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FIFTH STATISTICAL PROGRAMME
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES 1982-1984

Annex 6

DIRECTORATE E

EXTERNAL TRADE, ACP AND NON-MEMBER
COUNTRIES STATISTICS

COM(81) 327 final

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STATISTICAL PROGRAMME

General priorities and objectives of Directorate E

Directorate E's activities are fully in keeping with one of EUROSTAT's fundamental objectives, which is to improve the quality of statistics.

The Council (1) and Commission (2) regulations on external trade statistics are aimed at creating a system of harmonized and comparable statistics at Community level.

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- (1) Cf. Council Regulation (EEC) 1736/75 concerning the external trade statistics of the Community and statistics of trade between Member States.
Cf. Council Regulation (EEC) 1445/72 concerning the nomenclature as used in the external trade statistics of the Community and in statistics of trade between Member States (NIMEXE).
Cf. Council Regulation (EEC) 3065/75 concerning the amendment of Regulation (EEC) 1445/72 concerning the nomenclature of goods as used in the external trade statistics of the Community and in statistics of trade between Member States.
Cf. Council Regulation (EEC) 2845/77 amending Regulation (EEC) No 1736/75 concerning the external trade statistics of the Community and statistics of trade between Member States.
- (2) Cf. Commission Regulation (EEC) 546/77 on statistical procedures in respect of the Community's external trade.
Cf. Commission Regulation (EEC) 518/79 for recording exports of complete industrial plant in the external trade statistics of the Community and statistics of trade between Member States.

From the point of view of methodology, the Directorate therefore attaches primary importance to implementing and adapting the regulations. The Directorate's programme in this field concentrates on four major topics:

- a) redefinition of the Community's special trade;
- b) recording of statistics on trade between Member States on the basis of exports;
- c) definition of statistical value;
- d) warehouse traffic.

Of special importance are the Directorate's efforts to harmonize the nomenclature of goods for external trade statistics, in particular the Customs Cooperation Council's 'harmonized system, a project to which EUROSTAT has made a steady contribution since its inception.

The harmonization of definitions and nomenclatures leads to constant improvement in the comparability and quality of statistics. In the last few years the Directorate has drawn up in cooperation with the Commission's Computer Centre a 'general programme' which can be used to compile the basic external trade statistics at quarterly and yearly intervals. This programme is being adapted with a view to compiling basic data at monthly intervals some time during 1981. A back-up to the general programme is provided by the 'ranking programme', designed to facilitate systematic simple grouping of basic data.

For the purposes of implementing the Regulations and the Commission's trade agreements, the Directorate has to supply as a matter of priority the basic files to be used for statistical monitoring of imports under the various systems, such as the Generalized Preferences Schemes, the multilateral GATT negotiations, the Multifibre Agreement, the system for petroleum products, etc.

Furthermore, the problem of the rapid dissemination of basic documentation is being closely considered by the Directorate, which is studying the possibility of incorporating the external trade statistics (at the most detailed level of the NIMEXE nomenclature) into the EURONET system.

A back-up activity to which the Commission attaches particular importance (3) and which concerns Directorate E directly involves the 'management of data banks'.

Moreover, in order to meet the needs of the various Directorates-General in connection with trade negotiations (e.g. North-South Dialogue, UNCTAD, Lomé Agreements, etc), the Directorate has developed a system of compiling GATT data in accordance with the SITC nomenclature; this data bank will be improved when the present data, supplied directly by the Member States, are replaced by the harmonized Community statistics.

The Directorate is studying a programme for the development of an on-line chronological bank of NIMEXE data at six-digit level; it is also stepping up the statistical analysis required to prepare international trade negotiations and study of the Community's external trade.

In the same context and in order to provide the basic documentation to describe the main features of the economic and social situation in the countries which signed the Lomé Convention and in other non-member countries, the Directorate is developing the existing CRONOS files (ZPVD and QUIC) with a view to setting up a bank of time series.

Furthermore, the DGINS Conference asked EUROSTAT to coordinate Member States' technical assistance with regard to ACP countries. This activity, which is in addition to that already under way with the countries of the Central African Customs and Economic Union (UDEAC) (Cameroon, Central African Republic, Gabon and Congo) and to the price comparison project in a number of African countries, could be stepped up in the near future, subject to the availability of funds, of course.

(3) Cf. Doc. COM (80) PV 576, session of 15 October 1980 on the redeployment of resources.

PROJECT LIST

DIRECTORATE E

Work programme

1981 1982 1983 1984 1985

DIVISION E 1: Statistical methods and classification of external trade

E1001	Methodology	I	I	I	I	I
E1002	Management of Basic Regulations	G	G	G	G	G
E1003	Drawing-up of new regulations	G	G	G	G	G
E1004	Geonom	G	G	G	G	G
E1005	NIMEXE	G	G	G	G	G
E1006	Taric	I	I	I	I	I
E1007	Harmonized system	G	G	G	G	G

SPECIALISED SERVICE E 2: Analyses and developments

E2001	Analysis of external trade	I	I	I	I	I
E2002	External trade indices	I	I	I	I	I
E2003	Development of data banks	I	I	I	I	I
E2004	CRONOS: third countries and imports of basic products	I	I	I	I	I
E2005	Technical assistance to ACP-countries	I	I	I	I	I
E2006	International comparison project in African countries	X	X	X	X	X

SPECIALISED SERVICE E 3: Collection and dissemination

E3001	Production of external trade statistics (general program)	I	I	I	I	I
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E3002	Collection and dissemination of external trade statistics	X	X	X	X	X
E3003	Statistics of generalized system of preferences (GSP) and other surveillance systems (textile)	X	X	X	X	X
E3004	Statistics for preparing and monitoring of trade negotiations (GATT, UNCTAD)	X	X	X	X	X
E3005	External trade indices p.m.	I	I	I	I	I
E3006	Foreign trade statistics of ACP countries	I	I	I	I	I
E3007	Foreign trade data bank CRONOS-SABINE	I	I	I	I	I

I = Internal work of SOEC, not laying a heavy burden on member countries
X = Collection or processing of data in member countries
G = Work mainly in working groups
- = No work foreseen

DIVISION E 1 - Statistical methods and classification of
external trade

Rolf Sannwald

- Special assignments on methods

Richard Kuhner

UNIT RESPONSIBLE : E 1 - Statistical methods and classification of
external trade

TITLE : Harmonisation of methods

PROJECT NUMBER: E 1001
E 1002
E 1003

1. INTRODUCTION

In general this task concerns the harmonisation of concepts, definitions and methods implemented in the external trade statistics of the Community and statistics of trade between Member States.

