

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 25.2.2003
COM(2003) 88 final

REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL

on the implementation of the EDICOM programme (1997-1999)

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Summary

The introduction of the internal market in 1993 completely changed the statistical system for monitoring trade in goods between Member States of the European Union, by abolishing customs declarations and replacing them with a system based on collecting statistical information directly from businesses (Intrastat[1]).

In order to support this significant change, the Council adopted in 1994 a Decision (Edicom) aiming to implement an interoperable system, at European level for the collection, production and dissemination of these statistics. The actions implemented, which came within the scope of the priorities for the guidelines on trans-European telecommunications networks, aimed to modernise the statistical system and promote the production of quality harmonised statistics whilst limiting the burden on businesses. The Council Decision, adopted in 1994 for a period of five years[2], has now expired.

The purpose of this report is to provide information on the results of the actions undertaken in 1997-1999 in connection with the 1996 Edicom Decision[3], in accordance with Article 9 of the Decision.

The main results at the completion of the programme were as follows:

– the programme helped considerably in introducing the Intrastat system under suitable conditions;

– in particular, it allowed the design, development and promotion of electronic Intrastat declaration forms distributed to more than 50 000 firms required to provide statistical information;

– it allowed the infrastructure for collecting, processing, transmitting and disseminating statistical information to be modernised in the Member States and at Eurostat, with a notable positive impact on information quality, dissemination times and arrangements for access to statistics, especially the development of the Comext data base, which is now a reference tool at Eurostat;

– it was involved in the work of standardising messages and promoting electronic data exchange resulting in a considerable improvements to data bases, their speedy availability and reduced costs of statistical production;

– it allowed the computerisation of the management and dissemination of information related to the nomenclature, as well as the availability of such information to internal and external users;

– it was involved in improving and harmonising statistical methods, thus contributing to better data quality;

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1 Since 1993 Intrastat has referred to the system for collecting statistics on the trading of goods between Member States. Its main feature is therefore the direct collection of information from businesses, whereas the "Extrastat" system for trade between the EU and non-member countries uses the information on customs declarations for statistical purposes.

2 This Decision was annulled following a challenge to its legal basis and was replaced by a new Decision for the period 1997-1999.

3 Council Decision 96/715/EC of 9 December 1996 on inter- administration telematic networks for statistics relating to the trading of goods between Member States (OJ L 327, 18.12.1996).

– it was involved, as part of the SLIM initiative, in adapting Intrastat rules to the needs of the internal market by ensuring a better balance between user requirements and the burden placed on information providers.

On the basis of these results, the Commission (Eurostat) in 1999 proposed guidelines on the future of statistics on trade in goods in a strategic document which was the outcome of broad consultation with national administrations and professional circles. These guidelines recommended that statistical methods be adapted and that modernisation efforts be continued with a view to easing further the burden on firms, while boosting the effectiveness of the statistical system.

In this context, a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council[4] outlining a five-year work programme was adopted in 2001. The two main objectives of the programme were:

– to encourage the organisation of the statistical network in the most modern, rational and effective manner possible and to adopt measures necessary for improving and harmonising the methods used, in order to produce statistics which are more reliable and less expensive for the information providers and administrations, become available more quickly and better satisfy the expectations of users;

– to develop existing computer tools for the collection, production, transmission and dissemination of statistical data, taking into account the latest technological advances and seeking to optimise cost-effectiveness.

The work has begun. In cooperation with the Member States the Commission will regularly review the actions financed under the Decision, in order to ascertain whether the stated objectives have been attained and to provide guidelines for improving the effectiveness of future actions.

[4] Decision No 507/2001/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 March 2001 concerning a set of actions relating to the trans-European network for the collection, production and dissemination of statistics on the trading of goods within the Community and between the Community and non-member countries (OJ L 76 of 16.03.2001, p. 1).

1. INTRODUCTION

The creation of the single market on 1 January 1993 brought with it the abolition of customs formalities and the introduction of Intrastat, a system designed to ensure an adequate level of information on trade in goods between Member States. The Intrastat rules provided for the direct collection of information from firms (which had to send the relevant statistical service a monthly summary declaration containing information for the previous month) and laid down the conditions for optimal use of computerised processing and electronic transmission of information. In order to ease the administrative burden both for firms and for the national administrations in charge of collecting the basic data.

An initial Edicom Decision[5] had been prepared in connection with this and dealt with inter-administration telematic networks for statistics relating to the trading of goods between Member States. A Court of Justice ruling of 28 March 1996 annulled this Decision because of a legal problem but approved the actions that had been undertaken hitherto. On 9 December 1996 the Council adopted for a period of three years a new Decision on inter-administration telematic networks for statistics relating to the trading of goods between Member States (Edicom).

According to Article 9 of the Decision, *"the Commission shall submit to the European Parliament and the Council, on the conclusion of EDICOM, a report on its implementation together, where appropriate, with proposals for further measures"*.

The purpose of this report is thus to present the results of the actions undertaken under the Edicom programme. Although the programme covered the period 1997-1999, the final results of some actions begun during the third year of the programme were not available until 2001, which explains the delay in producing this report.

Also, aware of the need to adapt statistical methods and to continue actions to modernise the statistical system, the Commission produced at the end of 1999, without waiting for the final results, a strategic document outlining guidelines for the future of statistics relating to the trading of goods. On this basis, the European Parliament and the Council adopted in 2001 a Decision defining a five-year work programme covering a wider sphere of action than the 1996 Edicom Decision. This work programme had been drawn up in close cooperation with the Member States and had been the subject of a detailed ex-ante evaluation.

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[5] Council Decision 94/445/EC of 11 July 1994 on inter-administration telematic networks for statistics relating to the trading of goods between Member States (OJ L 183 of 19.7.1994).

2. GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME

The basic EDICOM Decision set out the guidelines for the implementation of the programme.

The general objective was *"the implementation of a set of measures facilitating the conversion of regional, national and Community systems towards interoperable systems at European level, as a first stage, for the collection of returns on the trading of goods between Member States from businesses, the validation and pre-processing of such returns and the dissemination of the statistics derived therefrom.*

These systems should be based in particular on the use of electronic data interchange for the transmission of statistical returns. Computerised procedures could be made available to the competent national and Community authorities and to the parties responsible for providing statistical information by agreement with the competent national authorities."

The basic Decision was subsequently supplemented by the following Commission Decisions:

– Commission Decision of 18 March 1999 concerning the approval of 29 proposed measures which qualify in the 1999 budget for Community financing pursuant to Council Decision 96/175/EC of 9 December 1996 on inter-administration telematic networks for statistics relating to the trading of goods between Member States;

– Commission Decision of 31 March 1998 concerning the approval of 28 proposed measures which qualify in the 1999 budget for Community financing pursuant to Council Decision 96/175/EC;

– Commission Decision of 24 April 1997 concerning the approval of 29 proposed measures which qualify in the 1999 budget for Community financing pursuant to Council Decision 96/175/EC;

– Commission Decision of 20 May 1999 concerning the approval of 23 proposed measures which qualify in the 1999 budget for Community financing pursuant to Council Decision 96/175/EC.

The idea behind the programme was that the Intrastat system required statistical data on trade in goods to be collected directly from firms, by using methods and techniques ensuring that the data were exhaustive, reliable and up-to-date, without giving rise to the parties concerned, especially small and medium-sized businesses, to a burden out of proportion to the results which users of the said statistics could reasonably expect.

To achieve this aim, the Edicom Decision proposed a programme designed to modernise in a coherent and harmonised manner the system of collecting, processing and disseminating statistics on trade in goods between Member States. Modern tools were to be developed and promoted to benefit the various levels - regional, national and Community - of the system. This measure, at the core of the programme, was to be based on common standards, methods and procedures.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMME

3.1. Operational context

The primary objective of Edicom was to develop a telematic network linking the firms required to provide information, the relevant regional and national administrations and Eurostat, with a view to compiling statistics on trade in goods between Member States. The context in which the programme operates is shown by the following diagram:

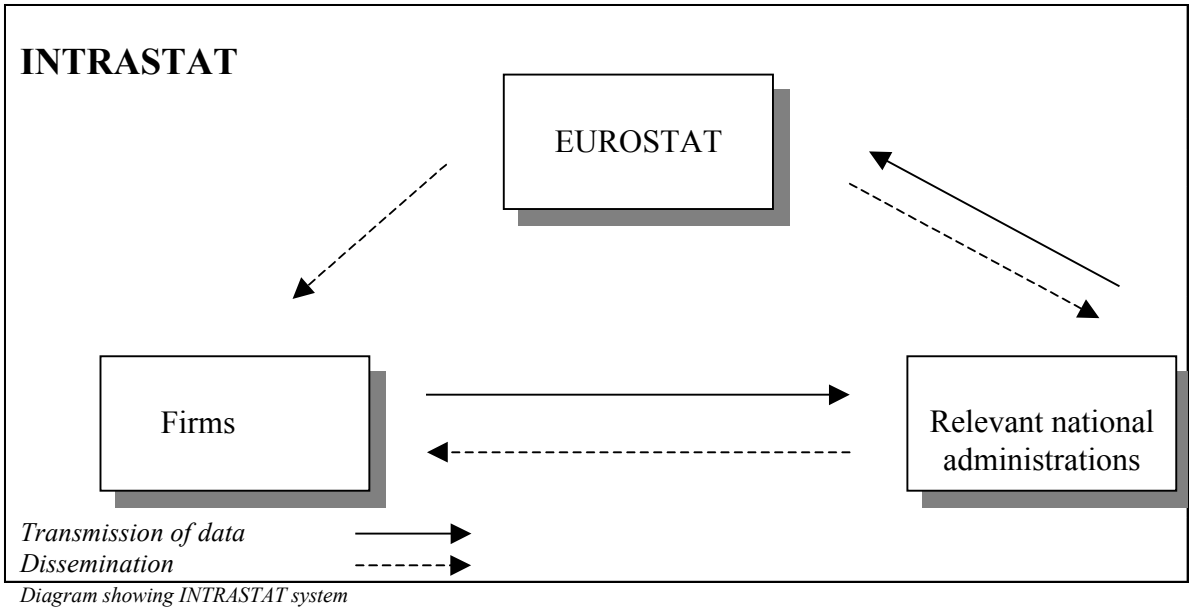


Diagram showing INTRASTAT system

3.2. Definitions of centralised and decentralised measures

The programme was subdivided into centralised measures run by the Commission and decentralised measures to be implemented by the Member States in charge of collecting, processing and transmitting data to Eurostat.

