

Newsletter Edicom – INTRASTAT

2 □ 1994

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INTRASTAT: THE CURRENT STATUS (1)

Following the abolition of customs frontiers between Member States, the Intrastat system has enabled detailed statistics on the trade of goods between Member States to be maintained. The reform was important and this is the reason why the system is still at the running-in stage. The user of statistics will doubtless have noted that they are available later and show a drop in quality. We must nevertheless see this in relative terms; born out of a compromise, Intrastat could not be perfect but there is considerable scope for it to improve.

I - SITUATION LESS THAN PERFECT

Results available late and of lower quality

The problem of late results, particularly those broken down by sub-headings of the Combined Nomenclature, is difficult to resolve. The situation is in fact very different depending on Member State. At the end of October this year, seven countries had sent detailed statistics for the first half of 1994. In the five others, the situation is much more delicate and a rapid improvement is not expected. The lack

of resources in certain statistical offices, the persistent late submission of declarations by enterprises and the *a posteriori* checking of quality are the main causes for the delay.

The first studies carried out show that the results are down on the situation which existed before Intrastat, by almost 9% in 1993 by comparison with 1992 for arrivals and 3% for dispatches (2). It is difficult to know to what extent this fall is due to the economic situation or to the introduction of the new collection system; the problem of non-response from certain enterprises, particularly with respect to arrivals, remains the major problem for administrations which are devoting considerable time and effort (reminders, seminars, etc.) to improve the situation, though these are not yet coercive.

Analysis of discrepancies between the symmetric flows, termed «mirror analyses», also brings to light a fall in quality since the discrepancies are worse at both overall and detailed level. One should note the major corrections made regularly by the Member States to figures already published and underline the quality, so far modest, of the results sent by Germany which has a considerable effect on the whole set of Intrastat statistics.

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(1) As of October 1994

(2) For methodological reasons, Eurostat is currently carrying out an adjustment of the 1992 dispatches. According to the first estimations, after this adjustment, the registered drop in 1993 dispatches should change from 3% to nearly 5%.

OSCE: 3 L



OFICINA ESTADÍSTICA DE LAS COMUNIDADES EUROPEAS
DE EUROPÆISKE FÆLLESSKABERS STATISTISKE KONTOR
STATISTISCHES AMT DER EUROPÄISCHEN GEMEINSCHAFTEN
ΣΤΑΤΙΣΤΙΚΗ ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΑ ΤΩΝ ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΩΝ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΩΝ
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Statistics at two levels

The findings described above have led Eurostat and the Member States to recognize the necessity of establishing two types of statistics, global and detailed.

The doubling of intra-Community statistics occurs in two ways:

□ *The deadlines for transmitting results to Eurostat:*

Commission Regulation no 1125/94 of 17 May 1994 (OJ L 124) lays down a deadline of eight weeks after the reporting month for the transmission of global statistics, i.e. the only values broken down by partner Member State, and a deadline of ten weeks for the transmission of detailed results which take account of all the data required under the Regulation. For the moment, these deadlines are not respected but the Commission now has a legal instrument which it could apply in due course.

□ *The adjustment of results:*

a majority of the Member States adjust their results to compensate for loss due to non-response or to the application of an assimilation threshold below which only aggregated data are available. For the most part, these adjustments are made to global results. Work is in hand to harmonize the practice of the Member States and, in time, to enable Eurostat to correct the results itself. Greater transparency will also allow users direct access to the adjustments.

Nevertheless, Eurostat's objective is to produce detailed statistics of high quality. In view of the difficulties encountered in the Member States, this doubling of intra-Community statistics must be considered as a pragmatic response which meets the various and urgent demands of the users.

II - A SYSTEM IN PROGRESS

Is Intrastat functioning satisfactorily?

Intrastat is certainly a system which has resulted in a satisfactory compromise between two objectives as far removed

from each other as alleviating the burden on the operators (most of them being dispensed from all obligations in the field) and maintaining detailed statistics. In addition, the persons responsible for providing information, who are often users of statistics themselves, have not rejected the system. When the system started up, considerable efforts had to be made by the enterprises but they now appear to have integrated Intrastat into their normal operations.

In cooperation with the Member States, Eurostat is thinking of launching in the near future a wide-ranging survey of suppliers and users of statistics in the Member States; this will be designed to evaluate the precise impact of Intrastat and to make the corrections necessary in the medium and long term.

The results of this survey will supplement the information provided by national administrations which suggests that the Intrastat system is working fairly well. In fact, half the statistical offices consider the quality of results at the most detailed level good or satisfactory and only one thinks the quality of the global results, broken down by partner country, unsatisfactory.

There is in fact no ideal or totally objective criterion for evaluating the quality of the results. Certain statistical offices doubt the quality of the data on trade between Member States collected by the tax authorities, though they recognize that they provide an indispensable tool for checking the quality of the Intrastat results; similarly, the quality of the results produced before Intrastat did not present all the desirable guarantees. Most enterprises state quite clearly that the former customs officials and the application of «mirror analyses» to the results of the years preceeding the introduction of Eurostat also show up clear discrepancies.

What are the perspectives for Intrastat?

Intrastat has interesting adaptation capabilities. Apart from the double set of statistics which has already been

referred to, it has been possible to offer new types of simplification to respondents without jeopardizing the entire system. Numerous avenues have been explored. One threshold per transaction has been introduced enabling all the results for low-value operations to be consolidated. Other ideas are being examined such as simplifying the declaration of vehicle and aircraft parts or eliminating the net mass for certain goods when this parameter is not pertinent.

Intrastat also has two major advantages:

□ *Its link with tax authorities:*

the statistical offices now receive information regularly from the tax authorities on the amounts involved in acquisitions and deliveries broken down by information respondents. Even if this information is highly aggregated and not of great quality, it is essential for analysing the statistics. The positive effects of the checks carried out on the basis of these comparisons have been emphasized by many Member States. These practices, which result in numerous checks at enterprise level, are recent; one may therefore hope that with a little experience and if sufficient resources are employed, checks based on fiscal data can bring about a clear improvement to the quality of Intrastat's statistics.

□ *The EDICOM project:*

this was the subject of a Council Decision last July which gave it the legal standing and more particularly, major financial backing. Although short-term priority is consolidation of the Intrastat system, one may well expect rapid gains in terms of quality and efficiency. The development of computer transmission should progress in particular, given that at least three quarters of the information respondents still use hard copies.

In conclusion

It appears that the main difficulty to overcome is the very different situation between Member States. Eurostat's main objective is therefore to improve the Intrastat system, satisfactory as it already is, in the Member States taken as a whole; this is to be achieved in particular with the aid of the Edicom project.

STATUS OF DATA SENT TO EUROSTAT ON 29 NOVEMBER 1994

- Detailed data Intra + Extra
- * Detailed data Extra and global data Intra
- Detailed data Extra
- Global data Intra (with breakdown by partner country)
- Intra totals (without breakdown by partner country)

Detailed data: breakdown by product (CN8) and partner country

PERIOD		EUR. 12	UE BL	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	NL	P	UK
1 9 9 3	January	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	February	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	March	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	April	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	May	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	June	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	July	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	August	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	September	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	October	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	November	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	December	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
1 9 9 4	January	□	□	*	■	■	■	■	*	■	■	■	■
	February	□	□	*	■	□	■	■	*	■	■	■	■
	March	□	□	*	■	□	■	■	□	■	■	■	■
	April	□	□	*	■	□	■	■	□	■	■	■	■
	May		□	*	■	□	■	■	□	■	■	■	■
	June			*	■		■	■	□	■	■	■	■
	July			●	■		■	■		■	■	■	■
	August			●	*		■	■		■		□	□
	September						■	■		□		□	□

INTRA-EUROPEAN UNION TRADE - RESULTS FOR 1993

The changes in collection methods following the introduction of the Intrastat system in 1993 makes it difficult to interpret the intra-EU trade figures. Discrepancies, often inherent in the system, exist relative to 1992 as well as between the two flows measured. The analyses should therefore be approached with caution.