In particular the following main activities are carried out:

- (1) Continuous surveillance of the implementation of the Regulations and Conventions
- (2) As far as the Committee on External Trade Statistics dispose of the legislative competence delegated by the Council, establishment of Commission Regulations based on
 - (a) other legal acts of the Community, esp. Customs Regulations and Directives,
 - (b) new phenomena in trade practice,
 - (c) the necessity of periodical adaptation.
- (3) Establishment of Council Regulations in cases the Committee does not dispose of legislative competence.

2. SOURCE:

Regulation (EEC) No 1736/75 of the Council of 24 June 1975 on the External Trade Statistics of the Community and statistics of trade between Member States.

3. AIM:

- (1) Elaboration of homogeneous results for the Community.
- (2) Simplification and standardisation of documents and procedures.
- (3) Creation of the necessary conditions of data transmission by use of EDP.
- (4) Improvement of comparability of data and results.
- (5) Establishment of a reliable basis for common commercial policy and for the harmonious functioning of the Common Market.

4. DESCRIPTION:

Elaboration and publication of Regulations of the Council and the Commission.

5. WORK PLAN:

Negotiations in the Committee on External Trade Statistics -
Methods, in particular:

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| (1) Council Regulation on a new definition of Community special trade (coverage) | 1981 |
| (2) Commission Regulation on the treatment of exports in the trade between Member States | 1981 |
| (3) Rules concerning the reference period | 1981, 82 |
| (4) Rules concerning confidential items | 1981, 82 |
| (5) Rules concerning valuation | 1981, 82, |
| (6) Rules concerning general trade and warehouse traffic | 1981, 82, 83 |
| (7) Rules concerning corrections | 1981, 82 |
| (8) Rules concerning ship and aircraft provisions, incl. bunkering | 1981, 82, 83 |
| (9) Rules concerning return shipments | 1981, 82, 83 |
| (10) Preparation of the adhesion of Spain and Portugal | 1981, 82 |

6. FINANCING:

Occasional credits for studies

7. VOLUME OF WORK:

Very laborious and highly specialised work carried out by the members of the Division and occasionally by independent experts.

8. WORKING GROUP:

Yes

9. DISSEMINATION:

-

UNIT RESPONSIBLE: Statistical methods and classification of external trade

TITLE: Nomenclatures

PROJECT NUMBER: E 1004
E 1005
E 1006
E 1007

1. INTRODUCTION

The task is essentially the harmonisation and management of commodity nomenclatures used in the external trade statistics of the Community and statistics of trade between Member States as well as participation in the construction of new world commodity nomenclatures used in external trade.

2. SOURCE:

- Regulation (EEC) Nos 1445/72 and 3065/75 of the Council concerning the nomenclature of goods for the external trade statistics of the Community and statistics of trade between Member States (NIMEXE),
- Council Decision concerning the construction of a harmonised system of describing and codifying goods (negotiating power delegated to the Commission),
- Program set up by CCC for the Harmonised System.

3. AIM:

- (1) Harmonisation of the nomenclature used in the Community and comparability with other nomenclatures used throughout the world.
- (2) Creation of the conditions making possible the transmission of information by modern methods.
- (3) Simplification of formalities and facilitation of the movement of goods.

4. DESCRIPTION:

- Administration of NIMEXE (more than 7000 headings) in the 7 official languages of the Community.
- Maintenance of correlation between NIMEXE and SITC.
- Construction of the Harmonised System (about 5000 headings) based on CCCN and SITC rev. 2, complemented by explanatory notes, a list of descriptions and an alphabetical index.
- Revision of TARIC.
- Revision of SITC.

5. WORK PLAN:

- Negotiations in the Committee on external trade statistics - NIMEXE, continuously.
- Negotiations within the CCC. Availability of the nomenclature end 1981. Probable entering into force 1/1/85.

- Negotiations within the CCC on the revision of CCCN due to the Harmonised System : 1981 onwards.
- Revision of TARIC : 1981 to 1984.
- Revision of SITC rev. 2 : in the next 5 years.
- Explanatory notes for statistical headings in the NIMEXE: until 1985 and onwards.

6. FINANCING:

Occasional employment of experts.

7. VOLUME OF WORK:

Very laborious and highly specialised work carried out by the members of the Division and occasionally by independent experts.

8. WORKING GROUP

Yes

9. DISSEMINATION:

Publication 1981:

Code 611: "Geonomenclature 1981"
also published yearly in the Official Journal

NIMEXE: Nomenclature of goods for the External Trade Statistics of the Community and Statistics of Trade between Member States yearly published in the Official Journal.

SPECIALISED SERVICE E 2 - Analyses and developments

Alberto DE MICHELIS

UNIT RESPONSIBLE: E 2 - Analysis and Development

TITLE : Analysis of external trade: work to be used as the basis for international trade negotiations

Project no : E 2 001

1. INTRODUCTION

One of EUROSTAT's tasks is to prepare the trade statistics required for framing Community economic and trade policy and conducting trade negotiations with non-member countries. This involves not only compiling and disseminating the basic information but also analysing and studying the trade of the Community and its main trading partners with a view to better assessment of the Member States' trade flows. In recent years studies and analyses have thus been prepared for the renewal of the EC-ACP Convention, the preparation of the UNCTAD Conference and the North-South Conference, the Euro-Arab Dialogue, EC-Latin America relations and for specific negotiations with the USA, Japan, China, EFTA, Comecon, etc.

2. SOURCE

Requests from Commission departments and other institutions, in particular the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers.

3. AIM

To carry out statistical and economic studies and analyses with a view to giving a better picture of Community trade.

