressed in US dollars. Services are classified according to EBOPS and its memorandum items and some additional BOP components and direct investment.

#### **2013 International Trade Statistics Yearbook – Volume II Trade by Product**

The 2013 International Trade Statistics Yearbook: Volume II – Trade by Product was released in December 2014. This

is the sixty-second edition of the publication.

A new feature in the 2013 edition is that trade in services data has been included. Therefore, the content and format of the yearbook has been redesigned to take into account new addition of graphs, tables and analytic text. The yearbook provides an overview of the latest trends of trade in goods and services showing international trade for 258 individual commodities (3-digit SITC groups) and for the 11 main Extended Balance of Payments Services (EBOPS) categories. It is aimed at both specialist trade data users and common audience at large. We believe the presented data, charts and analyses will benefit policy makers, government agencies, non-government organizations, civil society organizations, journalists, academics, researchers, students, businesses and anyone who is interested in trade issues.

The main content of the yearbook is divided into three parts. Part 1 consists of 11 detailed world data tables on merchandise trade, part 2

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### Eurostat Statistics on International Trade in Services

Extremely detailed data on International Trade in Services for EU 28 Member States, Euro area, EU Member States, Croatia, Turkey, Norway, Iceland, Switzerland, the USA and Japan are publicly and freely available from Eurostat website at the following address: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database>

The on-line Eurostat database contains annual data on ITS broken down by EBOPS

category and partner country, starting, for some countries from year 1985.

The main sources of data are central banks and the national statistical offices. All values are expressed in million of Euro. Quarterly data for 11 main types of service and a reduced geographical breakdown are also available from Eurostat public database, as part of the tables related to quarterly balance of payments data. The new methodology (EBOPS 2010/BPM6) is implemented from

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## OECD Statistics on International Trade in Services

International trade in services data are published by OECD in one dataset: *Trade in services by service category and partner country* (TISP dataset).

The TISP dataset seeks to provide balance of payments data type of service (EBOPS 2002 classification) at the most detailed level and partner country for the 34 OECD member countries plus the Russian Federation. Published data go back to 1970 and historic series are available to the extent that countries can report them. All values are expressed both in million of US dollars and in national currency, and are provided on an annual basis.

An extract of the TISP dataset according to EBOPS 2002 is freely available at:

<http://stats.oecd.org/wbos/default.aspx?datasetcode=TISP>.

The OECD policy is to switch gradually to the new BPM6-EBOPS 2010 standard along with the country provision of such data. As some countries have already moved to the new BPM6/EBOPS2010 standard (for instance Australia), a parallel dataset with trade in services by partner country is also maintained according to the EBOPS 2010 classification: [http://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?datasetcode=TISP\\_EBOPS2010](http://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?datasetcode=TISP_EBOPS2010)

Each dataset is followed by the correspondent metadata. The main sources of data and metadata are Eurostat, national statistical offices, central banks, and IMF.

## Other Publications

### *UNCTAD Handbook of Statistics*

Trade in services statistics are presented in two main sets of tables: total trade in services and trade in services by category of services. The first set presents exports and imports of total trade in services by individual country, geographical region, economic grouping and trade group. The aggregate data include estimates of missing values that are not shown separately. The second set presents statistics by category of service for selected country groups and for major individual exporters and importers among developing and transition economies, as well as among developed countries.



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contains the commodity trade profiles for 258 individual commodities and part 3 contains profiles of service trade for the 11 main EBOPS categories. The profiles offer an insight into the trends in individual commodities and service categories by means

of brief descriptive text, concise data tables and charts using latest available data. The yearbook is also made available online at the publications repository of the UN Statistics Division (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/pubs>).

***WTO International Trade Statistics***

The WTO International Trade Statistics report (available in the autumn) provides comprehensive, comparable and up-to-date statistics on trade in commercial services by country, region and main service category, together with merchandise trade data. Available bilateral statistics are also presented. Major trade developments are summarized in the highlights of each chapter of the report. The publication also presents available data on sales of services by foreign affiliates, which is useful to estimate the supply of services through mode 3.