The measures to be undertaken were classified in five groups:

1. *Automation and telematic tools for those responsible for providing information* - design, development and promotion of software for the collection, validation and transmission of statistical information and assistance to the Member States.

2. *Automation and telematic tools for the administrations* - design, development and promotion of software for the acceptance, validation and processing of data, as well as assistance in this area.

3. *Standards* - design, development and promotion of formats for the exchange of information, and making them available.

4. *Methods* - design, documentation and promotion of methods.

5. *Organisation/Administration/Management.*

The centralised measures were the subject of invitations to tender and the decentralised measures involved regulated grants to the Member States to carry out actions compatible with the objectives of the Decision or aimed at implementing tools or methods developed in connection with the centralised measures.

The annual budget allocated to each measure is shown in Annex 1. For the whole period 1997-1999, centralised measures accounted for 43% and decentralised measures for 57%.

The guidelines for the implementation of the measures were as follows (Article 4 of the Decision):

1. *to facilitate the introduction and use of these systems, by means of promotion and awareness campaigns aimed mainly at businesses and users, conducted by the competent Community bodies by agreement with national and regional bodies;*

2. *to undertake special measures for the benefit of less-developed regional and national bodies to enable them to take part in these systems;*

3. *to promote the use of the most appropriate telematic technologies and tools to meet the needs of the statistical system, and their incorporation into the various computer environments of the authorities concerned.*

The similarity of the objectives of the Edicom programme with those of the IDA (interchange of data between administrations) programme must be emphasised. The aim of the Edicom Decision was to supplement the measures undertaken in this broader context by "*operational measures, particularly in the statistical sphere*".

3.3. Management system

Article 5 of the Edicom Decision refers to the following management system:

"The Commission shall be responsible for the implementation of Edicom. It shall be assisted by:

(a) *the Committee on the Statistical Programme of the European Communities, established by Decision 89/382/EEC, Euratom, in drawing up, quantifying and approving the annual work programme, in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 6;*

(b) *the Committee on statistics relating to the trading of goods between Member States, set up by Regulation (EEC) No 3330/91:*

- *for the approval of calls for tenders and the evaluation of projects and measures of a total value of more than ECU 200 000, in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 6,*

- *for measures to implement Edicom other than those referred to in point (a) and the first indent of this point, in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 7.*

Eurostat Unit C4 (Methodology, nomenclature and statistics of external and intra-community trade) and Unit A2 (Information and communication technologies for the community statistical system) are the units which were in charge of the Edicom programme for the period 1997-1999. A Task Force comprising representatives of Eurostat and the Member States

cooperated actively in preparing and coordinating work programmes and actions to be presented to the Statistical Programme Committee and to the Committee on Statistics relating to the Trading of Goods.

3.4. Performance indicators

The most significant positive results achieved under the programme can be evaluated primarily on the basis of the following indicators:

a) Change in use of electronic media for the transmission of Intrastat declarations

The development of electronic media and standardised messages for the transmission of Intrastat declarations was the main objective of the programme. The key elements allowing the changing situation to be assessed are shown below. More detailed information for the European Union and each Member State can be found in Annex 2.

- on average, for all the Member States the number of lines transmitted by printed form went down by **18%** between 1997 and 1999;
- the number of lines transmitted by diskette and electronic media increased during the same period by **15%**;
- the number of lines transmitted by EDIFACT in the Cusdec/Instat format (recommended by Eurostat) went up by **43%**;
- use of IDEP/CN8 (electronic form for Intrastat declarations) has increased in recent years:

Year	Number of Member States	Number of firms
1994	7	3 000
1995	8	7 000
1996	11	14 500
1997	11	25 000
1998	12	30 000
1999	12	36 000

b) Change in time taken by Member States to transmit statistics to Eurostat

The improvement in the time taken by Member States to transmit statistical declarations to Eurostat is a result of modernising the system, for information providers and users of electronic media for compiling declarations as well as for national administrations. The result is greater compliance with Community rules and better response to user needs.

– **Transmission of detailed extra-Community data**

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Indicator 1*	34	14	11	8	2	-2
Indicator 2*	1	2	1	4	5	11

– **Transmission of detailed intra-Community data**

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Indicator 1*	15	9	3	-3	-5	-8
Indicator 2*	2	4	5	8	10	13

Indicator 1: average time (in days) for detailed EU statistics to be available (mean of annual average times of the 15 Member States)

Indicator 2: number of Member States complying with regulations laying down transmission times

Note: a "-" sign indicates dispatch a data ahead of required times

c) Change in use of Comext data base

The Comext data base allows the processing and storage of all the data for statistics on trade in goods. This data base has been modernised and its content continually improved. It has become a reference tool at Eurostat, and its use has increased considerably.

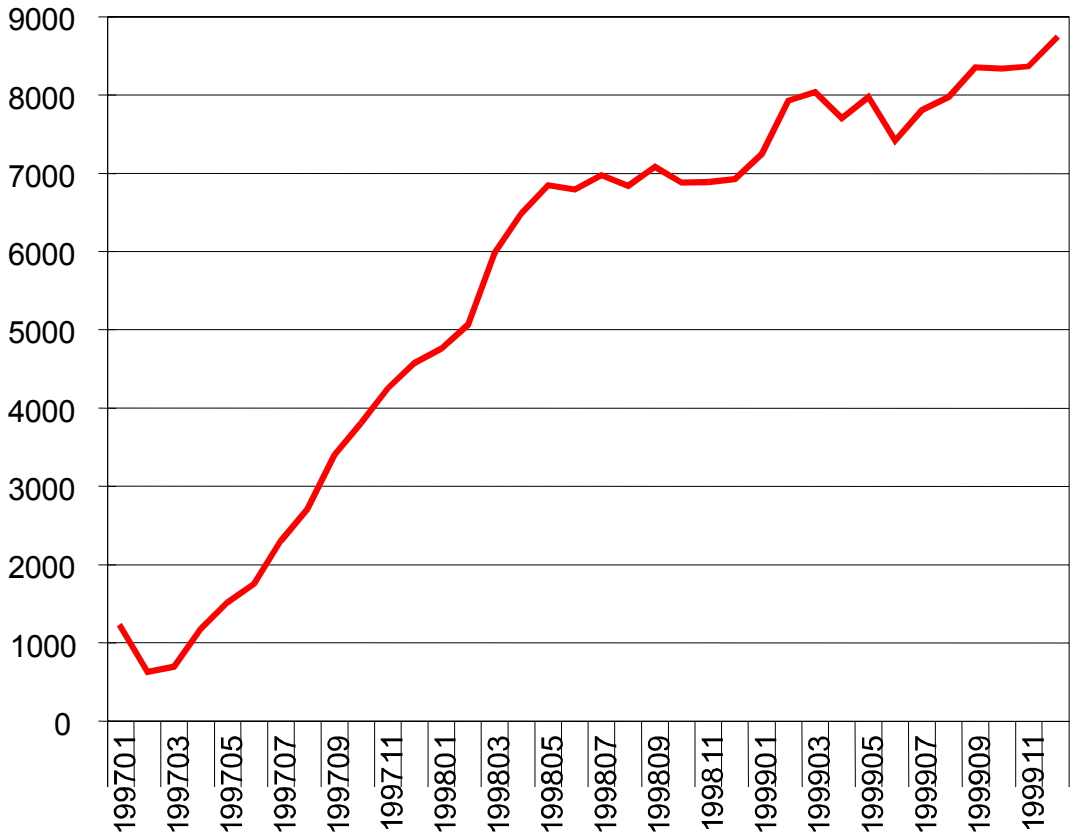
– **Number of on-line users of Comext**

	Commission	Other institutions and administrations
1997	546	20
1998	659	50
1999	759	70

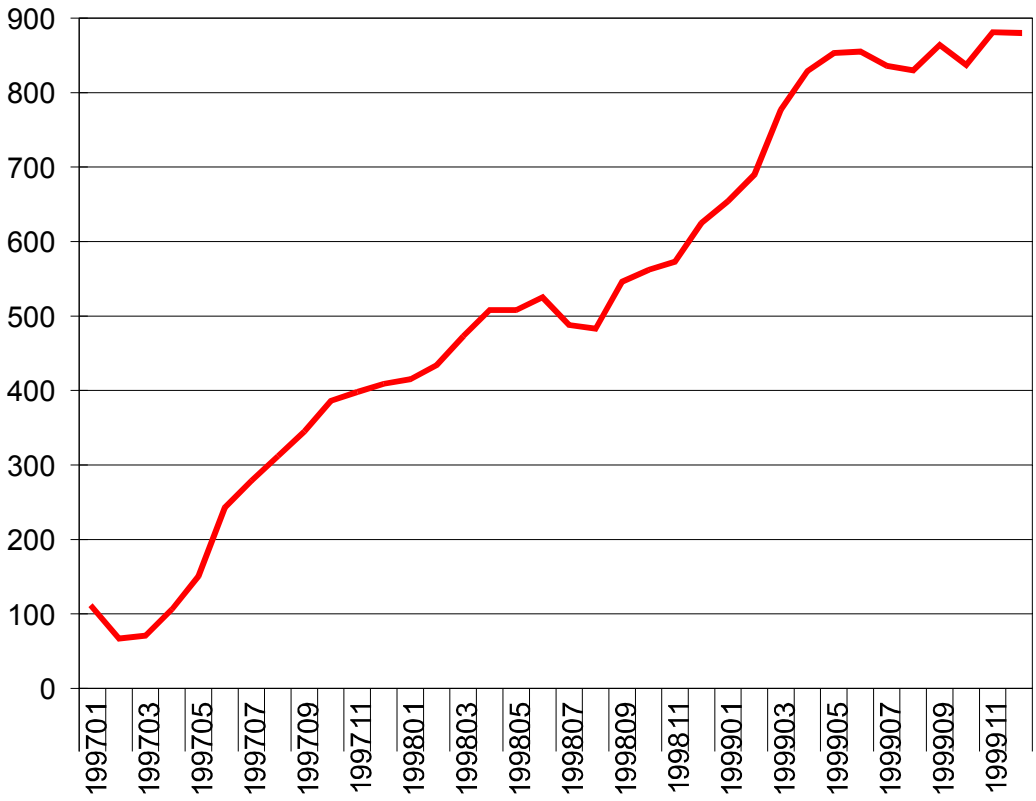
– **Number of on-line uses of Comext**

	Registrations (mio)	Number of times system accessed
1997	3092	22478
1998	5600	85000
1999	10309	92500