4. DESCRIPTION

This work can take the form of both complex in-depth studies to be published and brief analyses accompanied by ad hoc statistics.

5. WORKPLAN

Two types of analyses are involved: firstly, studies programmed to meet specific objectives which can be laid down in advance, such as the opening of trade negotiations or the outcome of a Community measure. The following studies will be carried out in 1981:

- analysis of EC-ACP trade 1970-1980
- analysis of Community trade by branch of industry 1970-1980.

Secondly, ad hoc studies prepared on topical Community problems or in response to specific urgent requests from Commission departments or other institutions.

6. FINANCING

Will be required: firstly, some studies will have to be commissioned from research institutes, universities, etc. and, secondly, funds will have to be found for the data processing involved (staff and machine time).

7. VOLUME OF WORK

Steady and considerable.

8. WORKING GROUP

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9. DISSEMINATION

Publications

Code 62 A: Foreign trade - Statistical telegram
Code 62 B: Analysis of Community trade 1979-1980 (2 volumes)

Code 631: EC-China : a statistical trade analysis 1970/1979
Code 632: Analysis of trade between EC and Latin America 1963/1979
Code 633: EC trade with the ACP States and South Mediterranean states.

UNIT RESPONSIBLE: E 2 - Analysis and Development

TITLE : External trade indices

PROJECT NUMBER : E 2 002

1. INTRODUCTION

In order to have a correct assessment of the volume of, and trends, in external trade, indices are generally used which are above all intended as pointers to trends in the relative level of the prices of goods traded.

The aim is to calculate indices for the EC and for various country and product groupings which do not exist for all Member States and therefore cannot be generated from national data.

2. ORIGIN

EUROSTAT already publishes a monthly series of overall indices (current value, average value, volume, terms of trade, volume ratios) which is not altogether satisfactory (not harmonized, insufficiently broken down, too limited in scope and utilization, etc.). The Commission departments and, in particular, DG II have on several occasions urged that a more appropriate instrument of analysis be introduced. The Statistical Office first tackled the problem of compiling better quality average value indices which are more reliable and better adapted to user requirements.

3. OBJECTIVE

To provide a better quality preliminary assessment of trends in relative prices and volume of goods traded and with a breakdown permitting differential analysis.

4. DESCRIPTION

Selection and transcodification of NIMEXE - 6 digit data as provided monthly by the General Programme (i.e. in national currency, without regroupings). Aggregation and annual concatenation of these data according to the needs. Grouping of data to blocks designed as system management units when the whole system is operational. Calculation of rates and weights on various levels and derivity of indices thereof. Revision of rates and weights for amelioration of results and deriving improved indices thereof according to the strategies under discussion.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

In order to allow for a balanced and proven decision we are preparing a pilot study along the lines indicated above. This study will come to an end by 8/81 leading to a final proposal with the necessary software operational for direct continuation. For the SSAP it is only left to convert the programmes into production programmes.

6. FINANCING

An analyst/programmer and a programmer are currently working under study contract up to 8/81. Financing problems are therefore settled.

7. VOLUME OF WORK

At the moment it is E-3 staff and two experts working permanently on this project. Furthermore A.U.1 and A.U.2 are supporting the work with two advisers attending the project meetings.

8. WORKING GROUP

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9. DISSEMINATION

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UNIT RESPONSIBLE: E 2 - Analysis and Developments

TITLE: External trade data bank

PROJECT No: E 2 003

1. INTRODUCTION

In view of the nature and volume of the data collected for both the Community and non-member countries and of their many and varied uses, the data bank is a means of making the basic statistics available quickly and of facilitating the analysis required for the study of world trade.

2. SOURCE

Increasing demand from internal (Commission departments and other institutions) and external users (national authorities, universities, the two sides of industry).

3. AIM

To provide users with a tool for rapid access to the most detailed and recent data on the trade flows of the Community and non-member countries, as well as with the analytical instruments required for the study of these flows.

4. DESCRIPTION

The data bank will contain the following basic information:

- a - Annual data based on SITC Rev. 1 (5 digits) for approximately 130 reporting countries (including the Community Member States), with all trading partners from 1963 to 1979;
- b - Quarterly data based on SITC Rev. 2 (5 digits) for the Member States of the Community and the main industrialized countries as reporting countries, with all trading partners since 1978;
- c - Annual data based on SITC Rev. 2 (5 digits) for the other non-member countries as reporting countries, with all trading partners since 1978;
- d - Quarterly data based on 'NIMEXE STANDARD' (NIMSTA - nomenclature which can be used to monitor a given product over time by aggregating NIMEXE headings which have been split from one year to the next) (6 digits) for the Member States of the Community as reporting countries, with all trading partners since 1977;
- e - Quarterly data based on the NIMEXE (6 digits) for the Member States of the Community as reporting countries, with all trading partners since 1977. This part of the project will replace the NIMSTA. The data bank will also include the necessary consultation, analysis and tabulation programmes.

5. WORKPLAN

This project comprises two stages: the first is already well under way and is primarily intended to meet the needs of internal Commission users by making parts 4 a) to 4 d) of the project available to them. The timetable is as follows:

The work under 4 a) is completed, 4 b) and 4 c) will be completed in February 1981 and 4 d) in May - June 1981.

The software to go with this part of the project has already been prepared and comprises a series of relatively short programs which there are no plans to expand.

The second stage, the aim of which will be to set up the NIMEXE bank, is currently being studied and will meet the needs of both internal and external users. The work in 1981 and 1982 will be carried out in stages, firstly the creation of a central core and then the operating programs.

6. FINANCING

Funds will be required for all the automatic processing work.

7. VOLUME OF WORK

Very considerable, requiring the assistance of specialists in both data processing and statistics.

8. WORKING GROUP

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9. DISSEMINATION

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UNIT RESPONSIBLE: E 2 - Analysis and Development

TITLE: CRONOS: non-member countries and Community imports of
commodities

PROJECT No: E 2 004

1. INTRODUCTION

For framing their policy towards non-member countries, in particular the developing countries, the Commission and the other institutions need both a wide range of data on the development of the economic and social situation in these countries and rapid statistics on trends in Community trade with the ACP countries in connection with the Lomé Convention.