***WTO Trade Profiles***

This publication presents standard information on the structural trade situation (including commercial services trade) and relevant trade policy measures for 196 members, observers and other selected economies. The profiles are complemented with general macroeconomic indicators. They are updated twice a year (once a year for the paper version).



***WTO Services Profiles***

It includes standard information on key "infrastructure services" (transportation, telecommunications, finance and insurance) for over 150 economies. Indicators relating to investment, market performance, production, employment, trade as well as performance rankings are available.



For more information see <http://stats.unctad.org> and <http://stat.wto.org>.








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2014 (reference year 2013), thus Eurostat's reference database only includes EBOPS 2010 based data, both for national data and EU aggregates for annual International Trade

in Services. For reference years 2010 to 2012, Eurostat's reference database will include both EBOPS 2002/BPM5 and EBOPS 2010 data.



## Overview of existing databases covering SITS at different international organizations

					  
<b>Mandate</b>	<a href="#">Commission regulation (EU) No. 555/2012</a>	Article VIII of the IMF's Articles of Agreement	OECD Working Party on International Trade in Goods and Services Stats. (WPTGS) mandate for trade in services annual data collection	<a href="#">Statistical Commission at its 23rd Session (2001)</a>	WTO: GATS, RTA transparency mechanism require monitoring & surveillance of trade flows for assessing trade liberalization, UNCTAD: The Doha mandate: Development centered globalization: Towards inclusive and sustainable growth and development, ITC: Building awareness and improving the availability and use of trade intelligence in developing countries
<b>Geographical coverage</b>	European Union members (28), Turkey, Norway, Switzerland, Iceland, Japan, USA	All economies. Regional and world aggregates.	34 Member countries (MCs) ,plus BRICS	Member(180 of 192) + some 15 territories	Annual data: approximately 190 individual economies; Quarterly data: approximately 140 individual economies; Monthly data: approximately 140 individual economies made available by WTO only
<b>Format</b>	Standard questionnaire via GESMES or SDMX	Integrated Correspondance System (ICS) Standard Excel questionnaire	EU-OECD countries: electronic download from EUROSTAT website, Non EU-OECD countries+ Russian Federation : Standard Excel questionnaire or SDMX using the BOP-DSD, BRICS for TIS (excl Russian Federation): IMF	File exported from National Statistical Offices (NSO) or Central Banks (CB) database in delimited text file or Standard Excel questionnaire	Any input format accepted
<b>Source</b>	Data collection	Data collection	EU-OECD countries: EUROSTAT, Non EU-OECD countries + Russian Federation through Excel questionnaire, or SDMX using BOP-DSD, BRICS for TIS (excl Russian Federation): electronic download from IMF	Data collection (NSO, CB) + electronic data transfer from Eurostat + IMF monthly BOPS database	IMF monthly BOPS database Eurostat, OECD, UNSD, websites of NSOs and CBs and WTO/UNCTAD estimates
<b>Time period</b>	Annual: 1985-latest year	1948 to latest year	TIS: from 1970 - latest year TISP: from 1999 - latest year	2000 - latest year	Annual data: 1980 - latest year available; Short-term data: 2006 - latest period available
<b>Service classification</b>	EBOPS 2002 (until 2013) EBOPS 2010	Starting with the August 2012 releases of the International Financial Statistics (IFS) and of the on-line Balance of Payments Statistics Database, data will be published on a BPM6 basis.	EBOPS 2002 in general, EBOPS 2010 for some countries (for example, Australia). Data following the new EBOPS 2010/ BPM6 standards are countries' reports (not derived from OECD conversion)	EBOPS 2002	Annual data: Total services, Commercial services, and 16 selected BPM5/EBOPS items; more detailed EBOPS information available from ITC Trade map; Starting in November 2014: quarterly data disseminated in BPM6 format for total services and total commercial services. Additional sector detail under development.
<b>Breakdown by Products (CPC)</b>	No	No	Ongoing research project on trade by products and industries	No, but experimental CPC module is planned	No
<b>Number of countries with partner data</b>	34 Countries( 28 MCs, Turkey, Norway, Switzerland and Japan, Monte-Negro, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)	No	35 countries (33 of the 34 MCs, Hong Kong SAR of China, and Russian Federation)	46 countries	49 countries
<b>Availability of metadata</b>	Yes (for annual, quarterly ITSS)	The webform metadata that were introduced starting with the August 2012 issues of the International Financial Statistics and the on-line Balance of Payments Statistics Database indicate on what basis (BPM5 versus BPM6) an economy provided data to the IMF (see Service classification above). Continuously	Yes	Yes, in development	Yes
<b>Collection cycle</b>	Annual: Sep, reference period + 9 months Quarterly: May. Reference period + 85 days	Continuously	Continuously	July, t-1	Annual data: twice a year (Feb/March and June/ July, t-1); Short-term data: on rolling basis (as available)
<b>Publication cycle</b>	June, December	Monthly	Rolling update on OECD.Stat	Continuous –Target deadline for data February, t -2	Annual data: twice a year (April and July, t -1); Quarterly data: four times a year (t+90 days); Monthly data: once a month
<b>Format of Publication</b>	Internet database Press release, <a href="#">Eurostat's "Statistics Explained"</a>	Internet database download, CD-ROM, printed publication	Internet database download, CD-ROM, printed publication	Internet database download, Bi-annual Yearbook of International Trade Statistics (volume I by country and volume II by service category)	Internet database download and Internet download of predefined tables (or time series), e-publication, and print (UNCTAD also publishes a DVD with selected series from its database).
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/statistics/search_database">http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/statistics/search_database</a>	<a href="http://elibrary-data.imf.org/">http://elibrary-data.imf.org/</a>	- <a href="http://stats.oecd.org/wbos/default.aspx?datasetcode=TISP">http://stats.oecd.org/wbos/default.aspx?datasetcode=TISP</a> - <a href="http://stats.oecd.org/index.aspx?datasetcode=TISP_EBOPS2010">http://stats.oecd.org/index.aspx?datasetcode=TISP_EBOPS2010</a>	<a href="http://unstats.un.org/unsd/servicetrade/">http://unstats.un.org/unsd/servicetrade/</a>	WTO: "Statistics gateway" : <a href="http://www.wto.org/english/res_e/statis_e/statis_e.htm">http://www.wto.org/english/res_e/statis_e/statis_e.htm</a> <a href="http://www.wto.org/english/res_e/statis-e/statis-e.htm">http://www.wto.org/english/res_e/statis-e/statis-e.htm</a>