– **Access to Comext (number) - monthly data - moving average over 12 months**



– **Registrations Comext extracts (mio) - monthly data - moving average over 12 months**



3.5. Monitoring of programme

The Council Decision laid down that during the implementation of the Edicom programme the Commission had to report:

– regularly to the IDA Committee;

– annually to the Committee on Statistics relating to Trading in Goods between Member States;

– at the conclusion of the programme, to the European Parliament and the Council with, where appropriate, proposals for further measures.

This report is intended to provide a summary of the results achieved in connection with the Decision and on the new measures which have been proposed since 1999.

4. RESULTS OF MEASURES

4.1. Measures related to automation and telematic tools for information providers

The computer tools developed for compiling Intrastat declarations and the standardisation of formats and messages are among the major results of the programme. Several tools are involved: IDEP/CN8 developed by Eurostat, IRIS developed by the Netherlands statistical office (CBS), IDES (Intra-trade Data Entry Software) and W3stat (on-line declaration form) developed by Germany and the Intrastat E-form developed by the United Kingdom.

IDEP/CN8, distributed to about 50 000 firms, and IRIS, used by about 15 000 firms in Germany and the Netherlands (until 1999), are the prime examples of the success of the telematic tools that were developed.

A considerable effort has been made to provide annual updates of software and the Combined Nomenclature and upgrades of technology in use. DOS and Windows versions of the IDEP and IRIS software are currently available.

The main benefits of using machine-readable forms are as follows:

1. easing of administrative burden in compiling declarations;

2. reduction in number of errors and hence improvement in data quality;

3. standardisation of formats for dispatching data;

4. production of Community-wide tools;

5. reduction of non-response rate among information providers.

4.2. Measures related to automation and telematic tools for administrations

Measures were planned to optimise the computer processing of information and administrative infrastructure, especially:

1. modernisation of the infrastructure of the relevant national or regional administrations: computer equipment, servers, information storage systems, printers, writers, communication systems;

2. introduction of optical scanning systems for Intrastat printed declarations;

3. introduction of diskette-reading systems for Intrastat declarations on diskettes;

4. introduction of scanning systems for Intrastat declarations received by fax;

5. introduction of reception systems for Intrastat declarations received by telematic media (modem, on-line data transfer, etc).

Major work was also done on data bases in the Member States and at Eurostat where the Comext data base, for processing and storing all the data for statistics on trade in goods between the Member States, was modernised.

On-line and regular access to Comext is currently available for about 750 internal users (all the Commission directorates-general are connected) and more than 150 external users (ministries, international organisations, statistical offices, central banks, consultants). With regard to content, the data base uses more than 160 gigabytes and contains detailed data not only from the Member States but also from countries involved in the Phare and Tacis programmes, many other non-member countries and international organisations such as the United Nations (access to the Comtrade data base), the IMF, etc. The system can be considered a point of reference throughout the world for statistical data bases on external trade. In view of its size and variety of possible uses, it is a considerable tool in support of the European Union's external and internal policies.

4.3. Measures related to standards and formats of exchange

The main activities under this heading concern the Combined Nomenclature (CN) and EDIFACT message formats used for Intrastat declarations.

4.3.1. Development of messages

Using the UN/EDIFACT standards (ISO standard 9735, Electronic Data Interchange For Administrations, Commerce and Transport), CUSDEC/INSTAT, CUSDEC/EXSTAT and CUSDEC/INSRES (confirmation of reception) messages were developed by the WG5 working group "External Trade" in cooperation with the EG3 expert group "Taxes and Customs" as part of EBES-EG6 (European Board for EDI Standards, Expert Group 6 - Statistics). These messages are universally used for applications for the collection of primary data as well as for their transfer to the centralised national systems. In order to keep up with the rapid development in the world of communications and the spread of "e-activities", work to define messages in XML (eXtended Markup Language) has begun.

4.3.2. Computerisation of the management and dissemination of the Combined Nomenclature and related products

The Combined Nomenclature (CN) of goods is one of the essential metadata used for commercial transactions as well as for compiling statistics on external trade. It requires processing as a matter of priority so that it can be continually adapted to the new needs of EU policies and to technological and commercial developments.

Since the CN is a detailed nomenclature, extensive but complex, a set of related products was devised with a view to making it easier to use by statistical information providers and by national administrations. These related products are mainly self-explanatory texts, keywords, explanatory notes, alphabetical index, annual code conversion tables, correlation tables for other nomenclatures and code aggregates.

In this context, in order to manage the CN and its related products, the following activities were undertaken:

– Design and development of a computerised data base system. This system is in response to the need to manage amendments to the CN, to draw up working documents (proposals for amendments) for consideration by the Customs Code Committee - Tariffs and Statistical Nomenclature Section, to update the files containing the annual versions of the nomenclature and related products and to transfer data to other data base systems, in particular the IDEP/CN8, NPS and Comext systems, and to do so in the 11 official languages of the Community.

– Design and development of a computerised system for the production of computer files, with a view to improving the dissemination of such information. The aim is to meet the needs of CN users and to provide them with printed copies of the CN, as well as several types of file (SGML, TXT, ACCESS, etc) for use with other data base systems (in particular, IDEP/CN8, NPS and Comext) of Eurostat, other Commission departments, national administrations of the Member States or providers of statistical information.

4.3.3. Study of the facilitation of the classification of goods by using the trade names of products

In spite of all the efforts that have been made to make the Combined Nomenclature easier to use for statistical information providers and national administrations, there are some user categories which still find it hard to classify goods correctly. One of the reasons for these problems is the difference in the terminologies used in the CN and those of professional users. An analysis was thus conducted in order to make an objective assessment of this "terminology gap" and to analyse to what extent an expansion of keyword files in the CN to include trade synonyms would help to overcome these problems.

The information sources for this expansion have been surveyed and analysed. There are a lot of them, and making use of them is complicated and costly. However, it has been shown that modern language analysis tools would indeed make access to nomenclatures easier as part of the practical implementation of the results of the analysis.

4.4. Measures related to methods

The main results of the methodological work are as follows:

4.4.1. Continuation of work of harmonising statistical methods following international recommendations

The compilation of statistics on trade in goods is being greatly harmonised at Community level. To a large extent, the rules are formulated in accordance with the common rules contained in a series of Community Regulations (basic Regulations of the Council and, in some cases, of the European Parliament, supplemented by implementing Regulations of the Commission). Harmonisation has not been achieved, however. There are in particular specific movements or goods (aircraft, ships, satellites, sea products, repairs, etc) for which the complexity of the transactions or the difficulty of securing information means that reliable and internationally comparable statistics cannot be obtained. International efforts to improve the treatment of these goods have been made, and the results are contained in "Statistics of international trade in goods - Concepts and definitions" which was recently revised by the UN Statistical Commission (work in which the Commission, in the form of Eurostat, participated).

Also, in spite of harmonised rules for compiling Community statistics, some Member States continue to produce national statistics according to rules which occasionally differ from those in use at Community level in order to satisfy specific national requirements or demands.

In this context, various efforts have been made at Community level with a view to continuing the work of harmonisation, by bringing it clearly in line with international recommendations, and also with a view to making users better about the methodological rules used for the various statistics to which they have access.

Harmonising the treatment of specific movements or goods has continued on the basis of various work:

– the operation of evaluating national systems, which was conducted by Eurostat using a detailed questionnaire and visits to the Member States and which highlighted certain shortcomings in national practices;

– the revision of "Statistics of international trade in goods - Concepts and definitions" by the UN Statistical Commission.

Recommendations have been made, and in some Member States pilot projects have been launched with the following objectives:

– identification of alternative information sources making it possible to obtain the information needed for the collection of statistics or to check the information that is available in customs or Intrastat declarations;

– analysis of the content of the available information, its usefulness for statistical purposes and, where possible, its reliability;

– analysis of the conditions (medium, frequency, deadlines, cost, confidentiality, etc) in which statistical administrations can access and use these sources.

On the basis of the results of these projects, Community rules[6] (Intrastat et Extrastat) have been supplemented so that these goods can be treated in a manner that is harmonised and in line with international recommendations. The goods or movements for which work still needs to be done have been identified.

With regard to informing users about the methodological rules employed for the various statistics they can access, a user guide has been prepared with special attention focused on the differences that can exist between the Community statistics published by Eurostat and national statistics on trade in goods which can in particular be used by other international organisations.