Intra-EU trade fell by 8.2% in 1993 in terms of imports (arrivals) and 2.3% in terms of exports (dispatches). Eurostat studies on the comparability of results have shown that exports before 1993 should be re-evaluated in order to take account of re-exports, which were not systematically reported to Eurostat. With these adjustments, and taking account of non-response, the drop in intra-EU trade - in connection with the general economic situation - should be around 4% to 5%.

All the Member States apart from France, Italy, Greece and Spain have undertaken to correct the intra-EU trade totals broken down by partner countries in order to take account of non-response and the effect of thresholds. These estimates cannot be broken down at the most detailed level of the product classifications. In spite of these adjustments, the discrepancy between arrivals and dispatches (-3.5%) indicates greater under-estimation of arrivals, to a varying degree from one Member State to another.



FRANCE

France's intra-EU trade deficit fell from ECU 9.5 billion to ECU 4.9 billion between 1992 and 1993. Arrivals (-9.8%) fell more substantially than dispatches (-6.8%). This reduction in arrivals should be interpreted with caution, particularly as the figure is ECU 6.2 billion (5%) lower than the dispatches declared by France's partners.

The improvement in France's situation compared with 1992 is largely explained by a reduced deficit on manufactured goods - ECU 2.2 billion for other manufactured goods, ECU 1.3 billion for machinery and transport equipment and ECU 0.8 billion for chemical products, which have more or less re-established equilibrium. Arrivals of manufactured goods fell by 11% whereas dispatches fell by only 9%.



BELGIUM AND LUXEMBOURG

After a deficit in 1992, there was an upswing in BLEU intra-EU trade in 1993, resulting in a surplus of ECU 5.2 billion. This stemmed from a boom in exports (+11.0%). Only the BLEU and the United Kingdom saw an increase in their arrivals and dispatches in 1993.

The scale of the adjustments made by the BLEU, particularly in the case of arrivals, makes the analysis of the balances by product uncertain. However, there was a ECU 8.3 billion increase in the trade surplus on manufactured goods (including ECU 4.2 billion on machinery and transport equipment and ECU 1.5 billion on chemical products) and ECU 1.3 billion on foodstuffs.



NETHERLANDS

The Netherlands' trade surplus of intra-EU trade increased further in 1993, from ECU 14.8 billion to ECU 21.6 billion. The sharp rise in dispatches (+7.3) and reduction in arrivals (-1.2%) explain this result. The fact that re-exports, which particularly affected this Member State, were taken into account before 1993 should, however, substantially reduce the growth rate for dispatches.

As with the BLEU, the scale of the estimates restricts the scope of any analysis by product. The improvement in the trade balances for machinery and transport equipment (ECU 3.7 billion) and other manufactured products (also ECU 3.7 billion) can be explained by the sharp reduction in arrivals in these two categories (-21% and -28% respectively).



GERMANY

The increase in Germany's intra-EU trade surplus from ECU 6.5 billion to ECU 12.0 billion between 1992 and 1993 should be viewed in the light of the apparent under-estimation of arrivals. In spite of some already high estimates, these are nevertheless ECU 13.9 billion (8.5%) lower than the dispatches declared by Germany's partner countries. Arrivals (-13.3%) dropped more sharply than dispatches (9.7%). In spite of the link between the Intrastat system and VAT returns, arrivals would appear to have been underestimated, as in other Member States.

The surplus of intra-EU trade in manufactured goods increased by ECU 3.4 billion in spite of a reduction of ECU 5.2 billion in the trade surplus of machinery and transport equipment. The reasons for the higher surplus are to be found in the improvement of the balance of chemical products (ECU 2.6 billion), foodstuffs (ECU 2.5 billion) and raw materials. The deficit on energy products increased by ECU 2.3 billion. On the other hand, trade recorded by Germany was down for all the other items - by 19% and 20% respectively for arrivals and dispatches of machinery and transport equipment, and by 26% in the case of arrivals of other manufactured goods and raw materials.



ITALY

Italy's intra-EU trade for 1993 showed a surplus of ECU 6.9 billion, compared with a deficit of ECU 6.3 billion in 1992. The reduction in arrivals (-18.6%) was far in excess of the reduction in exports (-3.4%).

The intra-EU trade balance on manufactured goods improved by ECU 11.8 billion over 1992, machinery and transport equipment alone accounting for 7.3 billion. The deficits of food and chemical products fell by ECU 1.6 billion and ECU 1 billion respectively. Arrivals of machinery and transport equipment fell by 27% compared with 18% in the case of other manufactured goods.



UNITED KINGDOM

The United Kingdom's intra-EU trade deficit in 1993 was very similar to the level in 1992: ECU -6.9 billion as against ECU -6.7 billion.

Dispatches increased by 0.4%, 0.2% less than arrivals. An analysis by products confirms this high degree of stability.

The main reasons for the improvement in the United Kingdom's intra-EU trade balance are the ECU 2.5 billion reduction in the deficit on manufactured goods and the ECU 1.3 billion increase in the trade surplus on energy products. In contrast, miscellaneous items and adjustments explain a fall of ECU 4.4 billion in the same balance. The most important reductions are accounted for by other manufactured goods (-14% for arrivals and -7% for dispatches) and food products (-9% for arrivals and -10% for dispatches). Dispatches of energy products and chemical products increased by 24% and 13% respectively.



IRELAND

Dispatches to Ireland from other Member States were valued at over ECU 1 billion (8.2%) more than arrivals declared by Ireland. The surplus on intra-EU trade, which increased from ECU 4.1 billion to ECU 5.6 billion in 1993, could therefore have been overestimated. Dispatches rose by 3.5% whereas arrivals fell by 7.3%.

The trade balance on machinery and transport equipment increased by ECU 0.7 billion and on food products by ECU 0.2 billion. Arrivals of other manufactured goods decreased more than those of food products and machinery and transport equipment (-17%, -11% and -10% respectively). Dispatches of other manufactured goods fell by 12%.



DENMARK

Denmark had an intra-EU trade surplus of ECU 2.9 billion in 1993, ECU 0.7 billion up on 1992. Dispatches were slightly up (+0.3%) whereas arrivals fell by 4.9%.

Since Denmark has no data broken down by product, it has not been possible to analyse recent trends for the time being.



GREECE

Greece's intra-EU deficit increased by almost 1 billion in 1993, reaching ECU -7.4 billion. While arrivals remained stable, dispatches dropped substantially by -18.4%. The deterioration in the balance on food products (ECU -0.4 billion) and manufactured goods (ECU -0.3 billion) is due to the decrease in dispatches. The results for other products were very stable.



PORTUGAL

The fall in Portugal's intra-EU trade deficit (from ECU -6.6 billion to ECU -5 billion

between 1992 and 1993) resulted from a greater reduction in arrivals than in dispatches (-14% and -7.5% respectively).

The intra-EU deficit of manufactured goods is almost ECU 1.8 billion, ECU 1.1 billion being accounted for by machinery and transport equipment. Machinery and transport equipment, other manufactured goods and chemical products were the main products for which arrivals fell (by -19%, -16%, and -8% respectively). Similarly, dispatches of transport equipment and other manufactured goods fell substantially (by -11% and -6%).



SPAIN

Spain's intra-EU trade deficit fell from ECU 10 billion to ECU 6.8 billion between 1992 and 1993. Arrivals fell more substantially than dispatches (-9% as against -2.4%). This drop in arrivals should be interpreted with caution, particularly as the figure was ECU 2.2 billion (5.1%) lower than the figure for dispatches declared by Spain's trade partners.

The intra-EU balance on manufactured goods improved by ECU 3.3 billion over 1992, ECU 1.6 billion being accounted for by machinery and transport equipment and other manufactured goods. Arrivals of other manufactured goods (-15%) fell more than arrivals of machinery and transport equipment (-12%). Dispatches of machinery and transport equipment fell by 6%.