## PAST EVENTS

### Meeting of the Task Force on International Trade Statistics (TFITS), 22-23 October 2014, WTO, Geneva

The TFSITS meeting documents are available @ <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/taskforce/meetings.asp>

The Task Force discussed the issues on the merger of the TFITS and TFMITS. With the objective of achieving more efficiency and flexibility and as already discussed in the last TF meeting, the TFMITS and the TFSITS were merged. It was agreed that the new TF will meet only once a year. A letter is going to be sent to the Chairperson of the Bureau of the Statistical Commission with copies to the co-chairs of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities about the merger. The TF was informed about the progress made of the Friends of the Chair Group on the Measurement of International Trade and Economic Globalization. Six main areas were discussed in the meeting in Aguascalientes, Mexico (29 Sept - 1 Oct 2014) as (i) Production of a Handbook on International Economic Accounts; (ii) Work on a Global Enterprise Group register; (iii) Work on Enterprise classification and Firm Heterogeneity; (iv) Asymmetries in bilateral trade and investment; (v) Improving national SUTs ; (vi) Continuing development of a global SUT as a collective effort. Some background on the partnership work was presented and the draft report that develops a list of indicators for trade in ICT services and trade in ICT-enabled services. It also presents a list of 10 recommendations on how to best measure trade in those sectors.

UNSD reported on the status of the consultations on BEC rev.5 which started in

May 2011. The first draft of the new nomenclature was circulated for consultation in June 2014. The results of the consultations will be discussed among the members of the technical sub-group on BEC and be subsequently presented to the UN Expert Group on Classifications. Thereafter, it will be submitted to the UN Statistical Commission (possibly March 2015, with report to be prepared by end-November 2014). UNSD referred to a report on Customs and Statistics presented at the TF meeting last year. Two events on this topic are planned for 2015 (in Dakar and Brussels), with the objective of drawing attention to the importance of accurate recording of both values and quantities in customs documents.