2. SOURCE

Application of the Lomé Convention and demand from users.

3. AIM

To provide users with a selection of the main macroeconomic indicators of the various countries in the world and the most recent statistics on the Community's short-term trade with the ACP countries.

4. DESCRIPTION

Chronological data bank.

5. WORKPLAN

Development of the existing CRONOS files, i.e. ZPVD and QUIC.

6. FINANCING

No.

7. VOLUME OF WORK

Considerable, owing to the volume of statistics processed. The two files account for approximately a quarter of the whole CRONOS base.

8. WORKING GROUP

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9. DISSEMINATION

CRONOS: SEF ZPVD
SEF QUIC

UNIT RESPONSIBLE: E 2 - Analysis and Development

TITLE: Technical assistance to the statistical services of associated countries

PROJECT NO: E 2 005

1. INTRODUCTION

The demand for technical assistance from the statistical services of the ACP states continues to be very great. It is addressed more and more to international organizations and in particular the Community, especially since the entry into force of the Lomé Convention, one of the major aspects of which is the development of technical co-operation between the Community and the ACP states.

2. SOURCE

Request from the governments or regional organizations of the ACP states.

3. AIM

To supply technical assistance to the statistical services of the ACP states or to the statistical departments of the regional organizations in fields which are limited but of great interest to both the ACP states and the Commission.

4. DESCRIPTION

The main forms which this new activity should take are as follows:

- a) co-operation of Member States' statistical technical assistance activities;
- b) advisory services, i.e. the sending of advisers sponsored by the SOEC to observe the introduction of a system or help organize specific projects;
- c) vocational training for statisticians from developing countries by:
 - the organization of training courses at the SOEC
 - liaising with DG VIII as regards problems of financing ACP nationals' training
 - sending lecturers to training institutes in Europe and Africa.

5. WORKPLAN

- a) Coordination: organization of annual meetings attended by all bodies responsible for statistical technical assistance to developing countries;
- b) Advisory services: the aim of the first project will be to help improve the collection, processing and analysis of the external trade statistics of the UDEAC countries (Cameroon, Central African Republic, Gabon, Congo);
- c) Training of statisticians: regular work including the provision of a Secretariat for the CESD Board of Administration, organizing meetings of the CESD Scientific Committee, etc.

6. FINANCING

Credits for studies and surveys.

7. VOLUME OF WORK

Very great.

8. WORKING GROUP

Yes

9. DISSEMINATION

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UNIT RESPONSIBLE: E 2 - Analysis and Development

TITLE: International comparison project in African countries

PROJECT NUMBER: E 2 006

1. INTRODUCTION

SOEC, which already has responsibility for ICP in the Member States, has accepted the role of coordinator for a similar project in seven French-speaking African countries: Morocco, Tunisia, Senegal, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Mali and Madagascar. In 1981-1982, the project will be extended to 8 new English-speaking African countries.

2. SOURCE

Request of the Statistical Office of the United Nations.

3. AIM

To study, in real terms, the aggregates of the national accounts of the participating countries.

4. DESCRIPTION

To organize, according to a common methodology, price enquiries on the final consumption products of households, for capital goods and for the collective consumption of administrations.

5. WORKPLAN

To collaborate with the participating countries in the setting up of a common methodology by means of working meetings in Africa and Europe. To give technical assistance to the countries for the launching and realization of the project.

6. FINANCING

Spread over the period 1980-1981, 300 000 EUA or ECU for technical assistance to the French-speaking countries. Request has been made to allow the same financing to the English-speaking countries (1981-1982).

7. VOLUME OF WORK

Work divided with Division B 3. For the moment the work in E 2 is carried out by the Head of service.

8. WORKING GROUP

Yes

9. DISSEMINATION

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SPECIALISED SERVICE E 3 - Collection and dissemination

Gertrud Hilf

UNIT RESPONSIBLE: E 3 - Collection and Dissemination

TITLE : Production of external trade statistics (general programme)

PROJECT NO: E 3 001

1. INTRODUCTION

The compilation of basic data on the Community's external trade and trade between Member States has been regarded by both the Commission and the Member States as one of the main tasks of Community statistics since the beginning of the Common Market; a special effort has been made in this field in the last few years. These data are used as a basis for Community negotiations, proposals and decisions in connection with the Customs Union, the free movement of goods, competition, Community trade and economic policy and the special agricultural and industrial policies.

The data have been collected and published at Community level since 1958. The Member States send the detailed statistics to the SOEC each month in accordance with standard classifications. In 1975 computer processing of all the basic data was included in the project 'General programme of external trade statistics'.

Since 1 January 1978, the methods of collecting and forwarding the figures have been laid down pursuant to Council Regulation (EEC) 1736/75 'concerning the external trade of the Community and trade between Member States'. In the fifth statistical programme the general programme of external trade statistics is represented by two projects, namely project E 3 001 describing the production of Community data by the SOEC, and project E 3 002 regarding the collection and dissemination of data in relation with the Member States and the users of the statistics.

2. SOURCE

Regulation (EEC) No 1736/75, in particular Article 36 (2) and (3).

3. AIM

To produce Community statistics on the basis of the data supplied by the Member States.

4. DESCRIPTION

From the monthly data forwarded by each of the nine Member States the computer produces (after checking, correction, harmonization, conversion of values into European Units of Account (ECU) and transcription) Community tables on the external trade of the Community. This general programme supplies the SOEC with data on the imports and exports of each Member State and the

Community with each trading partner in terms of value, quantities and supplementary quantities in accordance with the following specifications):

- breakdown by product and group of products, viz.
 - the nomenclature of goods as used in the external trade statistics of the Community and statistics of trade between Member States (NIMEXE), comprising some 7 100 headings;
- the Standard International trade Classification (SITC) Rev. 2, comprising some 1 000 headings;
- the Common Customs Tariff (CCT) nomenclature, comprising some 4 000 headings;
- breakdown by trading partner and groups of countries in accordance with the Geonomenclature, comprising some 200 countries and 25 zones.