EVOLUTION OF INTRA-EUROPEAN UNION ARRIVALS
- Values in millions of ECU -

	1990	1991	1992	1993
EUR12	663 419	703 102	716 663	658 021
<i>France</i>	124 340	128 402	130 909	118 037
<i>Belg.Luxbg</i>	69 713	72 289	72 599	74 105
<i>Netherlands</i>	63 997	65 387	67 063	66 264
<i>Germany</i>	145 716	171 684	172 731	149 730
<i>Italy</i>	82 167	84 970	85 693	69 780
<i>United Kingdom</i>	89 702	84 979	86 911	87 435
<i>Ireland</i>	11 530	11 633	12 074	11 198
<i>Denmark</i>	13 691	14 467	14 862	14 132
<i>Greece</i>	9 987	10 490	11 427	11 424
<i>Portugal</i>	13 678	15 347	17 271	14 845
<i>Spain</i>	38 898	43 454	45 124	41 071

16/11/1994

EVOLUTION OF INTRA-EUROPEAN UNION DISPATCHES
- Values in millions of ECU -

	1990	1991	1992	1993
EUR12	656 475	688 195	697 431	681 251
<i>France</i>	109 464	117 458	121 381	113 155
<i>Belg.Luxbg</i>	69 854	71 691	71 412	79 270
<i>Netherlands</i>	82 027	82 450	81 871	87 881
<i>Germany</i>	169 617	174 289	179 201	161 753
<i>Italy</i>	77 906	80 642	79 388	76 655
<i>United Kingdom</i>	75 695	82 814	80 209	80 519
<i>Ireland</i>	13 937	14 527	16 203	16 772
<i>Denmark</i>	14 482	15 856	17 023	17 081
<i>Greece</i>	4 063	4 454	4 957	4 026
<i>Portugal</i>	9 471	9 898	10 623	9 831
<i>Spain</i>	29 961	34 116	35 163	34 306

16/11/1994

EVOLUTION OF EXTRA-EUROPEAN UNION IMPORTS
- Values in millions of ECU -

	1990	1991	1992	1993
EUR12	461 762	494 060	487 617	485 977
<i>France</i>	66 943	71 098	67 866	66 334
<i>Belg.Luxbg</i>	28 731	30 073	28 685	28 541
<i>Netherlands</i>	42 895	45 510	46 906	43 969
<i>Germany</i>	122 492	142 937	142 758	142 757
<i>Italy</i>	60 385	61 697	59 178	56 242
<i>United Kingdom</i>	84 985	83 400	83 359	91 384
<i>Ireland</i>	4 626	5 082	4 612	6 320
<i>Denmark</i>	11 744	12 205	11 972	11 873
<i>Greece</i>	5 575	6 916	6 633	7 510
<i>Portugal</i>	6 133	5 975	6 117	5 797
<i>Spain</i>	27 252	29 167	29 531	25 250

16/11/1994

EVOLUTION OF EXTRA-EUROPEAN UNION EXPORTS
- Values in millions of ECU -

	1990	1991	1992	1993
EUR12	415 441	423 466	436 088	482 589
<i>France</i>	64 993	67 221	71 020	71 695
<i>Belg.Luxbg</i>	22 388	22 870	23 372	27 987
<i>Netherlands</i>	24 366	24 988	26 020	31 002
<i>Germany</i>	142 248	149 085	151 558	162 840
<i>Italy</i>	55 384	55 524	57 718	67 230
<i>United Kingdom</i>	67 000	63 201	63 018	73 027
<i>Ireland</i>	4 532	4 840	5 471	7 499
<i>Denmark</i>	13 314	13 416	14 178	14 448
<i>Greece</i>	2 233	2 506	2 567	3 174
<i>Portugal</i>	3 286	3 146	3 418	3 220
<i>Spain</i>	15 696	16 670	17 747	20 467

16/11/1994

INTRA-EUROPEAN UNION ARRIVALS BY PRINCIPAL PRODUCT GROUPS
- 1993 -

Values in millions of ECU

REPORTING COUNTRIES	Food, beverages tobacco SITC 0+1	Raw materials SITC 2+4	Fuel products SITC 3	Chemicals SITC 5	Machinery, transport equipment SITC 7	Other manufactured goods SITC 6+8	Others SITC 9 + adjustments
<i>France</i>	13 533	2 796	3 988	14 543	47 735	35 384	58
<i>Belg.Luxbg</i>	8 014	2 485	3 896	9 231	15 942	20 086	14 450
<i>Netherlands</i>	7 823	2 035	2 002	7 509	17 220	16 425	13 249
<i>Germany</i>	18 175	4 654	9 131	15 048	49 845	39 092	13 785
<i>Italy</i>	11 578	3 991	1 219	10 921	24 841	16 153	1 076
<i>United Kingdom</i>	10 689	1 995	1 708	11 306	34 315	21 615	5 807
<i>Ireland</i>	1 464	249	492	1 628	3 206	3 366	793
<i>Greece</i>	2 152	222	89	1 531	3 928	3 468	35
<i>Portugal</i>	1 593	382	451	1 614	5 899	4 692	214
<i>Spain</i>	4 758	1 427	715	5 677	17 745	10 721	29

16/11/1994

INTRA-EUROPEAN UNION DISPATCHES BY PRINCIPAL PRODUCT GROUPS
- 1993 -

Values in millions of ECU

REPORTING COUNTRIES	Food, beverages tobacco SITC 0+1	Raw materials SITC 2+4	Fuel products SITC 3	Chemicals SITC 5	Machinery, transport equipment SITC 7	Other manufactured goods SITC 6+8	Others SITC 9 + adjustments
<i>France</i>	19 479	3 630	2 967	14 628	43 539	28 588	325
<i>Belg.Luxbg</i>	9 576	2 018	2 465	11 768	21 853	25 350	6 239
<i>Netherlands</i>	16 748	4 891	8 121	11 301	16 591	17 949	12 280
<i>Germany</i>	10 537	3 524	1 729	19 554	69 919	42 027	14 464
<i>Italy</i>	6 195	909	550	5 563	26 330	36 486	622
<i>United Kingdom</i>	6 391	1 526	6 077	11 671	30 033	20 346	4 474
<i>Ireland</i>	4 181	441	130	2 756	4 495	3 632	1 137
<i>Greece</i>	1 106	407	52	126	199	2 092	44
<i>Portugal</i>	598	524	246	401	2 217	5 757	88
<i>Spain</i>	5 437	1 206	569	2 424	15 865	8 733	73

16/11/1994

TRADE BALANCES BETWEEN MEMBER STATES
- 1993 -

Values in millions of ECU

16/11/1994

	France	Belg. Luxbg	Nether- lands	Germany	Italy	United Kingdom	Ireland	Denmark	Greece	Portugal	Spain
France	.	-2 978	-3 354	-2 906	-731	2 745	-1 489	-207	1 017	885	2 135
Belg.Luxbg	4 844	.	-3 775	959	1 508	-370	-684	365	496	432	1 388
Netherlands	4 538	2 434	.	9 188	2 702	828	-669	406	991	409	791
Germany	5 683	2 002	-7 068	.	-199	7 746	-1 654	177	1 595	571	3 171
Italy	1 740	-1 580	-3 127	3 642	.	1 872	-549	-257	1 596	1 528	2 010
United Kingdom	-2 259	285	-1 018	-5 471	-995	.	1 031	-705	726	132	1 358
Ireland	1 551	699	686	1 912	566	-489	.	84	127	63	375
Denmark	318	-311	-375	1 807	279	894	-22	.	220	-132	270
Greece	-1 112	-518	-1 063	-1 468	-1 749	-732	-137	-202	.	-29	-388
Portugal	-705	-318	-335	-535	-1 397	-52	-62	122	44	.	-1 774
Spain	-1 528	-936	-1 074	-3 119	-857	-916	-344	-263	276	1 996	.