4.4.2. Analysis of simplifications that can be made to the Intrastat system as part of the SLIM initiative

The request to simplify the Intrastat system emerged with the launch of the SLIM initiative (Simpler Legislation for the Internal Market) by the Internal Market Ministers in 1996. An expert group was set up with the task of making concrete proposals for the simplification of the system. The group made the following proposals:

– reduce the amount of information to be collected in accordance with statistical needs and the difficulties experienced by firms;

– simplify the declaration of product nomenclature, main difficulty for declarants (with its 10 000 subheadings), while involving the trade associations which are the main private users of detailed statistics;

– carry out studies aimed at radically reforming the statistical system with a view to reducing the costs borne by information providers and administrations;

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6 Commission Regulations (EC) Nos 1901/2000 of 7.9.2000 (OJ L 228 of 8.9.2000) and 1917/2000 of 9.9.2000 (OJ L 229 of 9.9.2000).

– encourage the use of modern methods of collecting and processing data among firms and national administrations.

These proposals were used to launch a large number of methodological studies, in cooperation with the national administrations, on the following subjects:

– usefulness and quality of certain variables (country of origin, mode of transport, nature of the transaction, etc); effect of their elimination;

– possible adaptation of the threshold system;

– feasibility of alternative systems challenging the requirement to produce detailed statistics every month; the extreme version of this proposal was a system based on a single flow;

The methodological results of this work were as follows:

– adoption of a Regulation of the Council and of the European Parliament amending the basic Intrastat Regulation by reducing the number of variables to be collected;

– adoption of a Regulation of the Council and of the European Parliament amending the basic Intrastat Regulation by simplifying the declaration of product nomenclature.

The proposals for a more fundamental reform (alternative systems) have not resulted in any amendment to the legislation because of a lack of agreement between the Commission and the Member States during technical committee discussions. The principle of continuing this approach was nevertheless included in the broader and longer-term strategic guidelines, adopted in 1999, on the future of statistics relating to the trading of goods.

4.4.3. Improving statistical methods for processing fiscal data as part of the Intrastat system

From the outset, the Intrastat system was built on the basis of a very close link with the VAT reporting system on intra-Community trade in goods. The main features of this link were as follows:

– Providers of statistical information are identified on Intrastat declarations by their VAT number. Statistical services can thus manage the register of intra-Community operators and carry out the necessary cross-checks.

– The tax authorities of the Member States are required at least every three months to provide the statistical services with a list of operators who have been involved in dispatches or arrivals, together with the amounts of the transactions. Most Member States also have access to the data declared by those liable to tax as part of the VIES system (VAT Information Exchange System). The statistical authorities can thus check the exhaustiveness and quality of the statistical data and also supplement the statistical base with the data that are available on operators below the so-called "assimilation" threshold, which provides exemption from statistical obligations.

– Finally, the link with the fiscal system is a condition for the very existence of Intrastat in its current form, as it will cease to apply "on the date of changeover to a unified system of taxation in the Member State of origin" (Article 1 of the Intrastat Regulation).

Since the link with the VAT system is a key element of the operation of the system, several actions have been taken designed to optimise the use of fiscal data by statistical authorities and also to forestall the risk of this link's disappearing in the event of changes to fiscal legislation.

The main results achieved were as follows:

– initially, a review of the operation of the current link between Intrastat and the fiscal system, particularly in the light of the variety of organisation in the Member States;

– recommendations at the level of national organisation and use of fiscal sources to improve the quality and availability of statistical data;

– a forward analysis of the possible consequences of the disappearance of the link between Intrastat and the fiscal system, especially in order to identify information sources that could replace fiscal information.

4.4.4. Improving the information system for statistics on trade in goods

The introduction of Intrastat in 1993 and the development of methodological work since then, prompted by the SLIM initiative, have resulted in a need for measures aimed at ensuring that users of statistics are better informed and at organising the management of methodological material. This objective takes concrete form in the regular publication of an Edicom and Intrastat "Newsletter" and the launch of a project for an information system containing the methodological reference documentation concerning statistics on trade in goods.

A data base, partly operational, has thus been developed with a dual purpose:

– management of internal documentation at Eurostat, with easier access to this information;

– providing users with better information about comprehensive basic methodological documentation comprising a number of sections: guide to concepts and definitions used at Community level; a guide for users of statistics; a guide for departments responsible for compiling statistics on trade in goods; access to metadata and to the *acquis communautaire*.

4.4.5. Improving statistical processing of basic data

The fundamental objectives were to improve the quality and availability of the data that were disseminated and to allow the collection burden to be reduced by means of suitable statistical processing. The main measures were as follows:

– *Studies of adjustment methods:*

The aim of these studies was to improve data reliability by estimating unreported trade. This can occur as a result of applying thresholds or because of non-response. Estimates of statistical value using invoiced value, which is better known by firms, were also studied.

– *Production forward indicators for external trade*

The time taken by the Member States to transmit data did not allow intra- and extra-Community trade statistics to be produced within the deadlines compatible with user requirements, especially in the case of the macroeconomic aggregates.

Studies were launched to improve transmission times, at both Member State and centralised levels, in order to develop techniques that would make it possible to forecast late submissions. Several methods were tested and evaluated (sampling, modelling of time series, regression). A computer application was developed and introduced to estimate data that were missing or submitted late by certain Member States.

– *Bilateral analyses of statistics between Member States*

Following the introduction of Intrastat in 1993, cases of significant asymmetry between Member State trade flows were noticed. These have a considerable impact on balances of payments and national accounts. Bilateral studies were conducted to identify and correct, wherever possible, the various possible causes of asymmetry.

– *Improving information checks*

The checks conducted on data transmitted by the Member States were mainly checks on the formal validity of the information. To improve data quality, it was decided to develop probability checks on quantitative data.

The main results achieved were as follows:

– The deadlines for supplying intra-Community statistics were considerably reduced. A tool for estimating missing data is regularly used for the first publication of monthly data.

– The quality of the published data has been improved thanks, in particular, to better statistical adjustments.

– Checks of basic information improved (especially, checks on the exhaustiveness of responses by large firms).

– A programme for detecting outliers has been devised. Reports are regularly sent to the national collection authorities to inform them of suspect trends.

– Member States have been able to simplify the Intrastat declaration, while monitoring the effect of simplifications on data quality (e.g., elimination of collecting data on statistical value).

– The main causes of asymmetry between Member States were identified and, in some cases, dealt with. However, the available data did not make it possible to make a significant reduction in overall intra-EU asymmetry.

– A test model for reconciling intra-EU flows, based on analysis of time series, was devised.

4.4.6. Consolidation and expansion of range of statistics on external trade

New statistical information needs were identified, relating in particular to the globalisation of the economy and the creation of monetary union.

The main actions undertaken in response to these needs were as follows:

– *Statistics related to firms*

Economic analysis of international trade requires a better understanding of the amount of trade between affiliated firms, as well as a measurement of external trade broken down by firms' sector of activity. Pilot studies have been carried out in several Member States in order to identify the most relevant collection methods for measuring intra-firm trade and also to measure the trade conducted by firms that are subsidiaries of foreign groups. Studies have also been undertaken to obtain data by sector of activity by means of links between registers of external trade operators and general business registers.

– *Production of series adjusted seasonally and by working days*

Since the dissemination of raw series does not allow accurate observation of sub-annual trends in external trade flows, an application for calculating CSV/NWD series was devised.

– *Information on data quality*

Communication about the quality of Intrastat data was very poor. It was decided to compile and disseminate quality reports at Member State and Eurostat level.

– *Indices of external trade*

The application for calculating external trade indices was completely rewritten for an SAS environment. These new programmes make it possible to calculate indices for any combination of declarant countries, partners and products, according to user requirements.

In addition, specific survey systems for import/export prices were compared.

– *Convergence with balances of payments and national accounts*

Comparability of external trade statistics with the equivalent indicators disseminated in connection with the balances of payments and national accounts is based on the assumption that overall imports are measured according to their FOB (free on board) value. Studies were carried out on the different methods of estimating the CIF/FOB conversion rate used by the Member States.

– *Dissemination of data*

In response to user needs, indicators or publications with specific reference to certain geographic areas were developed (e.g. monetary union or candidate countries).

Also, the various geographic groupings used by the Member States were analysed.

The main results obtained were as follows:

– The possible collection methods for measuring intra-firm trade were defined and evaluated.

– The links with general business registers were expanded. However, some Member States are still not in a position to make such links (especially for extra-EU trade) and thus cannot produce statistics by sector of activity.

– Series adjusted seasonally and by working days are produced and published every month.

– Quality reports have been disseminated, especially on Eurostat's Internet site, using a common structure. Eleven Member States out of 15 have produced their own quality reports with a standard presentation.

– The deadlines for supplying the external trade indices have been considerably reduced. The new programmes make it possible to cope with all user requirements, either in connection with the EMU or the future enlargement of the EU.

– A review of the methods of estimating the CIF/FOB conversion rate was carried out. This review reveals tremendous differences in the methods and resulted obtained.

4.5. Measures related to the organisation and management of the programme

In this group of measures, mention must be made of the meetings of the Edicom Task Force, which was behind most measures and which was responsible for managing and monitoring the programme.

Training and seminars were also organised in the Member States and made a big contribution to promoting Intrastat and Idep among firms.

5. GENERAL REVIEW AND CONCLUSIONS

The result of the actions undertaken (see Part 4) shows that they allowed a noticeable improvement in the quality of intra-Community statistics after the reorganisation that took place in 1993. In particular, joint efforts made it possible to attain objectives that would have been impossible if efforts had been made solely at Member State level.

The main results at the end of the programme were as follows:

– the programme helped considerably in introducing the Intrastat system under suitable conditions;

– in particular, it allowed the design, development and promotion of electronic Intrastat declaration forms distributed to more than 50 000 firms required to provide statistical information;

– it allowed the infrastructure for collecting, processing, transmitting and disseminating statistical information to be modernised in the Member States and at Eurostat, with a notable positive impact on information quality, dissemination times and arrangements for access to statistics, especially the development of the Comext data base;

– it allowed suitable messages to be compiled and information transmission to be standardised in an international context (cooperation with the United Nations), thus facilitating data exchange and comparability not only at the level of the European Union but also at international level (in particular, by expanding the collection of data to include a number of non-member countries);

– it allowed the computerisation of the management and dissemination of information related to the nomenclature, as well as the availability of such information to internal and external users;

– it was involved in improving and harmonising statistical methods, thus contributing to better data quality;

– it was involved, as part of the SLIM initiative, in adapting Intrastat rules to the needs of the internal market by ensuring a better balance between user requirements and the burden placed on information providers.