At present the data are produced at quarterly and annual intervals. In addition, a monthly bulletin is published on the basis of rapid transmission of a number of selected data.

5. WORKPLAN

- maintenance of the present programme;
- adaption of the programme to the Community of the Ten;
- changeover to monthly production of the most important data from 1981 onwards;
- publication of the monthly bulletin from the general programme via the CRONOS data bank.

6. FINANCING -

7. VOLUME OF WORK

- Considerable volume of work for DG IX's Computer Centre in terms of machine time and management (see SOEC's data processing programme).
- Low volume of work in terms of analysis and programming for the various changes.
- Permanent work of project management for the SOEC.

8. WORKING GROUP

See project E 1 001.

9. DISSEMINATION

See project E 3 002.

UNIT RESPONSIBLE: E 3 - Collection and Dissemination

TITLE: Collection and dissemination of external trade statistics

PROJECT NO: E 3 002

1. INTRODUCTION

The collection of statistical data from the Member States requires permanent contact with the national statistical services. The substantial volume of Community external trade data produced and their frequent use by a large number of users require the organization of a dissemination section.

2. SOURCE

Internal organization.

3. AIM

- to ensure the quality and comparability of data and the observance of deadlines for their transmission.
- to reply as quickly as possible to any request for information. Regular supply to all subscribers. Answers to Parliamentary questions.

4. DESCRIPTION

Statistics are disseminated through a number of channels depending on the requirements and the nature of the various users:

- occasional dissemination by telephone, letter or telex;
- publication of the annual analytical tables and a monthly bulletin on paper;
- production and systematic dissemination of the results on microfiches (occasionally on request, regularly to Commission Directorates-General and other international organizations, free and paid subscriptions service for outside bodies);
- distribution of magnetic tapes, both free and at a charge;
- dissemination via the CRONOS data bank;
- direct on-line dissemination via the EURONET network, currently being studied;
- introduction of a ranking programme for the production of tables as and when requested is under way.

5. WORKPLAN

- Continuation of permanent dissemination.
- Information campaigns on the data available from Commission departments: Directorate-Generals' data shops, Commission delegations in Member States and non-member countries.
- Production of catalogues for internal and outside use.
- Improvement of the magnetic tape distribution service.
- Setting-up of an administrative unit to operate the ranking programme.
- Conclusion of a contract with a service company for the dissemination of data on the EURONET network.

6. FINANCING

- None at present.
- Purchase of machines for the production, reading and storage of microfiches to be entered in DG IX's budget.
- Purchase of equipment for copying magnetic tapes (DG IX).
- Financing of publications.
- Income from the sale of publications, microfiches and magnetic tapes and dissemination via EURONET.

7. VOLUME OF WORK

- Considerable amount of work for the Member States as regards the collection of data.
- Substantial volume of work for the reproduction and dissemination of microfiches.
- Considerable work for the Computer Centre as regards the reproduction and distribution of magnetic tapes (bottleneck at present).
- Permanent work for SOEC officials.

8. WORKING GROUP

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9. DISSEMINATION

Publications:

Annual:

Code 621: - Analytical tables of foreign trade - NIMEXE

Code 622: - Analytical tables of foreign trade - SITC, Rev. 2

Monthly:

Code 624: - Monthly external trade bulletin with supplements

CRONOS:

see project 3 007

OTHER: magnetic tapes
microfiches
EURONET from 1981

UNIT RESPONSIBLE: E 3 - Collection and Dissemination

TITLE: Statistics on the Community's generalized system of tariff preferences (GSP) and other surveillance systems

PROJECT NUMBER: E 3 003

1. INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the proposal made at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Community has opened up generalized tariff preferences since 1971, particularly for finished and semi-finished industrial products from developing countries. The initial ten-year period of application of the scheme ended in 1980. The Council has just adopted the new regulation extending the scheme for a period of five years and laying down the procedures for 1981. This scheme includes a monitoring system for the imports in question. The SOEC helped in the monitoring initially on a monthly basis with the help of a programme run on the WANG mini-computer between 1975 and 1977 and then on a quarterly basis with the help of the central computer from 1979 onwards. The SOEC is responsible for statistical monitoring, which permits in particular comparison with world trade for all the preferential products, whereas the Commission's Customs Union Service (CUS) is responsible for managing the scheme and for short-term monitoring of sensitive products.

Outside the GSP, the SOEC has developed programmes for statistical monitoring of imports in other sensitive sectors such as agricultural markets, textiles, petroleum products and footwear. Computer processing programmes have been set up which can be adapted to monitoring of other products.

2. SOURCE

Various Council Regulations (EEC).

Agreements with the Commission departments responsible for implementing these regulations: DG I, CUS, DG III, DG VI, DG VIII.

3. AIM

To supply the Commission and the Member States with the information required to implement the regulations. Decisions of economic and political importance are taken on the basis of these statistics (reconstitution and changes of customs duties etc.).

With a view to making the system clearer, a study is currently under way on the dissemination of data to recipient countries, international organizations and importers.

4. DESCRIPTION

Generalized system of tariff preferences (GSP)

Annual calculation of supply and ceilings, quarterly statistical monitoring of imports in relation to quotas and ceilings, and comparison of imports.

Agricultural products

Special aggregation of agricultural products as part of the general programme. Quarterly production of statistics on the products covered.

Textile surveillance

Special production of statistical tables on textiles aggregated according to the categories laid down in the multi-fibre agreement as part of the general programme each quarter. Monthly monitoring of quotas and ceilings. Updating of a data base which can be used by the Customs Union Service (CUS).

Other products

Same system of quarterly statistical monitoring as part of the general programme as for textiles.

5. WORKPLAN

Annual adaption of the programmes and inputs, to changes in the basic regulations, Harmonization of the data collected by the Member States. Continuation of the regular work of data collection, checking, updating, processing and dissemination.

Development of the application to cover other products according to policy requirements.

6. FINANCING

None at present. Some may be required for future developments (programming).