PRINCIPAL CUSTOMERS OF MEMBER STATES WITHIN INTRA-EUROPEAN UNION TRADE
- 1993 -

Flow : dispatches

16/11/1994

REPORTING COUNTRIES	PARTNER COUNTRIES										
	France	Belg. Luxbg	Nether- lands	Germany	Italy	United Kingdom	Ireland	Denmark	Greece	Portugal	Spain
France	-	13.8%	7.6%	31.0%	15.7%	15.4%	0.7%	1.3%	1.3%	2.5%	10.6%
Belg.Luxbg	26.8%	-	17.9%	28.8%	7.5%	11.4%	0.5%	1.3%	0.8%	1.2%	3.9%
Netherlands	14.4%	17.2%	-	39.3%	7.7%	12.7%	0.8%	2.0%	1.4%	1.2%	3.3%
Germany	24.7%	13.6%	15.4%	-	15.2%	16.1%	0.9%	3.6%	2.0%	2.0%	6.5%
Italy	24.7%	5.6%	5.3%	36.6%	-	12.0%	0.6%	1.4%	3.3%	2.5%	8.1%
United Kingdom	19.0%	11.0%	12.9%	25.0%	9.4%	-	9.8%	2.5%	1.4%	2.1%	6.8%
Ireland	13.4%	5.9%	8.4%	19.4%	5.3%	41.7%	-	1.3%	0.8%	0.6%	3.1%
Denmark	10.2%	3.9%	8.6%	45.7%	7.8%	17.1%	0.8%	-	1.6%	1.0%	3.3%
Greece	11.1%	2.7%	4.5%	42.4%	23.7%	10.2%	0.4%	1.3%	-	0.7%	2.9%
Portugal	20.2%	4.6%	6.9%	26.1%	4.0%	15.0%	0.5%	2.8%	0.7%	-	19.1%
Spain	28.6%	4.6%	5.1%	22.1%	13.8%	12.1%	0.6%	0.9%	1.2%	11.0%	-
















PRINCIPAL SUPPLIERS TO MEMBER STATES WITHIN INTRA-EUROPEAN UNION TRADE
- 1993 -

Flow : arrivals

16/11/1994

REPORTING COUNTRIES	PARTNER COUNTRIES										
	France	Belg. Luxbg	Nether- lands	Germany	Italy	United Kingdom	Ireland	Denmark	Greece	Portugal	Spain
France	-	15.7%	10.2%	32.2%	15.7%	12.5%	2.0%	1.5%	0.4%	1.6%	8.3%
Belg.Luxbg	22.1%	-	24.2%	29.5%	6.0%	12.7%	1.4%	0.8%	0.2%	0.7%	2.3%
Netherlands	12.2%	19.1%	-	38.3%	6.1%	15.6%	2.1%	2.0%	0.3%	1.0%	3.1%
Germany	22.9%	13.4%	21.4%	-	16.5%	12.2%	2.1%	3.8%	1.1%	1.7%	4.9%
Italy	24.6%	8.4%	10.3%	34.9%	-	10.5%	1.4%	1.9%	1.4%	0.6%	6.0%
United-Kingdom	20.1%	9.8%	13.0%	29.3%	9.8%	-	7.9%	3.1%	0.5%	1.8%	4.7%
Ireland	6.2%	2.7%	6.5%	12.0%	2.9%	66.8%	-	1.3%	0.1%	0.4%	1.3%
Denmark	10.1%	6.9%	13.0%	42.4%	7.5%	14.4%	1.2%	-	0.3%	2.1%	2.1%
Greece	13.6%	5.5%	10.9%	27.8%	23.7%	10.0%	1.3%	2.2%	-	0.5%	4.4%
Portugal	18.2%	5.2%	6.8%	20.9%	12.1%	10.3%	0.8%	1.1%	0.2%	-	24.6%
Spain	27.6%	6.1%	6.9%	26.0%	13.6%	12.3%	1.4%	1.4%	0.3%	4.3%	-

**STATISTICAL THRESHOLDS FOR 1995
APPLICABLE FOR THE INTRASTAT DECLARATION**

Member States	Currency	Thresholds			
		Assimilation		Simplification	
		Dispatch	Arrival	Dispatch	Arrival
France (FR) 	FF	250 000	250 000	1 400 000	700 000
Belgium (BE) 	BEC	4 200 000	4 200 000		
Luxembourg (LU) 	LUF	4 200 000	4 200 000	10 000 000	10 000 000
Netherlands (NL) 	HFL	400 000	400 000		
Germany (DE) 	DM	200 000	200 000		
Italy (IT) 	LIT	150 000 000	150 000 000		
United Kingdom (GB) 	UKL	150 000	150 000		
Ireland (IE) 	IRL	500 000	100 000		
Denmark (DK) 	DKR	800 000	500 000		800 000
Greece (GR) 	DRA	11 000 000	7 000 000	26 000 000	25 000 000
Portugal (PT) 	ESC	17 000 000	12 000 000		
Spain (ES) 	PTA	6 000 000	6 000 000	14 000 000	14 000 000
Austria (A) 	OS	1 500 000	1 500 000		
Finland (FIN) 	FMK	650 000	300 000		650 000
Sweden (SW) 	SKR	900 000	900 000		

IDEP-TC INTRASTAT REPORTING USING TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The possibility of transmitting INTRASTAT returns via telecommunications networks was anticipated as early as the initial planning for EDICOM (at that time still under the name of COMEDI). The March 1992 action plan divided EDICOM into two phases:

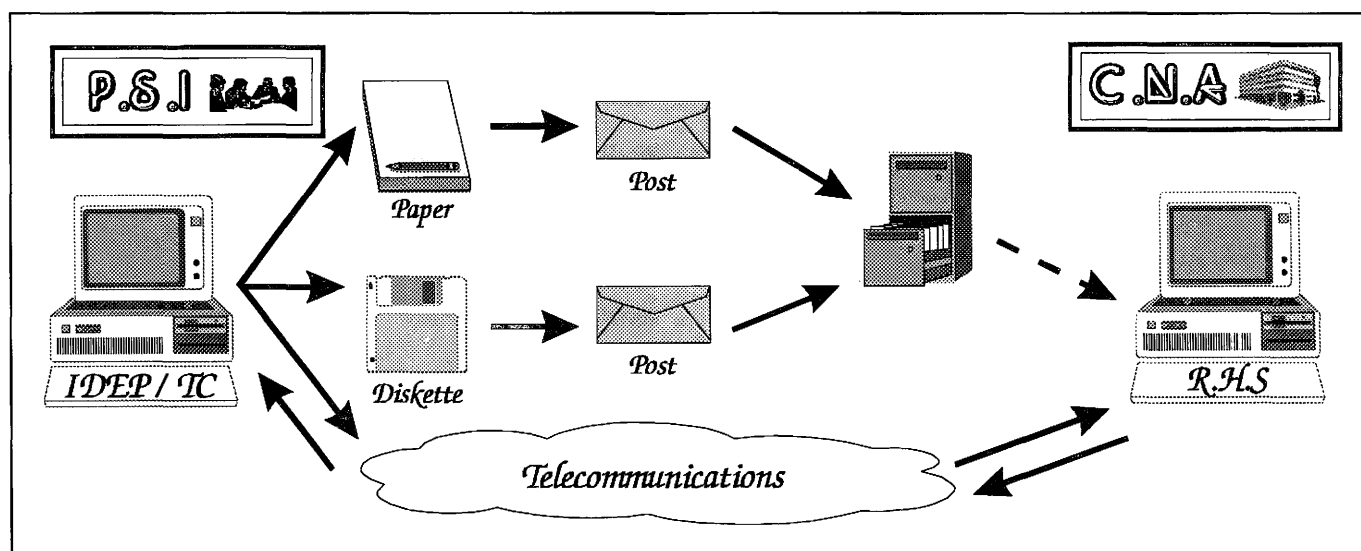
1. the creation of an operational INTRASTAT recording system by 1993, and then
2. improving and developing this system.

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBILITIES CURRENTLY OFFERED BY TELECOMMUNICATIONS?

Sending the INTRASTAT returns on diskette or as a print-out is a very roundabout method. The data first have to be transferred to diskette or printed out, then posted and finally reloaded or

- for the CNA's point of view, the data are directly available in the right form, i.e. in electronic format, and on its computer;

- the exchange of data from computer to computer opens up interesting prospects for the future: for example, other data too could be transmitted via telecommunications, and the CNAs, in return, could likewise download statistical information to the PSIs.



The use of telecommunications was assigned to phase 2.

IDEP PHASE 1

The IDEP software package was developed and, from 1993, made available to the providers of statistical information (PSIs). Since then the program has been constantly improved and adjusted according to national requirements. IDEP enables PSIs to record INTRASTAT returns on PC. Every month the returns are transferred to diskette or printed out on paper and then sent to the competent national authorities (CNAs). This procedure is aimed at making it as simple as possible for PSIs to process the INTRASTAT returns.

re-entered.