Extra- and intra-Community trade statistics have entered a new phase of development. They must primarily meet the growing and more demanding information needs of users in a climate of uncertainty about the administrative environment of the collection system and about available resources, at both Community and national levels. In response to these challenges, the Commission (Eurostat) in 1999 proposed a number of strategic guidelines designed to increase data accuracy and reliability, to speed up the availability of statistics, to change the range of statistics on offer and to prepare a more extensive overhaul of the system in the medium/long term.

In this regard, a new Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council was adopted in 2001 in order :

– encourage modern, rational and effective organisation of the trans-European network for the collection, processing and dissemination of intra- and extra-Community statistics;

– to develop computer tools for the collection, processing, transmission and dissemination of statistical information, taking into account the latest technological advances and seeking to optimise cost-effectiveness.

The work has begun. In cooperation with the Member States the Commission will regularly review the actions financed under the new Decision, in order to ascertain whether the stated objectives have been attained and to provide guidelines for improving the effectiveness of future actions.

ANNEX I

USE OF BUDGET 1997-1999

DECISION 1997 Phase I - BREAKDOWN OF DECENTRALISED EXPENDITURE		
Member States	**Amount of Decision**	**Amount spent**
Belgium	240.000	240.000
Denmark	160.000	160.000
Germany	300.000	300.000
Greece	160.000	160.000
Spain	200.000	200.000
France	280.000	280.000
Ireland	160.000	160.000
Italy	260.000	260.000
Luxembourg	150.000	150.000
Netherlands	190.000	190.000
Austria	170.000	170.000
Portugal	170.000	170.000
Finland	160.000	160.000
Sweden	180.000	180.000
United Kingdom	220.000	220.000
TOTAL	**3.000.000**	**3.000.000**

DECISION 1997 Phase II - BREAKDOWN OF DECENTRALISED EXPENDITURE		
Member States	**Amount of Decision**	**Amount spent**
Belgium	100.000	100.000
Denmark	80.000	80.000
Germany	130.000	130.000
Greece	80.000	80.000
Spain	175.000	175.000
France	130.000	130.000
Ireland	80.000	80.000
Italy	120.000	120.000
Luxembourg	32.000	32.000
Netherlands	178.000	178.000
Austria	55.000	55.000
Portugal	80.000	80.000
Finland	80.000	80.000
Sweden	80.000	80.000
United Kingdom	100.000	100.000
TOTAL	**1.500.000**	**1.500.000**

DECISION 1998 - BREAKDOWN OF DECENTRALISED EXPENDITURE		
Member States	**Amount of Decision**	**Amount spent**
Belgium	374.600	299.255
Denmark	227.200	227.200
Germany	533.000	533.000
Greece	183.200	177.620
Spain	325.100	192.013
France	492.900	492.900
Ireland	192.400	188.727
Italy	446.000	321.734
Luxembourg	146.100	103.950
Netherlands	619.200	619.200
Austria	239.400	234.515
Portugal	221.100	221.100
Finland	201.100	201.100
Sweden	275.000	274.660
United Kingdom	387.700	387.700
TOTAL	**4.864.000**	**4.474.674**

DECISION 1999 - BREAKDOWN OF DECENTRALISED EXPENDITURE		
Member States	**Amount of Decision**	**Amount spent**
Belgium	433.800	350.929
Denmark	263.000	263.000
Germany	617.200	617.200
Greece	212.100	210.069
Spain	376.500	345.649
France	570.700	570.000
Ireland	222.800	139.093
Italy	516.500	206.600
Luxembourg	169.200	169.200
Netherlands	687.000	687.000
Austria	277.100	277.100
Portugal	256.000	256.000
Finland	232.800	232.800
Sweden	318.300	318.300
United Kingdom	449.000	449.000
TOTAL	**5.602.000**	**5.091.940**

DECISION 1997 Phase I - BREAKDOWN OF CENTRALISED EXPENDITURE

Title of project	Amount of Decision	Amount spent
Infrastructure and organisation . Meetings/Task Force/Seminars . Assistance and support activities **Trade in goods between Member States** . Optimisation of Intrastat operation . SLIM initiative / Member State studies	215.000 360.000	213.200 357.600
Information system for statistics on trade in goods . Development of data bases . Maintenance of COMEXT system	255.000	254.000
Classification of trade in goods . Management of amendments . Access to CN . Related products . Language consolidation and extension . Documentation system	420.000	419.372
Publication / Studies . Extraction / World Trade System . Computerised editions of external trade publications . Desktop publishing 2 . Notes to publications . Production of indices . Conversion of indices . Adaptation of process of alignment of intra-EU trade	370.000	369.100
Machine-readable forms . HelpDesk/Management support and maintenance . Development of WINDOWS IDEP/CN8 . EDICOM project support	390.000	385.138
Standardisation/Telecommunications . EDIFACT standardisation . Support for Telecom introduction	210.000	206.900
Equipment . Purchase and maintenance of equipment	100.000	99.787
Reconciliation exercise	100.000	99.200
Harmonisation of methods	120.000	119.100
Statistical analyses . Analysis of data - Quality . Data processing support	125.000	124.250
Globalisation, statistical methodology, support for studies	40.000	38.500
Dissemination system for statistics on trade in goods . CD ROM COMEXT	150.000	149.875
Collection and production	145.000	143.800
TOTAL	**3.000.000**	**2.979.822**

DECISION 1997 Phase II - BREAKDOWN OF CENTRALISED EXPENDITURE

Title of project	Amount of Decision	Amount spent
Machine-readable forms . Support and maintenance . Re-design of IDEP/CN8 . Windows version of IDEP/CN8	500.000	487.850
Information system for statistics on trade in goods . Confidentiality of statistics in Comext . Mirror statistics in Comext . Conversion of two index calculation systems from VM/CMS to Unix	270.000	168.000
Studies in Member States . Simplification of variables . Thresholds . Single flow . Data adjustment - Quality . Links with VAT . Reconciliation: intra-EU trade . Globalisation	230.000	229.560
Technical studies by Eurostat . Information feedback to information providers . Telecommunications study . Cooperation with software companies	150.000	150.000
EDICOM meeting and equipment	30.000	30.000
Classification of trade in goods . Study on simpler classification of goods . FEBI study on trade names of products	130.000	126.500
Dissemination of data . Development of Internet service; production of publication "Statistics in Brief" . Maintenance of Comext CD/ROM	140.000	135.228
Trade in goods between Member States . SLIM initiative - single flow . SLIM initiative - sampling	140.000	138.000
TOTAL	**1.590.000**	**1.465.138**

DECISION 1998 - BREAKDOWN OF CENTRALISED EXPENDITURE

Title of project	Amount of Decision	Amount spent
Coordination of assistance and support	200.000	199.080
Organisation of Task Forces/meetings/seminars	150.000	150.000
Infrastructure/computer equipment	150.000	149.740
Implementation of SLIM . Analysis and summary . Simulation of alternative systems	200.000	198.300
Statistical concepts and methods . Impact of United Nations concepts . Globalisation	220.000	218.000
Statistical analyses . Quality analyses . Data adjustment . Technical support	300.000	298.800
Telematic tools/machine-readable forms . IDEP/CN8 support and maintenance. EDICOM project management support . EDIFACT support for EDICOM . Assistance for EDICOM project . Support and corrective and ongoing maintenance of the Windows version of IDEP/CN8 . Infrastructure, meetings	920.000	913.814
Statistical production of data bases . Collection and pre-processing . Comext development . Support and assistance	450.000	447.776
Classification . Related products . Access to CN . Language consolidation and extension	500.000	493.820
Exploitation of data and derived data . Desktop . Indices/Conversion . Alignment of intra-EU trade . News releases and "Statistics in Brief"	400.000	398.213
Dissemination on-line . CD-ROM production and development . Internet	300.000	299.850
Analyses, methods and specific EDICOM measures . Analysis of alternative collection systems; integration in European Statistical System (ESS) . Simpler classification of goods . Administrative source of data . Intrastat/VAT . Cost-benefit analyses . Other measures	846.000	789.284
TOTAL	**4.636.000**	**4.556.677**

DECISION 1999 - BREAKDOWN OF CENTRALISED EXPENDITURE

Title of project	Amount of Decision	Amount spent
Coordination of assistance and support	200.000	123.985
Organisation of Task Force/meetings	100.000	100.000
Organisation of seminars (under Title A7)	50.000	0
Infrastructure/computer equipment	150.000	149.714
Systemic design of EDICOM programme and reporting	250.000	49.315
Implementation of SLIM . Analysis and summary . Simulation of alternative systems	200.000	199.750
Statistical concepts and methods . Impact of United Nations concepts . Globalisation	220.000	219.400
Quality measures . Improvement of checking systems and adjustment methods . Technical support . Other quality measures	450.000	443.800
Telematic tools/machine-readable forms . Corrective and ongoing maintenance of IDEP/CN8 (DOS and Windows versions) . Corrective and ongoing maintenance of EDIFACT messages used for external trade statistics . Assistance to Member States (IDEP/CN8, telecommunications, EDIFACT), assistance for EDICOM project . Technical studies, pilot projects . Infrastructure, meetings	1.042.000	1.041.645
Statistical production of data bases . Collection and pre-processing . Comext development . Support and assistance	596.000	595.876
Classification . Related products . Access to CN . Language consolidation and extension	450.000	449.589
Exploitation of data and derived data . Desktop . Indices/Conversion . Alignment of intra-EU trade . News releases and "Statistics in Brief"	400.000	350.295
Dissemination on-line . CD-ROM production and development . Internet	300.000	296.359
Analyses, methods and specific EDICOM measures . Integration in European Statistical System (ESS) . Intrastat/VAT . Adaptation of national systems to new Community rules . Trade statistics manual . Meta-information modules . Reconciliation exercise modules . Rapid Data Exchange . Other measures	990.000	747.055
TOTAL	**5.398.000**	**4.766.783**

ANNEX II

USE OF ELECTRONIC MEDIA

The figures shown in the following pages are taken from the "EDI" questionnaires which are completed once a year by the Member States. They make it possible to assess the trend in the use of electronic media by the European Union as a whole and by each Member State.