The WTO emphasized the need for coordination of technical assistance activities, to ensure transparency, avoid duplication and exploit synergies. The current status of the activities, including past and present seminars and the list of experts, is available on the WTO website. An update was presented on the UNCTAD-WTO e-learning project. WTO also summarized the status of EBOPS 2010 publication by the different agencies. Then it presented a common tool for the conversion from EBOPS 2002 to EBOPS 2010. The aim of this exercise, which builds on the IMF conversion matrix, is that all agencies use the same conversion tool to ensure that all agencies disseminate

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The TFSITS meeting documents are available @ <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/taskforce/meetings.asp>

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consistent data. Eurostat, OECD, UNCTAD and UNSD gave an overview of the current status and plan on trade in services statistics dissemination.

OECD and WTO presented their ongoing joint project on bilateral trade in services matrices. The work is linked to the TiVA initiative. The aim is to build (61+4)\*(61+4) matrices covering all main BMP5 EBOPS categories from 1995-2012, focusing on exports. Three main steps are envisaged: (i) collect all available information about bilateral TIS; (ii) maximize indirect statistical information in the dataset to derive as many missing data points as possible; (iii) use econometric models to estimate the rest of the missing data, constraining the estimates to world totals.

The topic of addressing trade asymmetries was suggested to be placed on the agenda of the TFITS by the UNSD FOCG. OECD and WTO presented a follow up on the work to create a metadata template to be used by all agencies to collect TIS metadata from

countries. The template should ideally take the form of a web-based questionnaire. The information collected should be complementary to what is gathered by the IMF. The questionnaire is targeted towards all countries. UNSD presented briefly the work progress of OECD, WTO and UNSD on the CG, thanking everyone for their contributions. All chapters have been shared among the TF members and cross-reviewed. There is a need to finalize the work now as countries, especially developing, are looking forward to seeing the practical guidance that this book will provide. The printed version, to be finished by the end of the year, will be translated into six languages. In addition, there will be online annexes that will be kept alive and updated as necessary.

The Task Force was also informed about the revision of the concordance annexes of the MSITS 2010, the update of the design of the TF web-site; also a list of specific topics to be discussed in the future was elaborated.

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## Meeting of the Task Force on International Trade Statistics (TFITS), 27-28 March 2014, OECD, Paris

UNSD representative presented the discussions of the latest UN Statistical Commission meeting and the work of the Friends of the Chair Group on International Trade and Economic Globalization. OECD presented on behalf of OECD, WTO and UNSD a proposal to merge the TFIMTS and the TFSITS into a single TFITS (Inter-agency Task Force on International Trade Statistics). WTO gave an update on

coordination of trade in services statistics capacity building and technical assistance, including an overview of the past, recent and foreseen national and regional activities conducted by task force members, a list of consultants and experts available for capacity building and technical assistance, and a list of financing agencies. An update of the work of the TGServ on Measuring Trade in ICT Services and ICT-

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enabled Services was presented. An update on the work on the revision of the OECD Frascati Manual was presented.

WTO presented the report on the progress with respect to a common conversion algorithm from EBOPS 2002 to EBOPS 2010. Eurostat and OECD present their work on the joint collection of metadata in the area of trade. The UNSD representative introduced the item, explaining that before

its presentation to the UNSC, the Compilers Guide had been reviewed by UN staff and more specifically the chapters 5 and 14. UNSD and OECD made presentations on the revision on the concordance annexes to the MSITS 2010. The TF was also informed about the update of the web-site. UNSD presented the official work programme of UNSD on the Big Data for official statistics.

## Interagency Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services



### EDITORIAL NOTE

The Newsletter of the Interagency Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services (TFSITS) is a joint publication of the members of the task force: the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) - the Task Force is chaired by OECD. The Newsletter is prepared by the International Trade in Services Section of the United Nations Statistics Division - Department of Economic and Social Affairs. This Newsletter does not necessarily express the official position of any of the members nor is it an official document of the United Nations.

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