Using telecommunications, data can be exchanged electronically from one computer directly to another. In the case in question, this means that the PC of the PSI sends the recorded INTRASTAT returns directly to the computer of the CNA. This offers the following advantages, inter alia:

- those required to provide statistical information no longer have to transfer the information to diskette or print it out, pack it in an envelope and post it;
- the returns pass from the PSI to the CNA at the touch of a button;
- the transmission of data is substantially quicker;

WHAT HAS TAKEN PLACE TO DATE?

IDEP version 2.2 was completed in June 1994. As it comprises a telecommunications module, the program name was expanded to IDEP-TC. At the same time, a CNA program for accepting and confirming the returns sent via IDEP-TC emerged in prototype form, known as RHS (return handling system). With the two applications available to enable both parties to exchange data via a telecommunications link, the tests could begin.

Several Member States (MSs) had offered to take an active part in the pilot

tests. The series began on 27 June 1994 at STATEC in Luxembourg. A few days later, tests began at INS in Brussels, where the whole infrastructure is currently being adapted to future telecommunications requirements. Danmarks Statistik in Copenhagen followed on 24 August 1994.

The pilot tests ran successfully, in that it was possible to use the electronic medium to transfer INTRASTAT returns which the RHS was able to confirm as positive or, for test purposes, negative. A few further inconsistencies were removed in these tests, so that IDEP-TC can now be considered stable.

HOW DOES IDEP-TC OPERATE?

IDEP-TC is loaded onto a PC which must have access to a data-

transmission network. At the most basic level, this would be the telephone network, to which the PC is connected via a modem. Other possibilities include connection to an ISDN or X.25 network.

The TC module in IDEP-TC offers the above connection options. When IDEP-TC is installed, the software is set up accordingly; further operations for IDEP-TC users are perfectly transparent.

A few technical details: data transmission is either via a dial-up connection, an X.400 network or a value-added network (VAN). The TC module used is STATEL, a protocol independent data transmission program developed by Eurostat. Further details on these terms are in the glossary.

yet to be determined. Version 3 of IDEP, which is to be supplied by 1995, will then incorporate the fully tested TC module, which will be available to PSIs on request.

The next stage is the development of the final version of the RHS with CNAs. This will require further more detailed discussions and specifications. As soon as a CNA begins to operate a RHS, pilot tests can take place at national level with an initially small group of PSIs. Once these tests have been successfully completed, the project «INTRASTAT reporting using telecommunications» can be launched nationally.

THE NEXT STAGES

Further pilot tests are planned for 1994, the timetables of which have

G L O S S A R Y

BBS: Bulletin Board System: system for electronic conferencing

CCITT: Comité Consultatif International Télégraphique et Téléphonique

CN8: Combined Nomenclature in 8 digits

CNA: Competent National Authority: a Member State's institution responsible for collecting INTRASTAT returns

DIAL-UP: A computer user or program links up with another computer via a modem and telephone line and carries out commands there, e.g. to transmit data

E-Mail: Electronic mail

EDI: Electronic Data Interchange

EDICOM: EDI for COMmerce: INTRASTAT-related project aimed at incorporating electronic media in the INTRASTAT system

EDIFACT: EDI for Administration, Commerce and Transport

Eurostat: Statistical Office of the European Union

IDEP: INTRASTAT Data Entry Package: a PC

program developed under EDICOM for recording INTRASTAT returns

INTRASTAT: Statistical system for recording intra-Community trade

ISDN: Integrated Services Digital Network

MS: Member State: Member State of the European Union

PSI: Provider of Statistical Information: party required to provide statistical information under the INTRASTAT system

RHS: Return Handling System: CNA software system which receives INTRASTAT returns transmitted using telecommunications

STATEL: STATistics TELEcommunications: protocol independent data transmission software developed by Eurostat

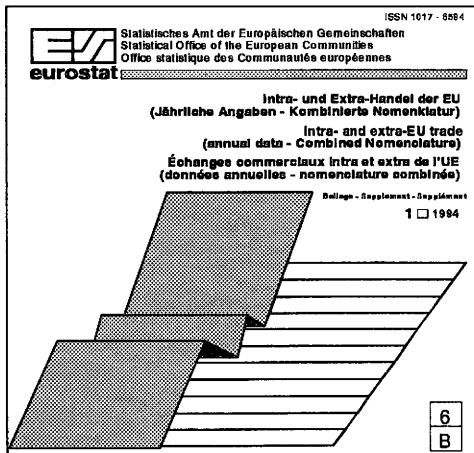
TC: Abbreviation for TeleCommunication

VAN: Value Added Network: supplier of telecommunication services such as E-Mail or BBS

X.25: CCITT standard for data transmission

X.400: CCITT standard for electronic mail (E-mail)

EUROSTATS' CD-ROM «INTRA AND EXTRA-EU-TRADE - SUPPLEMENT»



Recently Eurostat published its periodical supplement of the Comext CD-ROM with trade statistics. This «electronic publication» contains detailed and aggregated yearly figures of the 12 Member States and of the European Union from 1988 up to 1993 and the quarterly results during 1993. In the underlying article we will give you some impressions on the contents of this CD-ROM. We will guide you through the package by using the actual Windows user-interface, that is delivered on the same disk (the data base runs also under DOS).

Before use the user has to install the retrieval software delivered on the CD-ROM on his hard-disk. After this installation he may open the application by double clicking on the WCOMEXTP-icon.



In the main menu the user can choose various options like language definition (French, German and English), consultation of manuals and methodological notes, approach of the goods nomenclatures (Combined Nomenclature, SITC, NACE etc.). We, however, suppose for the moment that he wants to consult the trade figures.

The first step is to make a selection of the data to retrieve: 4 entries have to be defined (see the left side of the picture):

- the reporting countries (the individual Member States and the total of the EU)
- the partner countries (about 200 countries)
- the goods codes (about 10000 positions of the Combined Nomenclature)
- the statistical periods (in this case the 5 years plus the four quarters of 1993; for intra-EU trade the figures for 1993 are not supplied, because of the fact that they are still under revision in some countries).

Periode	Products
88-92	
89-92	
90-92	
91-92	
92-92	

Reporting countries	Partner countries
002 60-94	030 65-94
003 60-94	032 65-94
004 60-94	038 65-94
005 60-94	
006 73-94	
007 73-94	
008 73-94	
009 81-94	
010 86-94	

Columns : Partner countries

Rows : Reporting countries

Stat. procedure: SP4 SP1 SP3 SP5 SP6

Flow: Import Export Balance

Units: 1000 ECU Metric Tons Supplementary units

Buttons: Display table, Transfer

The selections can easily be made by mouse-handling in the appropriate tables. One may choose parts of each lists or complete tables. The selection of the

goods categories looks rather complicated but by using one of the search methods the user can define his selection within a very short time.

Products selected	Full sequential
	73 88-94 ARTICLES OF IRON OR
	7301 88-94 SHEET PILING OF IRO
	730110 88-94 SHEET PILING OF IRO
	73011000 88-94 SHEET PILING OF IRO
	730120 88-94 ANGLES, SHAPES AND
	73012000 88-94 ANGLES, SHAPES AND
	7302 88-94 RAILWAY OR TRAMWAY
	730210 88-94 RAILS OF IRON OR ST
	73021010 88-94 CURRENT-CONDUCTIN
	73023000 88-94 SWITCH BLADES, CRC
	730240 88-94 FISH-PLATES AND SOL
	73024010 88-94 FISH-PLATES AND SOL

730210.88-94
RAILS OF IRON OR STEEL, FOR RAILWAY OR TRAMWAY TRACK (EXCL. CHECK-RAILS)