7. VOLUME OF WORK

The project involves a considerable amount of machine time and regular programming work (see SOEC's data processing programme). The supply of the special data will involve a considerable amount of work for the Member States.

8. WORKING GROUP

Under the auspices of the Directorates-General concerned and the Council.

9. DISSEMINATION

At present the data are disseminated to Commission departments and international organizations in the form of microfiches and printouts.

The possibility of publication is being discussed.

UNIT RESPONSIBLE: E 3 - Collection and dissemination

TITLE : Statistics for preparing and monitoring trade negotiations
(GATT, UNCTAD)

PROJECT NUMBER: E 3 004

1. INTRODUCTION

The Commission negotiates for the Community within the GATT framework of trade political agreements. For the last 8 years multilateral trade negotiations have been going on and came to an end in 1980 with a final agreement becoming fully operational during the next 8 years. For the forthcoming years various trade political topics will be on the agenda. Above all there is the enlargement of the Community which makes it necessary to defend the tariff of the so enlarged Community. Negotiations concerning preferential trade are also likely to start quite soon.

The SOEC has to play an important role in all these negotiations because it is the Office which has to provide the necessary information. The Office has to serve the needs of DG I, III and VI who are directly involved in these negotiations. It must also serve the needs of DG II and XIX who deal with model calculations and financial consequences in this area, and finally of the GATT secretariat organizing the exchange of information between the negotiating parties.

2. SOURCE

See 1 above

3. AIM

See 1 above

4. DESCRIPTION

The project consists of two parts. All basic activities, especially the data processing, are managed and executed by the Office. All other activities directly linked to actual GATT work are done in cooperation with the interested services.

A. Actual GATT work

1. Calculation of a global and partial balance of duty revenues for Greece before and after accession (for negotiations because of the enlargement under Art. XXIV/5 and 6 of the GATT).
2. EC Tariff statistics from 1977 onwards for a Community with 10 Member States to monitor the impact of the last multilateral trade agreements and to fulfill obligations towards the GATT secretariat.

3. Calculation of ad valorem equivalents for mixed and specific duties (for a standardised comparison between the Community and either third countries or forthcoming Member States).
4. Standard elaborations later to be covered by the ranking programme of the general programme if it becomes available possibly in 1981.
5. Calculation of average duty rates for SITC.

B. Basic GATT work

6. Establishing a Tariff Rate Information file for the preceding years containing preferential treatment due to either the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) or bilateral agreements (ACP, MAGREB, MASHREK etc) leading to an extension or an overhead of SABINE.
7. Establishing a data base containing annual tariff statistics limited to time series.

5. WORKPLAN

No regular workplan exists. The deadlines are given by our clients and especially their negotiation meetings.

6. FINANCING

Part of the activities are done by SOEC staff. Two external programmers and an external analyst are financed under the DP budget.

7. VOLUME OF WORK

Concerning data collection there is no extra work load besides the regular foreign trade statistics (NIMEXE) except for information about tariffs.

Consultations with the Customs Service of the Community and with the respective services of the acceding Countries are necessary. Considerable space load in the computer center (see working program for data processing at the Office).

8. WORKING GROUP

No

9. DISSEMINATION

All work is for internal use except the magnetic tape prepared for the GATT secretariat containing the tariff statistics.

UNIT RESPONSIBLE: E 3 - Collection and dissemination

TITLE: External Trade Indices

PROJECT NUMBER: E 3 005, see also E 2 002

Comment:

This project is contained in the list of projects of unit E 2. The project can be seen as a task force project linked to the directorate as a whole, and not only to a particular unit. This is especially so, as to date only staff from Unit E 3 have worked on the project in the framework of a pilot study going on at the moment.

UNIT RESPONSIBLE: E 3 Collection and Dissemination

TITLE: External trade statistics of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries

PROJECT NO: E 3 006

1. INTRODUCTION

The collection of data on the external trade of associated African countries was begun at the time of the Yaoundé Convention. During the 1960s there were close links between the statistical services of the African countries and the SOEC. When the Yaoundé Convention gave way to the larger Lomé Convention, the collection of these statistical data was stepped up rapidly and nowadays covers the 60 signatory countries and the countries of the Southern Mediterranean. The basic data are supplied by the countries concerned either directly to the SOEC or via the United Nations Statistical Office.

2. SOURCE

Lomé Convention and requests from Commission departments responsible for its implementation, in particular DG I, DG VIII and the CUS. Requests from international and African organizations and the Commission delegations to the countries concerned.

3. AIM

To provide users with data on the ACP countries' external trade.

To publish the statistical yearbook of the ACP countries' external trade.

4. DESCRIPTION

The ACP states send their annual external trade data to the Community either directly or via the United Nations or the UNCTAD.

These data are processed and harmonized by computer. They are then placed on microfiches and fed into the CRONOS data base. The CRONOS domain or file available to internal users is called ZCA1; it comprises some 120 000 annual series. The publication covering the whole of the ACP countries' external trade is produced every two years from the CRONOS data.

5. WORKPLAN

- Maintenance of contacts with the countries involved in supplying the data.
- Drawing up of a new computer processing program.
- Permanent management of the system.
- Preparation of the publication in 1982 and 1984.

6. FINANCING -

7. VOLUME OF WORK

Data management and preparation will involve a considerable amount of work. A substantial amount of programming and machine time will also be required. (See the SOEC's data processing programme).

8. WORKING GROUP -

9. DISSEMINATION

Publication: Yearbook of ACP countries' external trade statistics (bi-annual).
Code 663.

CRONOS: File sub-set ZCA1: File on the external trade of the ACP states and the countries of the Southern Mediterranean.

Other: Microfiches.

UNIT RESPONSIBLE: E 3 - Collection and Dissemination

TITLE: CRONOS-SABINE external trade data base

PROJECT NUMBER: E 3 007

1. INTRODUCTION

The CRONOS data bank is widely used in the retrieval of statistics by Commission departments and for dissemination to outside bodies via EURONET. It contains the main time series of Community statistics, including the main external trade series.