An initial table shows the figures for all 15 Member States of the European Union, followed by 15 tables giving the figures for each Member State.

The following information is available:

Number of "PSI" arrivals and dispatches: number of firms providing statistical information (arrivals and dispatches)

(PSI = provider of statistical information)

Number of declarations (arrivals and dispatches)

Number of lines (arrivals and dispatches)

Percentage value of total trade (arrivals and dispatches)

EU-15

Average month in the referenced period (first half of the year)

Number of PSIs - Arrival		1997	1998	1999
Media	Paper	220.646	226.428	217.052
	Diskette	60.601	67.398	67.779
	Telecom	14.694	17.185	20.933
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	23.692	30.473	32.236
	Other EDIFACT messages	952	899	884
	Non EDIFACT format	55.990	64.487	33.500
Number of declarations - Arrival				
Media	Paper	241.065	273.510	261.242
	Diskette	67.732	79.760	79.121
	Telecom	87.993	103.461	101.013
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	62.533	73.337	75.206
	Other EDIFACT messages	9.044	9.678	6.974
	Non EDIFACT format	65.821	79.560	80.455
Number of lines - Arrival				
Media	Paper	2.473.846	2.158.830	2.029.449
	Diskette	3.832.864	3.854.691	3.901.278
	Telecom	631.397	909.548	1.196.678
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	1.067.722	1.273.470	1.530.060
	Other EDIFACT messages	173.464	57.983	55.799
	Non EDIFACT format	3.624.603	4.489.956	4.684.421
Percentage value of total trade - Arrival				
Media	Paper			
	Diskette			
	Telecom			
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT			
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format			
Number of PSIs - Dispatch				
Media	Paper	177.441	175.812	167.341
	Diskette	46.504	53.417	54.289
	Telecom	10.610	12.685	16.279
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	15.540	21.040	20.927
	Other EDIFACT messages	561	537	573
	Non EDIFACT format	45.495	54.773	24.675
Number of declarations - Dispatch				
Media	Paper	313.752	333.479	308.929
	Diskette	68.758	84.466	89.013
	Telecom	42.825	54.087	58.796
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	30.260	34.336	38.462
	Other EDIFACT messages	4.028	3.818	2.737
	Non EDIFACT format	55.405	79.696	90.162
Number of lines - Dispatch				
Media	Paper	2.868.959	2.225.877	2.002.173
	Diskette	7.042.311	8.111.998	8.160.428
	Telecom	825.399	1.107.012	1.397.876
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	585.766	709.537	897.768
	Other EDIFACT messages	194.725	64.568	68.600
	Non EDIFACT format	5.805.414	8.514.018	8.630.696
Percentage value of total trade - Dispatch				
Media	Paper			
	Diskette			
	Telecom			
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT			
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format			

Any Comment:

BELGIUM

Average month in the referenced period (first half of the year)

Number of PSIs - Arrival		1997	1998	1999
Media	Paper	11500	13315	9104
	Diskette	1165	4556	3510
	Telecom			1389
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	1100	3460	3024
	Other EDIFACT messages		5	
	Non EDIFACT format	65	1543	1875
Number of declarations - Arrival				
Media	Paper		11700	9104
	Diskette		4135	3510
	Telecom			1389
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT			3024
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format			1875
Number of lines - Arrival				
Media	Paper	325000	191793	160716
	Diskette	117500	135822	107251
	Telecom			72141
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	100000		90468
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	17500		88924
Percentage value of total trade - Arrival				
Media	Paper	77,00%	46,94%	41,44%
	Diskette	23,00%	53,06%	37,28%
	Telecom			21,28%
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	20,00%	42,89%	43,35%
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	2,50%		15,22%
Number of PSIs - Dispatch				
Media	Paper	11500	9199	6718
	Diskette	1165	3791	2871
	Telecom			1085
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	1100	3460	2305
	Other EDIFACT messages		5	
	Non EDIFACT format	65	1543	1651
Number of declarations - Dispatch				
Media	Paper		8462	6718
	Diskette		3125	2871
	Telecom			1085
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT			2305
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format			1651
Number of lines - Dispatch				
Media	Paper	325000	125235	114237
	Diskette	117500	113520	100645
	Telecom			46681
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	100000		89633
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	17500		57693
Percentage value of total trade - Dispatch				
Media	Paper	77,00%	44,59%	37,49%
	Diskette	23,00%	55,41%	39,29%
	Telecom			23,23%
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	20,00%	11,68%	47,32%
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	2,50%		15,19%

Any Comment:

DENMARK

Average month in the referenced period (first half of the year)

Number of PSIs - Arrival		1997	1998	1999
Media	Paper	3806	3877	4106
	Diskette	1312	1433	1494
	Telecom	1664	1468	1364
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	825	896	947
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	2266	2005	1911
Number of declarations - Arrival				
Media	Paper	4169	4312	4174
	Diskette	22741	24290	21988
	Telecom	38211	43332	40383
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	1310	1473	1333
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	59642	66149	61039
Number of lines - Arrival				
Media	Paper	37321	39429	38930
	Diskette	122677	130861	128135
	Telecom	81484	83214	73938
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	41487	49629	44310
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	162674	164446	157763
Percentage value of total trade - Arrival				
Media	Paper	38,00%	38,67%	37,62%
	Diskette	32,00%	32,74%	31,22%
	Telecom	30,00%	28,58%	31,16%
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	16,00%	18,02%	16,63%
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	46,00%	43,31%	45,00%
Number of PSIs - Dispatch				
Media	Paper	2464	2384	2312
	Diskette	802	848	869
	Telecom	391	368	351
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	379	382	385
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	865	834	835
Number of declarations - Dispatch				
Media	Paper	2742	2779	2549
	Diskette	30416	38918	42135
	Telecom	18923	27144	29316
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	766	748	642
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	48573	65314	70810
Number of lines - Dispatch				
Media	Paper	28090	28505	25049
	Diskette	157460	180339	213590
	Telecom	41770	52788	54215
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	31236	35668	38936
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	167995	197459	228870
Percentage value of total trade - Dispatch				
Media	Paper	40,00%	39,69%	39,08%
	Diskette	36,00%	36,08%	35,58%
	Telecom	24,00%	24,08%	25,34%
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	11,00%	12,53%	11,85%
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	49,00%	47,78%	49,07%

Any Comment:

GERMANY

Average month in the referenced period (first half of the year)

Number of PSIs - Arrival		1997	1998	1999
Media	Paper	30000	31000	30000
	Diskette	15000	14500	13200
	Telecom			
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT			
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	15000	14500	13200
Number of declarations - Arrival				
Media	Paper	92000	102000	110000
	Diskette	3308	4097	6000
	Telecom			
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT			
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	3308	4097	6000
Number of lines - Arrival				
Media	Paper	280000	315000	332000
	Diskette	1323000	1266000	1343000
	Telecom			
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT			
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	1323000	1266000	1343000
Percentage value of total trade - Arrival				
Media	Paper	43,00%	43,33%	41,73%
	Diskette	57,00%	56,67%	58,27%
	Telecom			
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT			
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	57,00%	56,67%	58,27%
Number of PSIs - Dispatch				
Media	Paper	30000	30500	29500
	Diskette	6900	7500	7200
	Telecom			
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT			
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	6900	7500	7200
Number of declarations - Dispatch				
Media	Paper	220000	227000	220000
	Diskette	4037	4889	6900
	Telecom			
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT			
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	4037	4889	6900
Number of lines - Dispatch				
Media	Paper	660000	676000	652000
	Diskette	3480000	4073000	4230000
	Telecom			
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT			
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	3480000	4073000	4230000
Percentage value of total trade - Dispatch				
Media	Paper	37,00%	35,58%	37,44%
	Diskette	63,00%	64,42%	62,56%
	Telecom			
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT			
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	63,00%	64,42%	62,56%

Any Comment:

GREECE

Average month in the referenced period (first half of the year)

Number of PSIs - Arrival		1997	1998	1999
Media	Paper	11000	14182	17900
	Diskette	95	115	158
	Telecom	11	15	37
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	106	130	195
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format			
Number of declarations - Arrival				
Media	Paper	11000	14482	18090
	Diskette	95	115	174
	Telecom	11	15	40
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	106	130	214
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format			
Number of lines - Arrival				
Media	Paper	104500	74785	84131
	Diskette	17970	11031	8247
	Telecom	320	400	1972
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	18290	11431	10249
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format			
Percentage value of total trade - Arrival				
Media	Paper	93,30%	92,33%	89,14%
	Diskette	6,26%	6,50%	9,54%
	Telecom	0,44%	1,17%	1,32%
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	100,00%	100,00%	100,00%
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format			
Number of PSIs - Dispatch				
Media	Paper	2000	2582	3000
	Diskette	3	46	59
	Telecom	1	3	15
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	4	49	74
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format			
Number of declarations - Dispatch				
Media	Paper	2000	2582	3200
	Diskette	3	46	49
	Telecom	1	3	13
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	4	49	62
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format			
Number of lines - Dispatch				
Media	Paper	13300	10250	11807
	Diskette	10	800	731
	Telecom	10	30	207
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	20	829	938
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format			
Percentage value of total trade - Dispatch				
Media	Paper	98,00%	90,91%	92,70%
	Diskette	1,60%	8,66%	5,54%
	Telecom	0,40%	0,43%	1,76%
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	100,00%	100,00%	100,00%
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format			