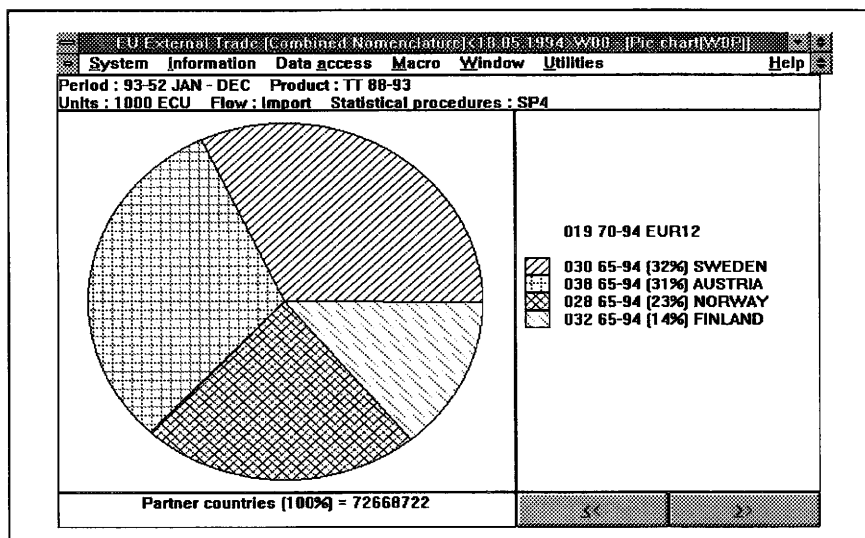
Code 73

Buttons: Aggregate, Select

EU External Trade (Combined Nomenclature) 1994 W00 [Table(W06)]				
System Information Data access Macro Window Utilities Help				
Period : 93-92 JAN - DEC Product : TT 88-93				
Units : 1000 ECU				
Flow : Import Statistical procedures : SP4				
Partner countries	NORWAY	SWEDEN	FINLAND	AUSTRIA
Reporting countries	028 65-94	030 65-94	032 65-94	038 65-94
001 60-94 FRANCE	1742649	2413611	1130760	1597696
002 60-94 BELG-LUX	694429	2112160	485667	637018
003 60-94 NETHERL	1793975	2129062	1040141	938537
004 60-94 GERMANY	4666360	6335376	2877915	13697577
005 60-94 ITALY	655275	1545290	756840	2790822
006 73-94 USD. KING	5095772	4431027	2275524	1198888
007 73-94 IRELAND	276925	230023	76285	71939
008 73-94 DENMARK	1482294	2769285	706649	301430
009 81-94 GREECE	67262	237576	118004	198275
010 86-94 PORTUGAL	285627	249202	132580	171257
011 86-94 SPAIN	252809	758360	554021	686540
019 70-94 EUR12	17013377	23210972	10154394	22289979

The following action is the definition of the «dimensions» (rows and columns, flows and units) of the output-tables. In the picture of the data-selection you can find these data in the right part. By clicking the Display table box one may start the data retrieval. After some time (the length depending on the extension of the selection and the used hardware-configuration) the figures are displayed on the screen.

The data in the table may further be «manipulated» by actions like sorting, calculation of totals or ratios. A useful instrument for the analysis of the data is furthermore the graphical presentation of selected data. One may choose between pie, bar or Lorenz-curve display.



Save data to disk

Format:
 ASCII
 LOTUS
 DIF
 ASCII delimited
 DBASE
 SDF

Convert:
 Windows DOS

Stat. procedure:
 SP4 SP1
 SP3 SP5
 SP6

Columns:
Reporting countries

Rows:
Products

Null lines:
 Yes No

Footnotes:
 Nomenclature
 Confidentiality

Flow:
 Import Export
 Balance

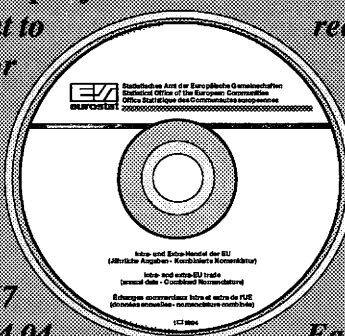
Units:
 1000 ECU
 Metric Tons
 Supplementary units

OK Abort

All tables and graphics can also be printed. If you want to use the selected data in other applications (for instance desktop publishing) you can save the data on the hard disk. The formats provided offer you several possibilities for further processing.

If you are interested you may order a specific described supplement). In case you want to mended to take a subscription for very. For more detailed information

Eurostat Information Office
Jean Monnet Building
L-2920 Luxembourg
Tel: (352) 43 01 34 567
Fax: (352) 43 64 04



COMEXT CD-ROM (like the above de-receive regular updates, it is recom-monthly, yearly or quarterly deli-please contact:

Eurostat Datashop
Rue de la Loi 120
B-1049 Brussels
Tel: (322) 299 99 99
Fax: (322) 295 01 25

«EDICOM» TOOLS AND INSTRUMENTS IN 1994

MEMBER STATE CONTRACTS

A substantial part (about 50%) of the Edicom funds for 1994 is designated to actions carried out by and under direct responsibility of the Member States. For that purpose the responsible national administrations designed each an action plan for 1994. As the first priority most Member States have chosen the promotion and further dissemination of the Intrastat data-entry software. Second priority appeared to be the «updating» and «upgrading» of the existing processing systems. Actions in the sphere of general promotion of the usage of EDI and in particular telecommunication scored also high on the priority lists. Of course the priorities vary according to the individual countries.

The allocation of funds will be regulated via contracts between Eurostat and each individual competent Member State administration. The administration of these contracts is complete.

IDEP/CN8 SOFTWARE: RELEASE REPORT

In the course of 1994 several intermediate versions of the IDEP/CN8 software were put at the disposal of the Member States. The main release, determined for dissemination to the company users, was 2.0 and its sub-releases. Sub-versions were inserted for corrective maintenance and enhancements on basis of specific national requirements. In September a version (number 2.2) became available, incorporating the LAN (local area network) functionality and the option of sending returns via telecommunication.

This Newsletter contains some articles in which special attention is given to specific Edicom subjects: the Council Decision of 11 July 1994, the telecom-application in the IDEP/CN8-software and the Comext CD-ROM. The following paragraphs outline the more general «state of work».

The 1995 production version (3.0) will contain several functional improvements proposed by the Member States. The general user interface does however not change fundamentally. More or less important modifications are inter alia:

- the package will support a number of additional printers;
- search functions are added in user lists;
- lists and data of returns may be copied for other PSIs or other returns;
- usage of foreign currency values is made simpler;
- choice of option of own goods codes is eased.

The 1995 version of the **Combined Nomenclature** forms an essential element in version 3.0. Eurostat met some problems as far as concerns the imputation into the package of the nomenclature in the official languages of the Community. The number of changes is relatively high because of the fact that for customs purposes the results of the completion of the GATT-agreement had to be incorporated. On the other hand a delay occurred in the decision procedure of the Council with regard to these changes. Exceptional circumstances reserved, Eurostat expects still to be able to send to all Member States the final version in the course of November 1994.

IDEP/CN8 SOFTWARE: DISSEMINATION TO THE BUSINESSES

The dissemination of the IDEP/CN8 software within the countries of the

Union is steadily growing. In Denmark and Luxembourg, the first countries with an extended distribution, a rather stable, but slightly increasing, group of users (respectively 2500 and 1250 companies) compiles the Intrastat returns with the aid of the package. Steadily growing usage can be observed in Belgium (1000), Ireland (300) and Greece (800). In France the wide distribution started recently. Several commercial service companies distribute nowadays the software and offer services to the companies, like training, help desk support and development of interfaces with existing systems. Italy is intensively testing the telecommunication version and hopes to start the dissemination of this version within a short time. Germany has sent out for field testing by (samples of) companies both the IDEP-package and the IRIS-package (developed by Statistics Netherlands). Spain and Portugal organised until now only small scale distribution for testing purposes.

Now that the earlier mentioned Member States' contracts have been signed and once the awareness actions have been undertaken, one may expect a substantial increase (more than threefold) of the number of effective users within the Union. Furthermore the prospective Member States also showed interest in the software.

EDIFACT MESSAGE DEVELOPMENT

Pursuing further national application tests of the usage of telecommunication for Intrastat returns, it appeared to

be necessary to change the specifications of the EDIFACT message CUSDEC/INSTAT (the electronic equivalent of the Intrastat paper form). In 1994 a new version of the user manual of this standard was issued by Eurostat under directory 92.1.