- For computer processing of external trade data a system of storage which kept the information on the classification up-to-date had to be set up; it covers in particular processing of the codes and their description (notes on the products, corresponding tariffs) and the links between the various classifications. This general system is called SABINE and is used as the basis for processing of the general programme, monitoring program, CRONOS program, etc.

2. SOURCE

- Numerous requests from Directorate-Generals
- Used as the basis for most external trade data

3. AIM

To provide users with information on classifications and changes therein directly from terminals.

To act as an interface for information on external trade applications.

4. DESCRIPTION

SABINE

Contains all the external trade classifications of products and countries and the relationships between these classifications. Also contains certain types of quantitative data required for specific applications (textiles monitoring, generalized preferences system, GATT, indices, etc...).

CRONOS

Contains basic series on Community external trade, as follows:

ICG (class 16): Imports and exports of Member States and EUR-9 by trading partners and economic zones of the Geonomenclature and

results by product in accordance with SITC Rev. 2 sections
FRIC = (Fichier des relations internationales commerciales = File on
international trade relations)
: Monthly and quarterly results which are currently shown in
the monthly external trade bulletin according to SITC Rev.2
(Sections and divisions) and economic zones.
SNAG (selected NIMEXE for agriculture)
: External trade in regulated agricultural products. At
present, dairy products excluding cheese in accordance
with the six-digit NIMEXE and by trading partner.
ZCAL : ACP countries' external trade, see project E 3 006.

5. WORKPLAN

Continuation of the regular work of updating the classifications and CRONOS data,

Analysis of the system "Fichier information tarifaire" (FIT) (File on tariff information) in conjunction with the data processing department - see project E 3 006.

Harmonization of the various classifications stored in SABINE in conjunction with the data processing department.

6. FINANCING -

7. VOLUME OF WORK

The project involves a considerable amount of machine time and computer management.

Permanent work for staff.

8. WORKING GROUP -

9. DISSEMINATION

CRONOS - see 4 above
EURONET - all series.

DIRECTORATE E - 1981 PUBLICATIONS

Theme 6 : Foreign Trade

1. Nomenclature

611 Geonomenclature	annually
p.m. NIMEXE in the Official Journal	"

2. Community trade, general

621 Analytical tables of foreign trade NIMEXE	"
622 Analytical tables of foreign trade SITC	"
624 Foreign trade - Monthly bulletin	monthly
62A Foreign trade - Statistical telegram	4 times a year
62B Analysis of Community trade 1979-1980 (2 volumes)	irr.

3. Trade with developing countries

631 EC-China : a statistical trade analysis 1970/1979	n.p.
632 Analysis of trade between EC and Latin America 1963/1979	n.p.
633 EC trade with the ACP States and South Mediterranean states	quarterly

NOTE :

Publications having a figure as the last character of the code number are published by the Office for Official Publications and are distributed through normal channels.
Publications having a letter as the last character of the code number are internal publications of the Statistical Office.
These are documents primarily intended for the services of the Commission and the other European institutions. In certain cases and at the discretion of the sections responsible for their content, these internal publications are made available to professional bodies and national administrations which collaborate closely with the Office. They can be consulted at the Information Offices of the Commission.

WORKING GROUPS - EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS

Number of meeting
days per year

E 1	Committee on External Trade Statistics	
	- Methods Group	6
	- NIMEXE Group	8
E 2	- Working Group "Cooperation"	2
	- Working Group "PCI-Africa" with division B 3	5
E 3	- included in E 1	

COMMUNITY LEGISLATION CONCERNING FOREIGN STATISTICS

EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS OF THE COMMUNITY AND STATISTICS OF TRADE BETWEEN MEMBER STATES

1. Council Regulation (EEC) No 1445/72 of 24 April 1972,
concerning the nomenclature of goods for the external trade statistics of the Community and statistics of trade between Member States (NIMEXE) (OJ L 161/1 of 17.7.1972).
2. Regulation (EEC) No 3065/75 of the Council of 24 November 1975,
amending Council Regulation (EEC) No 1445/72 concerning the nomenclature of goods for external statistics of the Community and statistics of trade between Member States (NIMEXE) (OJ L 307/1 of 27.11.1975).
3. Regulation (EEC) No 1736/75 of the Council of 24 June 1975,
on the external trade statistics of the Community and statistics between Member States (OJ L 183/3 of 14.7.1975).
4. Commission Regulation (EEC) No 546/77 of 16 March 1977,
on statistical procedures in respect of the Community's external trade (OJ L 70/13 of 17.3.1977).
5. Council Regulation (EEC) No 2845/77 of 19 December 1977,
amending Regulation (EEC) No 1736/75 on the external trade statistics of the Community and statistics of trade between Member States (OJ L 329/3 of 22.12.1977).
- 6a. Commission Regulation (EEC) No 2415/78 of 17 December 1978,
on the statistical threshold in the external trade statistics of the Community and statistics of trade between Member States (OJ L 292/19 of 18.10.1978).
- 6b. Commission Regulation (EEC) No 3346/80 of 23 December 1980,
amending Regulation (EEC) No 2415/78 on the statistical threshold in the external trade statistics of the Community and statistics of trade between Member States (OJ L 351/14 of 31.12.1980).

7. Commission Regulation (EEC) No 3488/80 of 23 December 1980,
on the annual updating of the country nomenclature of the external
trade statistics of the Community and statistics of trade between
Member States (OJ L 365 of 31.12.1980) (1).
8. Commission Regulation (EEC) No 3285/80 of 19 December 1980,
amending the goods nomenclature of the external trade statistics of
the Community and statistics of trade between Member States (NIMEXE)
(OJ L 646 of 22.12.1980) (2).
9. Commission Regulation (EEC) No 518/79 of 19 March 1979,
recording exports of complete industrial plant in the external trade
statistics of the Community and statistics of trade between Member
States (OJ L 69/10 of 20.3.1979).

- (1) This Regulation is renewed every year in accordance with the periodic
amendments of the GEONOM.
- (2) This Regulation is renewed every year in accordance with the periodic
amendments of the NIMEXE.