Any Comment:

SPAIN

Average month in the referenced period (first half of the year)

Number of PSIs - Arrival		1997	1998	1999
Media	Paper	22589	22730	17855
	Diskette	7821	9062	11048
	Telecom	85	326	1015
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	7906	9062	12063
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	0	0	0
Number of declarations - Arrival				
Media	Paper	23221	24845	18122
	Diskette	6786	10538	11176
	Telecom	89	352	1020
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	8692	10538	12196
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	0	0	0
Number of lines - Arrival				
Media	Paper	98320	98259	74082
	Diskette	117327	108069	124661
	Telecom	2285	10102	22169
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	119552	108069	146830
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	0	0	0
Percentage value of total trade - Arrival				
Media	Paper	38,54%	36,00%	17,63%
	Diskette	58,25%	61,00%	72,73%
	Telecom	1,75%	3,00%	9,64%
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	61,46%	61,00%	82,37%
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	0,00%	0,00%	0,00%
Number of PSIs - Dispatch				
Media	Paper	14980	15217	11775
	Diskette	5739	6941	8670
	Telecom	69	226	715
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	6069	6941	9285
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	0	0	0
Number of declarations - Dispatch				
Media	Paper	15157	16942	11913
	Diskette	6547	8221	8655
	Telecom	73	248	719
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	6620	8221	9374
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	0	0	0
Number of lines - Dispatch				
Media	Paper	67946	69568	51973
	Diskette	62599	66423	79159
	Telecom	883	1942	7409
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	63482	66423	86568
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	0	0	0
Percentage value of total trade - Dispatch				
Media	Paper	36,37%	32,00%	16,80%
	Diskette	61,50%	65,00%	72,61%
	Telecom	2,13%	3,00%	10,59%
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	63,63%	65,00%	83,20%
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	0,00%	0,00%	0,00%

Any Comment:

FRANCE

Average month in the referenced period (first half of the year)

Number of PSIs - Arrival		1997	1998	1999
Media	Paper	56558	57681	58908
	Diskette	7229	8217	8287
	Telecom	7179	8093	9312
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	2358	3201	4298
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	7017	7394	7009
Number of declarations - Arrival				
Media	Paper			
	Diskette			
	Telecom			
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT			
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format			
Number of lines - Arrival				
Media	Paper	627801	604650	606315
	Diskette	613052	612189	561288
	Telecom	148453	298228	396416
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	117105	252402	335120
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	1942101	2086950	2149842
Percentage value of total trade - Arrival				
Media	Paper	50,00%	44,90%	40,80%
	Diskette	37,00%	36,60%	34,10%
	Telecom	13,00%	18,50%	25,10%
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	9,34%	13,30%	16,50%
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	38,87%	38,60%	39,10%
Number of PSIs - Dispatch				
Media	Paper	56558	57681	58908
	Diskette	7229	8217	8287
	Telecom	7179	8093	9312
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	2358	3201	4298
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	7017	7394	7009
Number of declarations - Dispatch				
Media	Paper			
	Diskette			
	Telecom			
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT			
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format			
Number of lines - Dispatch				
Media	Paper	640992	570239	526508
	Diskette	889925	924122	890905
	Telecom	426778	559827	711059
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	117105	252402	335120
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	1942101	2086950	2149842
Percentage value of total trade - Dispatch				
Media	Paper	39,56%	33,60%	30,80%
	Diskette	39,14%	38,50%	35,50%
	Telecom	21,30%	27,90%	33,70%
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	7,91%	11,90%	14,00%
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	53,66%	52,60%	52,80%

Any Comment:

IRLAND

Average month in the referenced period (first half of the year)

Number of PSIs - Arrival		1997	1998	1999
Media	Paper	4820	5113	5019
	Diskette	920	951	1007
	Telecom	176	161	67
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	465	491	465
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	631	621	609
Number of declarations - Arrival				
Media	Paper	5360	5327	5379
	Diskette	977	1019	1085
	Telecom	176	181	73
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	465	536	507
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	688	664	651
Number of lines - Arrival				
Media	Paper	91167	88483	70831
	Diskette	75858	84983	92466
	Telecom	5090	4528	2640
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	27266	34241	34524
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	53682	51215	60582
Percentage value of total trade - Arrival				
Media	Paper	64,00%	57,00%	53,00%
	Diskette	31,00%	40,00%	44,00%
	Telecom	5,00%	3,00%	3,00%
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	11,00%	11,00%	12,00%
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	25,00%	30,00%	33,00%
Number of PSIs - Dispatch				
Media	Paper	1303	1329	1308
	Diskette	299	318	302
	Telecom	23	19	13
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	107	105	116
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	215	118	199
Number of declarations - Dispatch				
Media	Paper	1455	1379	1408
	Diskette	324	335	335
	Telecom	23	20	15
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	107	120	117
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	240	235	233
Number of lines - Dispatch				
Media	Paper	21022	20455	15343
	Diskette	39607	35696	42967
	Telecom	638	479	402
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	9498	11212	13265
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	30747	24897	30104
Percentage value of total trade - Dispatch				
Media	Paper	45,00%	43,00%	39,00%
	Diskette	53,00%	56,00%	58,00%
	Telecom	2,00%	1,00%	3,00%
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	9,00%	18,00%	19,00%
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	46,00%	38,00%	40,00%

Any Comment:

ITALY

Average month in the referenced period (first half of the year)

Number of PSIs - Arrival		1997	1998	1999
Media	Paper	21361	21709	21600
	Diskette	13093	15086	15150
	Telecom			
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	1517	2237	
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	28833	29714	
Number of declarations - Arrival				
Media	Paper	22261	25222	25000
	Diskette	13644	15459	16000
	Telecom			
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT			
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format			
Number of lines - Arrival				
Media	Paper	116514	104370	113442
	Diskette	226113	221786	286986
	Telecom			
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT			
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format			
Percentage value of total trade - Arrival				
Media	Paper	28,00%	27,00%	24,00%
	Diskette	72,00%	73,00%	76,00%
	Telecom			
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT			
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format			
Number of PSIs - Dispatch				
Media	Paper	24387	24270	24000
	Diskette	14947	16865	17000
	Telecom			
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	1517	2237	
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	28833	29714	
Number of declarations - Dispatch				
Media	Paper	25763	28271	24500
	Diskette	15790	17328	16000
	Telecom			
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT			
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format			
Number of lines - Dispatch				
Media	Paper	264139	248082	200997
	Diskette	616310	670741	791238
	Telecom			
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT			
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format			
Percentage value of total trade - Dispatch				
Media	Paper	30,00%	27,00%	25,00%
	Diskette	70,00%	73,00%	75,00%
	Telecom			
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT			
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format			

Any Comment:

LUXEMBOURG

Average month in the referenced period (first half of the year)

Number of PSIs - Arrival		1997	1998	1999
Media	Paper	2100	2100	1971
	Diskette	850	910	931
	Telecom	160	290	335
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	765	910	980
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	245	290	286
Number of declarations - Arrival				
Media	Paper	2130	2210	2074
	Diskette	862	1130	1154
	Telecom	163	300	360
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	780	1130	1215
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	245	300	299
Number of lines - Arrival				
Media	Paper	65000	61300	49667
	Diskette	54000	40700	40414
	Telecom	8000	5000	22452
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	45500	40700	43635
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	16500	5000	19231
Percentage value of total trade - Arrival				
Media	Paper	29,63%	48,71%	46,34%
	Diskette	19,08%	36,78%	37,27%
	Telecom	8,25%	14,51%	16,39%
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	47,94%	38,35%	41,21%
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	6,70%	12,96%	12,45%
Number of PSIs - Dispatch				
Media	Paper	760	830	748
	Diskette	480	530	534
	Telecom	80	130	147
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	370	380	407
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	190	280	274
Number of declarations - Dispatch				
Media	Paper	790	910	850
	Diskette	490	720	720
	Telecom	82	140	153
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	382	570	592
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	190	290	281
Number of lines - Dispatch				
Media	Paper	10000	9300	7616
	Diskette	7000	17500	5109
	Telecom	2500	3400	5045
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	7500	17700	7204
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	2000	3200	2950
Percentage value of total trade - Dispatch				
Media	Paper	21,90%	34,16%	34,30%
	Diskette	12,89%	47,92%	47,91%
	Telecom	8,25%	17,93%	17,79%
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	40,20%	56,75%	58,50%
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	5,16%	9,09%	7,20%

Any Comment:

NETHERLANDS

Average month in the referenced period (first half of the year)

Number of PSIs - Arrival		1997	1998	1999
Media	Paper	5000	4800	4500
	Diskette	7000	6100	6150
	Telecom	1500	2300	2550
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	87	100	50
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	1413	8300	8000
Number of declarations - Arrival				
Media	Paper	4000	5400	4900
	Diskette	6500	6500	6400
	Telecom	1300	2500	3100
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	81	100	50
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	1219	8200	7950
Number of lines - Arrival				
Media	Paper	42000	56000	52000
	Diskette	670000	750000	710000
	Telecom	88000	155000	190000
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	13000	15000	12000
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	75000	890000	820000
Percentage value of total trade - Arrival				
Media	Paper	22,00%	15,50%	12,50%
	Diskette	72,00%	72,20%	69,00%
	Telecom	6,00%	12,30%	18,50%
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	1,50%	1,00%	1,00%
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	98,50%	99,00%	99,00%
Number of PSIs - Dispatch				
Media	Paper	2100	2700	2400
	Diskette	6200	5400	5550
	Telecom	1300	2000	2600
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	100	100	50
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	1200	7300	7100
Number of declarations - Dispatch				
Media	Paper	1800	3000	2800
	Diskette	6100	5700	5500
	Telecom	1100	2200	2500
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	90	100	50
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	1010	7800	7500
Number of lines - Dispatch				
Media	Paper	36000	28000	26000
	Diskette	1400000	1800000	1600000
	Telecom	167000	320000	360000
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	8500	9000	7000
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	150500	2111000	1900000
Percentage value of total trade - Dispatch				
Media	Paper	21,00%	11,40%	9,50%
	Diskette	71,00%	76,40%	74,30%
	Telecom	8,00%	12,20%	16,20%
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	1,00%	1,00%	1,00%
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	99,00%	99,00%	99,00%