A next action was the development of a so-called «response message», that may be sent to the sender of an Intrastat return as acknowledgement of receipt. This message was completed CUSRES/INSRES was named.

Several Member States exploit systems of periodics direct statistical reporting for the trade with the third countries. Therefore it seemed adequate to develop an electronic message standard for this kind of reporting. A first draft version of the message EXSTAT could be finalised. Eurostat wants to examine to what extent

the specifications meet the requirements of the Member States not involved in the development.

The security aspects related to the exchange of Intrastat data via telecommunication, was given further attention. Several levels of security and various methods are still under study.

PROMOTION AND DISTRIBUTION

The project Promotion and distribution provided several useful results: firstly a strategic report on the distribution and promotion of EDI within the Intrastat environment. The concrete elaboration of the national action plans concerning promotion and distribution for all Member States formed another

deliverable. Furthermore a set of brochures was designed as well as training material for training sessions on the IDEP/CN8-software, the last comprising a self ins-structive guide for the usage of the package.

COMEXT DATA BASE AND CD-ROM

The activities related to further extension and improvement of the functionality of the COMEXT data base and the CD-ROM gradually continued throughout 1994. A first release of a transportable data-base application for PCs could be completed.



COUNCIL DECISION «EDICOM»

On 11 July 1994 the Council adopted the «Decision on inter-administration telematic networks for statistics relating to the trading of goods between Member States (Edicom)». The full text of this Decision is given in this Newsletter. Versions in the official languages of the Union are also published in the Official Journal of the European Communities, no L 183 of 19.7.94.

The Considerations of the Decision put emphasis on the objective of easing the burden of the parties concerned in the Intrastat system and in particular of the small and medium-sized businesses. At the same time accentuation is laid on the need for improving the circulation of statistical information. Furthermore attention is required for the need for harmonized standards and statistics, the support of the implementation of Trans-European information networks and the necessity of effective elaboration of the actions at Community level in collaboration with the Member States.

▪ **Article 1** gives a definition of Edicom and the head structure under which it will operate: in particular the use of Electronic Data Interchange.

▪ **Article 2** sets the working period at 5 years from 11 July 1994.

▪ **Articles 3 and 4** deal with a more precise description of the measures to be taken; actions include design, development and promotion of technologies, standards and tools.

▪ **Articles 5, 6 and 7** elaborate the decision procedure concerning the set of measures to be taken; an important role is given to two Committees: the Committee on the Statistical Programme and the Committee on statistics relating to the trading of goods between Member States.

▪ **Article 8** deals with the (procedures for the) determination of the necessary Community funds: for 1994 and 1995 an amount of ECU 20 million is attributed (an indicative break-down is annexed).

▪ **Article 9** imposes the submission on an interim report before 11 July 1996, this report will form the basis for the decisions on the measures to follow.

▪ **Article 10** states that the Decision is addressed to the Member States.



COUNCIL DECISION of 11 July 1994

on inter-administration telematic networks for statistics relating to the trading of goods between Member States (Edicom) / (94/445/EC)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 235 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission (1),

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament (2),

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee (3),

Whereas completing the internal market depends on the elimination of physical frontiers between Member States; whereas a satisfactory level of information on the trading of goods between Member States must therefore be ensured by means other than those involving, checks, even indirect ones, at internal frontiers;

Whereas it will consequently be necessary to collect directly from consignors and consignees the data necessary to compile statistics relating to the trading of goods between Member States, using methods and techniques which will ensure that they are exhaustive, reliable and up-to-date, without giving rise for the parties concerned, in particular for small and medium-sized businesses, to a burden out of proportion to the results which users of the said statistics can reasonably expect;

Whereas Council Regulation (EEC) No 3330/91 of 7 November 1991 on the statistics relating to the trading of goods between Member States (4) provides that the conditions should be created for increased use of automatic data processing and electronic data

transmission for the purpose of facilitating the task of the parties responsible for providing information;

Whereas it is necessary to ease the burden which statistical returns place on businesses, while at the same time improving the circulation of statistical information with a view to the creation of the European information market;

Whereas an essential objective of the future Council Decision adopting a multiannual Community programme to support the implementation of trans-European information networks for the interchange of data between administrations (IDA) is to carry out feasibility studies, including validation schemes; whereas that Decision should be supplemented by measures of an operational character, particularly in the statistical sphere;

Whereas the compilation of harmonized statistics, in particular with a link between statistics on trade and other economic statistics, should be ensured in order to contribute to market transparency and to the evaluation of the competitiveness of businesses;

Whereas the promotion of the use of harmonized standards and concepts at European level will ultimately lead to the elimination of duplication and to economies of scale, while facilitating the emergence of new services in the field of statistical telematics;

Whereas standardization carried out at international level in the sphere of electronic data interchange (EDI) contributes to facilitating international trade and to simplifying relations between undertakings and administrative authorities;

Whereas the establishment of common statistical standards for the production of harmonized information is an activity which can be carried out effectively only at Community level, in collaboration

with the Member States; whereas such standards will be implemented in each Member State under the authority of the bodies and institutions responsible for the compilation and dissemination of official statistics;

Whereas the Treaty does not provide for powers other than those in Article 235 for the adoption of this Decision,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

A set of measures, hereinafter referred to as «Edicom» (Electronic Data Interchange on Commerce), shall be implemented to facilitate 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 shall be based on distributed information systems at regional, national and Community levels, the interoperability of which shall be guaranteed by the development and use of harmonized standards and communication procedures.

These systems shall be based in particular on the use of electronic data interchange (EDI) for the transmission of statistical returns. Computerized procedures may 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.

These systems shall be developed in a way which takes account of the requirements associated with compiling statistics on internal trade.

(1) OJ No C 105, 16. 4. 1993, p. 10.

(2) OJ No C 315, 21. 11. 1993, p. 133. Opinion delivered on 5 May 1994 (not yet published in the Official Journal).

(3) OJ No C 249, 13. 9. 1993, p. 8.

(4) OJ No L 316, 16. 11. 1991, p. 1.

Article 2

1. Edicom shall run for five years from 11 July 1994.

2. The Commission shall, in the framework of the interim report referred to in the first indent of Article 9, and on the basis of a report by experts, evaluate the application of Edicom and, if appropriate, propose amendments to this Decision.

Article 3

Measures shall be undertaken only where a clear need for Community action has been established, in accordance with the principle of subsidiary and the principles set out in Article 8 (3). Edicom may, by agreement with the competent authorities to the Member States and bearing in mind the preferential use of existing technologies and products, comprise in particular:

- the design, development and promotion of software for the collection, validation and transmission of statistical information, and assistance to Member States in making that software available to businesses,

- the design, development and promotion of software for the acceptance, validation, processing and dissemination of data, providing assistance for, and making that software available to the regional, national and Community bodies responsible for collecting statistical information, and where necessary the upgrading of equipment,

- the design, development and promotion of formats for the exchange of information, on the basis of European and international standards, and making them available,

- the design, documentation and promotion of the methods, procedures and agreements to be used in the exchange of information,

- making software and services suppliers aware of the requirements of national and Community statistics.

Article 4

In implementing the measures, the following general aims shall be taken into account:

- 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,

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

- 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.

Article 5

1. 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 (1), 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 the first indent of this point, in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 7.

2. The Commission shall keep the Committee to be set up under the future Council Decision adopting a multiannual

Community programmer to support the implementation of trans-European information networks for the interchange of data between administrations (IDA) regularly informed of the progress of the measures.

Article 6

1. The representative of the Commission shall submit to the Committee a draft of the measures to be taken. The Committee shall deliver its opinion on the draft within a time limit which the chairman may lay down according to the urgency of the matter. The opinion shall be delivered by the majority laid down in Article 148 (2) of the Treaty in the case of decisions which the Council is required to adopt on a proposal from the Commission. The votes of the representatives of the Member States within the Committee shall be weighted in the manner set out in that Article. The chairman shall not vote.

2. (a) The Commission shall adopt the measures envisaged if they are in accordance with the opinion of the Committee.

(b) If the measures are not in accordance with the opinion of the Committee, or if no opinion is delivered, the Commission shall, without delay, submit to the Council a proposal relating to the measures to be taken. The Council shall act by a qualified majority.