DIRECTORATE E

External trade, ACP and non-member
countries statistics

Projects of statistical interest of other
Directorate Generals of the Commission

- E 011 Surveillance of imports under the Generalized System of Preferences
- E 416 Surveillance of imports from EFTA-countries
- E 417 Inward processing arrangements
- E 418 Outward processing arrangements
- E 082 Community development aid
- E 083 Data bank for macro-economic data relating to developing countries
- E 084 Stabilisation of export earnings
- F 083 Grant holders and other technical operation staff financed on a bilateral basis by the publications
- CUS-A-3 System of double checks on textile imports licences.

CUS

E * 011 SURVEILLANCE OF IMPORTS UNDER THE GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES

1. INTRODUCTION

Imports of so-called sensitive and quasi-sensitive goods are put under surveillance as well as agricultural processed goods. This work is done on the authority of Council regulations which are renewed each year and which list the products under the above categories, showing the countries which benefit.

2. SOURCE

The Customs services of the Member States.

3. AIM

To trigger the decision to reintroduce normal Customs processes whenever ceilings and maximum prices are exceeded.

4. WORKPLAN

Continuation of previous tasks.

CUS

E * 416 SURVEILLANCE OF IMPORTS FROM EFTA COUNTRIES

1. INTRODUCTION

This system of surveillance is very similar to the Generalized System of Preferences. It is based on regulations issued annually by the Council which are aimed at setting up Community surveillance of imports of certain products originating in EFTA countries.

2. SOURCE

The customs services of the Member States.

3. AIM

To trigger the reintroduction of the customs duties applicable to third countries whenever the ceilings are exceeded.

4. WORKPLAN

Continuation of previous tasks.

CUS

E * 417 INWARD PROCESSING ARRANGEMENTS

1. INTRODUCTION

Article 31 of Council Directive 69/73/EEC requires that the Member States shall provide the Commission with statistical information on their inward processing arrangements. This Article was amended by Council Directive 72/242/EEC. Commission Directives 73/37/EEC and 77/16/EEC, the latter amended by Directive 78/582/EEC require the provision of supplementary statistical data.

2. SOURCE

The customs services of the Member States.

3. AIM

The surveillance of imports for inward processing.

4. WORKPLAN

Continuation of previous tasks. It is intended to replace these statistics at some future date with statistics drawn up within the general programme of foreign trade statistics (Modules 11.18 - 11.19 - 21.19).

CUS

E * 418 OUTWARD PROCESSING ARRANGEMENTS

1. INTRODUCTION

Article 15 of Council Directive 76/119/EEC requires Member States to send the Commission statistical information on transactions under outward processing arrangements.

2. SOURCE

The customs services of the Member States.

3. AIM

Surveillance of the outward processing arrangements.

4. WORKPLAN

Continuation of previous tasks. It is intended to replace these statistics at some future date with statistics drawn up within the general programme of foreign trade statistics (Modules 11.18 - 11.19 - 21.19).

Note :

Article 12 of the draft Council proposal introducing outward processing arrangements applicable to certain textiles and garments reimported into the Community following processing in certain third countries in the Mediterranean having preferential agreements with the Community requires that the Member States shall provide the Commission with statistical information on goods reimported under these arrangements. (In accordance with the provisions of Article 15 of Directive 76/119/EEC and Article 8 of Regulation (EEC) 1736/75).

DG VIII

E * 082 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AID

1. INTRODUCTION

Statistical information relating to commitments undertaken and payments made by the European Development Fund, the European Investment Bank and the Community Budget is collected annually by DG VIII.

2. SOURCE

Development aid policy.

3. AIM

To provide the Committee on Development Aid with statistics on Community development aid.

4. DESCRIPTION

The statistics cover all the developing countries and show the various bilateral flows as well as the breakdown of food aid.

5. WORKPLAN

Data collected manually pending computer processing.

NEW THEME NOTE

DG VIII

E * 083 DATA BANK FOR MACRO-ECONOMIC DATA RELATING TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

1. INTRODUCTION

Collecting statistics relating to developing countries (social indicators, prices, transport, industrial production) and updating of the CRONOS ZPVD data base.

2. SOURCE

Development aid policy.

3. AIM

To have available basic statistics to help carry out development policy in developing countries.

4. DESCRIPTION

Annual statistics for 158 developing countries with time series covering more than 15 years.

5. WORKPLAN

To continue updating the statistics and consultations by the CRONOS System.

NEW THEME NOTE

DG VIII

E * 084 STABILISATION OF EXPORT EARNINGS

1. INTRODUCTION

Statistical information concerning the products covered by the ACP-EEC Convention are collected by DG VIII.

2. SOURCE

ACP-EEC Convention.

3. AIM

To have available the necessary statistical data for the application of STABEX.

4. DESCRIPTION

Monthly statistical data on STABEX products are collected by the government of each ACP member state, as well as by the Member States of the Community, in order to carry out the financial transfers calculations.

5. WORKPLAN

Continuing.

NEW THEME NOTE

DG VIII

F * 083 Grant-holders and other technical cooperation staff financed on a bilateral basis by the public sector

1. INTRODUCTION

Collection by DG VIII of statistics on the number of grant-holders and technical cooperation staff in developing countries. The data are incorporated in the CRONOS ZPVD base.

2. ORIGIN

Lomé Convention.

3. AIM

Answering the questionnaire drawn up by the Committee on Development Aid and updating the ZPVD base.

4. DESCRIPTION

The annual statistics cover the ACP countries and are broken down into various fields.

5. PLAN OF WORK

Continued work.

NEW CARD
END 1980

CUS - A - 3 : System of double checks on textile import licences

1. INTRODUCTION

The system of supervision allows rapid totals to be obtained on import licences or certificates issued by the relevant authorities in the Member States.

The main aim is to carry out a double check between the export licences granted by the countries exporting textile products and the imports actually effected in the various Member States.

The legal basis is provided in Article 10 and Annex V of Regulation No 3059/78.

2. SOURCE

Ministry of Finanze or Ministry of Foreign Trade.

3. AIM

To ensure that imports of goods regarded as sensitive are subject to rapid and effective checks.

4. PLAN OF WORK

Continuation of previous work, unchanged at end 1980.

NEW CARD END 1980