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DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

STATISTICS DIVISION
TRADE STATISTICS BRANCH

OECD-EUROSTAT MEETING OF EXPERTS IN TRADE IN SERVICES STATISTICS (TIS),
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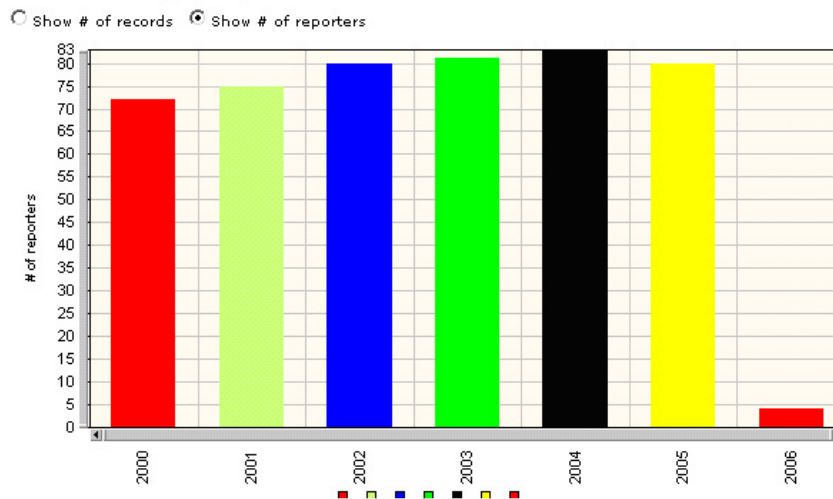
item 19(b) of the provisional agenda

UNSD Trade in Services Statistics

Report by UNSD

UN Service Trade database

1. As reported at the last meeting, UNSD decided to focus its database of Statistics of International Trade in Services to detailed EBOPS service categories by partner countries for the years 2000 and later. Currently, this UN Service Trade database contains detailed trade in services statistics for 83 countries and years 2000 to 2006. Data for 5 more countries have been received but have not been added yet. The geographical breakdown is Africa (9), America (16), Asia (24), Europe (35) and Oceania (4).



About half of the countries report EBOPS categories broken down by partners; the other half only reports trade by EBOPS category.

2. UNSD sent out a general request for SITS data at the end of 2006 in order to build up the UN ServiceTrade database. The request was sent in four UN languages and contained an annex with data specifications, namely annual data for years 2000-2005, EBOPS service categories as detailed as possible, exports (credit) and imports (debit), breakdown by partner country for as many categories as possible, plus Metadata. The request was sent to 197 countries (or areas). During 2007, 77 replies were received, of which 65 with data files. A follow-up letter was sent out in August 2007, which informed countries about the public availability of UN ServiceTrade and reminded those which not had sent data yet to do so.

Data collection concerning OECD countries

3. Out of the 30 OECD countries, 19 are members of the European Union and they report SITS data to Eurostat. Eurostat also includes detailed SITS data for Japan and Norway on its website. Eurostat and UNSD have signed a Memorandum of Understanding, in which it is stated that UNSD has the right to use the SITS data published by Eurostat on its website and upload those into UN ServiceTrade. In total, we are taking data for 21 OECD countries from Eurostat.

4. For 4 other OECD countries (New Zealand, Korea Republic, Mexico and USA) data are available on the respective countries' websites. UNSD uses those data for UN ServiceTrade.

5. The remaining 5 countries (Australia, Canada, Iceland, Turkey and Switzerland) send their SITS data both to UNSD and OECD. UNSD is in contact with these data suppliers and would like to agree with them and OECD that these countries send their files in one submission to two addresses - UNSD and OECD.