If, on the expiry of a period of three months from the date of referral to the Council, the Council has not acted, the proposed measures shall be adopted by the Commission.

Article 7

The Commission representative shall submit to the Committee a draft of the measures to be taken. The Committee shall deliver its opinion on the draft within a time limit which the chairman may lay down according to the urgency of the matter, if necessary by taking a vote.

(1) OJ No L 181, 23. 6. 1989, p. 47.

The opinion shall be recorded in the minutes; each Member State shall have the right to ask to have its position recorded in the minutes.

The Commission shall take the utmost account of the opinion delivered by the Committee. It shall inform the Committee of the manner in which its opinion has been taken into account.

Article 8

1. The amount of Community funds estimated as necessary for the implementation of Edicom shall be ECU 20 million for 1994 and 1995. An indicative breakdown of these funds is shown in the Annex.

The funds estimated as necessary for 1996, 1997 and 1998 shall be adopted by the Council on the basis of the Commission's interim assessment report and proposals as referred to in Article 2 (2).

2. The budgetary authority shall determine the appropriations available for each financial year, with due regard for the principles of sound management referred to in Article 2 of the Financial Regulation of 21 December 1977 applicable to the general budget of the European Communities (1).

3. Any expenditure shall guarantee value for money by ensuring that the benefits are in keeping with the resources deployed.

Article 9

The Commission shall submit to the European Parliament and the Council:

- before 11 July 1996, an interim report on the process of Edicom,

- on the conclusion of Edicom, a report on its implementation together, where appropriate, with proposals for further measures.

Article 10

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 11 July 1994.

For the Council

The President

Th. WAIGEL

(1) OJ No L 356, 31. 12. 1977, p. 1. Financial Regulation last amended by Regulation (Euratom, ECSC, EEC) No 610/90 (OJ No L 70, 16. 3. 1990, p. 1).

ANNEX

Indicative breakdown of Edicom for 1994 and 1995

(in ECU millions)

Breakdown	1994 and 1995
I. Implementation of the telematic network	10,2
II. Opening up access to the telematic network to parties responsible for providing statistical information	3,7
III. Adapting the national and Community systems	1,9
IV. International harmonization work	1,3
V. Promotion, training, back-up, supervision, coordination	2,9
Total	20

IN BRIEF

STATISTICS ON TRADE WITH NON MEMBER STATES

The proposal of the regulation on trade statistics with third countries, which is aimed at replacing the current basic regulation adopted in 1975, has been the subject of a thorough examination at the Council. The formal adoption of this regulation should be reached during the first half of 1995.

At the same time, at the level of the Committee on the Statistics relating to the Trading of Goods between Member States, the proposal for a Commission Implementing Regulation laying down the rules for compiling these statistics is progressing satisfactorily and will be subjected to a final examination at the meeting in November 1994.

THE NOMENCLATURE OF PRODUCTS

The integration of subdivisions of tariff nature linked to the application of the GATT agreements, which have been the subject of communication

in the OJs series L n°280 and series C n°303 of 29/10/94, has led to a delay in the publication of the CN 95.

This delay will have a negative repercussion on the timing of the availability of the Intrastat nomenclature and the distribution of the IDEP software. Thus the master copies of the Intrastat nomenclature on data file and on paper will not be available in all languages before the beginning of December and the finalising of the IDEP software will only be able to take place ten or fifteen days after the nomenclature becomes available.

THE NOMENCLATURE OF COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

The nomenclature of countries and territories, applicable as from 1 January 1995, has been adopted by the Committee on External Trade Statistics and will soon be published in the Official Journal of the European Communities (serie L).

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR 1995

① *Committee on External Trade Statistics / Committee on the statistics relating to the trading of goods between Member states*

- from 06.02.1995 to 09.02.1995
- from 24.04.1995 to 25.04.1995
- from 17.10.1995 to 20.10.1995
- from 18.12.1995 to 21.12.1995

② *Customs Code Committee - nomenclature (Luxembourg)*

- from 17.01.1995 to 20.01.1995
- from 28.02.1995 to 03.03.1995
- from 02.05.1995 to 05.05.1995
- from 13.06.1995 to 16.06.1995
- from 25.09.1995 to 28.09.1995
- from 21.11.1995 to 24.11.1995

③ *EDICOM*

- 13.03.1995
- 01.06.1995
- 06.11.1995





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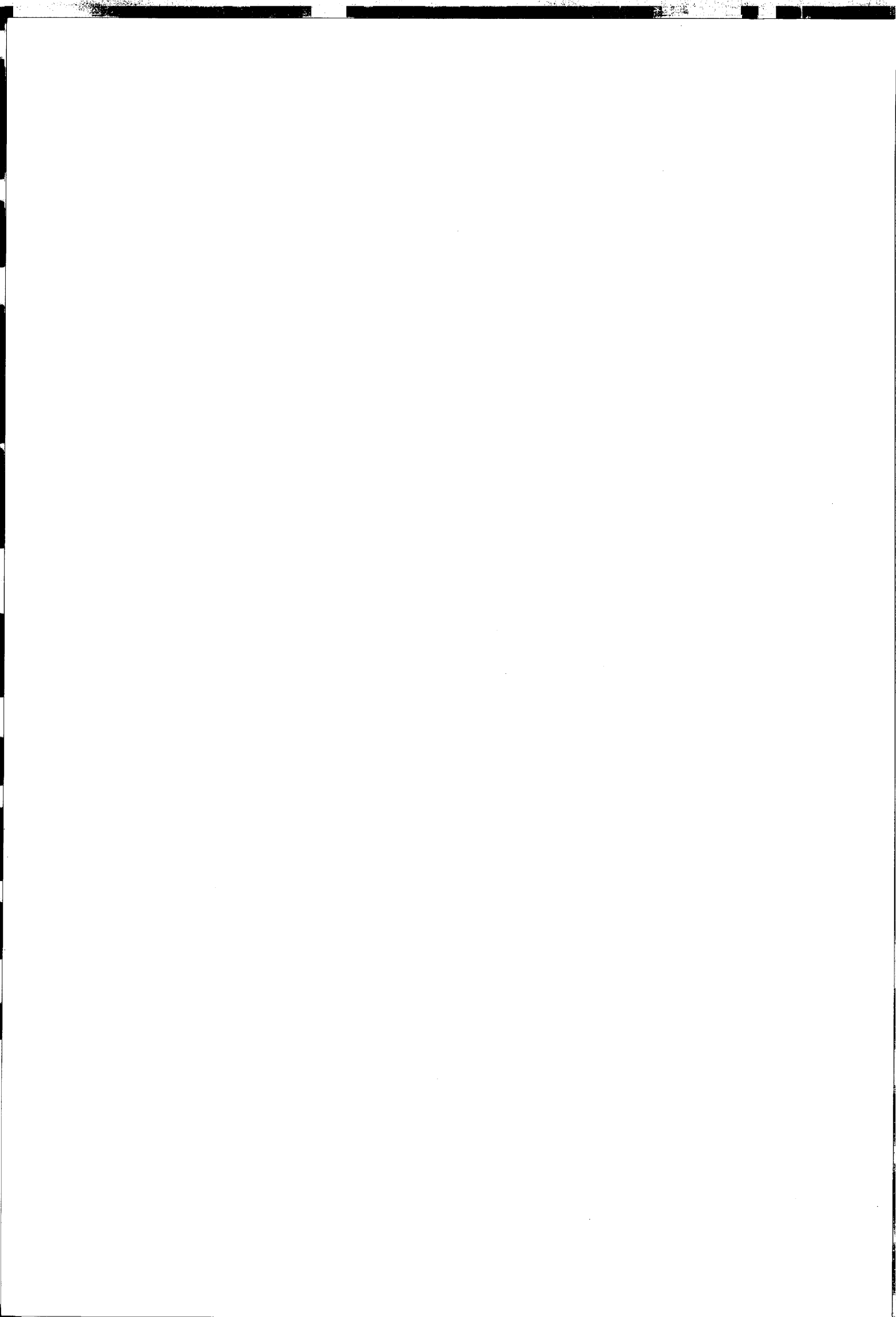
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