Any Comment:

AUSTRIA

Average month in the referenced period (first half of the year)

Number of PSIs - Arrival		1997	1998	1999
Media	Paper	5912	7291	5978
	Diskette	5033	5184	4258
	Telecom	1090	1966	2715
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	6123	7150	6973
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format			
Number of declarations - Arrival				
Media	Paper	24111	26982	20509
	Diskette	7283	6590	5079
	Telecom	2258	5521	4474
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	9541	12111	9553
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format			
Number of lines - Arrival				
Media	Paper	83818	94235	71425
	Diskette	346627	410992	389917
	Telecom	111525	193769	260041
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	458152	604761	649958
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format			
Percentage value of total trade - Arrival				
Media	Paper	27,19%	26,91%	21,34%
	Diskette	52,74%	47,18%	41,99%
	Telecom	20,07%	25,91%	36,67%
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	72,81%	73,09%	78,66%
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format			
Number of PSIs - Dispatch				
Media	Paper	3228	3230	2778
	Diskette	2159	2049	1694
	Telecom	496	802	1096
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	2655	2851	2790
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format			
Number of declarations - Dispatch				
Media	Paper	7218	7720	6793
	Diskette	2062	2190	1799
	Telecom	440	785	1226
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	2502	2975	3025
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format			
Number of lines - Dispatch				
Media	Paper	22663	24409	22062
	Diskette	120920	160769	119123
	Telecom	48187	66518	96130
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	169108	227267	215253
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format			
Percentage value of total trade - Dispatch				
Media	Paper	24,29%	23,31%	21,60%
	Diskette	57,95%	51,01%	45,22%
	Telecom	17,76%	25,68%	33,18%
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	75,71%	76,69%	78,40%
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format			
Any Comment:	**Monthly average.**			

PORTUGAL

Average month in the referenced period (first half of the year)

Number of PSIs - Arrival		1997	1998	1999
Media	Paper	13185	13885	12902
	Diskette	0	72	566
	Telecom	0	0	106
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	0	72	672
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format			
Number of declarations - Arrival				
Media	Paper	13258	16142	13324
	Diskette	0	72	567
	Telecom	0	0	107
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	0	72	674
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format			
Number of lines - Arrival				
Media	Paper	105971	114324	102412
	Diskette	0	1034	9708
	Telecom	0	0	2313
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	0	1034	12021
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format			
Percentage value of total trade - Arrival				
Media	Paper	100,00%	97,50%	86,78%
	Diskette	0,00%	2,50%	8,55%
	Telecom	0,00%	0,00%	4,67%
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	0,00%	2,50%	13,22%
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format			
Number of PSIs - Dispatch				
Media	Paper	4477	5545	5131
	Diskette	0	16	178
	Telecom	0	0	29
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	0	16	206
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format			
Number of declarations - Dispatch				
Media	Paper	5387	6463	5291
	Diskette	0	16	178
	Telecom	0	0	29
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	0	16	207
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format			
Number of lines - Dispatch				
Media	Paper	28249	30479	27308
	Diskette	0	233	1518
	Telecom	0	0	263
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	0	233	1781
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format			
Percentage value of total trade - Dispatch				
Media	Paper	100,00%	98,20%	91,77%
	Diskette	0,00%	1,80%	5,52%
	Telecom	0,00%	0,00%	2,70%
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	0,00%	1,80%	8,23%
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format			

Any Comment:

FINLAND

Average month in the referenced period (first half of the year)

Number of PSIs - Arrival		1997	1998	1999
Media	Paper	4660	4120	3776
	Diskette	520	530	858
	Telecom	1600	1400	885
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	1600	1810	1392
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	520	120	351
Number of declarations - Arrival				
Media	Paper	6415	6207	5849
	Diskette	719	587	1166
	Telecom	24059	26835	25320
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	24059	27272	25888
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	719	150	598
Number of lines - Arrival				
Media	Paper	54749	57126	55033
	Diskette	34146	33545	48674
	Telecom	88085	100269	84987
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	88085	107469	96932
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	34146	26345	36729
Percentage value of total trade - Arrival				
Media	Paper	44,50%	46,70%	43,00%
	Diskette	10,00%	10,10%	21,50%
	Telecom	45,50%	43,20%	35,50%
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	45,50%	45,40%	45,40%
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	10,00%	7,90%	11,60%
Number of PSIs - Dispatch				
Media	Paper	1700	1500	1631
	Diskette	210	450	267
	Telecom	600	600	170
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	600	960	325
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	210	90	112
Number of declarations - Dispatch				
Media	Paper	4009	4052	3754
	Diskette	1355	1548	1566
	Telecom	5587	5846	5786
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	5587	6226	5974
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	1355	1168	1378
Number of lines - Dispatch				
Media	Paper	22163	23665	22024
	Diskette	14571	19412	19863
	Telecom	11732	12579	10902
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	11732	14479	13907
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	14571	17512	16858
Percentage value of total trade - Dispatch				
Media	Paper	43,40%	42,60%	42,80%
	Diskette	29,10%	31,20%	34,70%
	Telecom	27,50%	26,20%	22,40%
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	27,50%	29,30%	26,60%
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format	29,10%	28,10%	30,50%
Any Comment:	Number of PSIs - nil returns not included			

SWEDEN

Average month in the referenced period (first half of the year)

Number of PSIs - Arrival		1997	1998	1999
Media	Paper	11063	8760	9762
	Diskette	88	266	604
	Telecom	752	688	477
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	840	954	1081
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format			
Number of declarations - Arrival				
Media	Paper	11684	8950	8354
	Diskette	91	272	420
	Telecom	17408	19703	19375
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	17499	19975	19795
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format			
Number of lines - Arrival				
Media	Paper	95297	83446	81868
	Diskette	2748	8454	10866
	Telecom	36537	40280	40411
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	39285	48734	51277
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format			
Percentage value of total trade - Arrival				
Media	Paper	75,00%	71,74%	65,84%
	Diskette	1,60%	4,35%	8,86%
	Telecom	23,40%	23,91%	25,29%
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	25,00%	28,26%	34,15%
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format			
Number of PSIs - Dispatch				
Media	Paper	7098	5350	6076
	Diskette	48	152	374
	Telecom	233	206	208
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	281	358	582
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format			
Number of declarations - Dispatch				
Media	Paper	7339	5479	5147
	Diskette	49	161	232
	Telecom	14153	15150	15385
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	14202	15311	15617
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format			
Number of lines - Dispatch				
Media	Paper	73109	67058	69051
	Diskette	1586	5679	8891
	Telecom	65999	68645	72683
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	67585	74324	81574
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format			
Percentage value of total trade - Dispatch				
Media	Paper	80,00%	75,93%	72,44%
	Diskette	1,60%	3,70%	4,75%
	Telecom	18,40%	20,37%	22,81%
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	20,00%	24,07%	27,56%
	Other EDIFACT messages			
	Non EDIFACT format			

Any Comment:

UNITED KINGDOM

Average month in the referenced period (first half of the year)

Number of PSIs - Arrival		1997	1998	1999
Media	Paper	17092	15865	13671
	Diskette	475	416	558
	Telecom	477	478	681
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	0	0	96
	Other EDIFACT messages	952	894	884
	Non EDIFACT format	0	0	259
Number of declarations - Arrival				
Media	Paper	21456	19731	16363
	Diskette	4726	4956	4402
	Telecom	4318	4722	5372
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	0	0	757
	Other EDIFACT messages	9044	9678	6974
	Non EDIFACT format	0	0	2043
Number of lines - Arrival				
Media	Paper	346388	175630	136597
	Diskette	111846	39225	39665
	Telecom	61618	18758	27198
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	0	0	2736
	Other EDIFACT messages	173464	57983	55799
	Non EDIFACT format	0	0	8350
Percentage value of total trade - Arrival				
Media	Paper	73,90%	73,50%	67,70%
	Diskette	14,90%	14,10%	18,60%
	Telecom	11,20%	12,40%	13,70%
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	0,00%	0,00%	3,80%
	Other EDIFACT messages	26,10%	26,50%	86,90%
	Non EDIFACT format	0,00%	0,00%	9,30%
Number of PSIs - Dispatch				
Media	Paper	14886	13495	11056
	Diskette	323	294	434
	Telecom	238	238	538
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	0	0	104
	Other EDIFACT messages	561	532	573
	Non EDIFACT format	0	0	295
Number of declarations - Dispatch				
Media	Paper	20092	18440	14006
	Diskette	1585	1269	2073
	Telecom	2443	2551	2569
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	0	0	497
	Other EDIFACT messages	4028	3818	2737
	Non EDIFACT format	0	0	1409
Number of lines - Dispatch				
Media	Paper	656286	294632	230198
	Diskette	134823	43764	56689
	Telecom	59902	20804	32880
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	0	0	6589
	Other EDIFACT messages	194725	64568	68600
	Non EDIFACT format	0	0	14379
Percentage value of total trade - Dispatch				
Media	Paper	74,60%	73,60%	62,60%
	Diskette	13,90%	14,70%	22,60%
	Telecom	11,50%	11,70%	14,80%
Electronic format	CUSDEC/INSTAT	0,00%	0,00%	5,40%
	Other EDIFACT messages	25,40%	26,00%	89,50%
	Non EDIFACT format	0,00%	0,00%	5,10%

Any Comment: