

Paris, drafted: 14th September 1987

TD/87.316

dist: 17th Sept. 1987

Or. Engl.

WORKING PARTY OF THE TRADE COMMITTEE

STATISTICS ON TRADE IN SERVICES

Ad-hoc meeting of balance-of-payments experts
on trade in services on 13th October 1987

(Note by the Secretariat)

1. At its meeting of 8th July, 1987, the Working Party decided to convene an ad-hoc meeting to discuss issues of definition and classification of services, on the basis of the Secretariat document "Standardising Member Countries' Balance of Payments Statistics on Trade in Services" [TC/WP(87)17(1st Revision)] (1).

2. In preparing for this meeting, and to enable the Secretariat to improve its contribution for the UN ad-hoc meeting in November 1987 on services statistics, Experts may find it useful to focus on the attached questions, which aim to identify the main issues. The Secretariat would also welcome responses in writing prior to the meeting, if Delegations are in a position to do this.

1. TC/WP(87)76, para.18.

Questionnaire relating to the document
"Standardising Member Countries' Balance of
 Payments Statistics on Trade in Services"
 [TC/WP(87)17(1st Revision)]

PART I: The general definition of services and of trade in services

1. Do you agree with the general definition of services set out in para. 6?
2. If you do not agree with the services definition in para. 6, what alternative definition do you propose?
3. Do you agree with the definition of trade in services presented in paras. 8 to 10?
4. If you do not agree with the definition of trade in services presented in paras. 8 to 10, what alternative do you prefer?
5. Do you agree with the analytical classification of services set out in para. 11?
6. If you do not agree with the analytical classification of services set out in para. 11, what alternative do you propose?

PART II: Delimitation of services

7. Do you agree with the proposal to record merchanting as a services category (para. 14)?
8. Should processing and repair be treated as separate categories?
9. Which of the three methods of recording processing and repair described in para. 16 do you prefer?

10. If none of the methods of recording processing and repair described in para. 16 is satisfactory to you, what alternative do you propose?
11. Do you agree with the distinction between constructions and construction services (para. 17)?
12. If you are in favour of a distinction between constructions and construction services, do you agree with the recording of constructions set out in para. 17?
13. If you are in favour of a distinction between constructions and construction services which delimitation between the two do you prefer?
14. Do you agree with the proposal that construction services should include architectural and engineering services (para. 18)?
15. Do you agree with the idea that services should be distinguished from factor income?
16. Do you agree with the definition of factor income as opposed to services which is set out in para. 19?
17. If you do not agree with the definition of factor income set out in para. 19, what alternative do you propose?
18. Do you agree with excluding income from property other than financial assets (para. 22) from services?
19. Do you agree with excluding revenue of self-employed from services (para. 23)?
20. Do you agree with the breakdown of leasing into the three components described in para. 24?

21. Do you agree with the recording of the three components of leasing suggested in para. 24?
22. Do you agree with the suggestion to treat capital gains and losses of professional dealers as services fees (para. 26)?

PART III: A possible classification of services

23. Do you agree with the view that present data constraints should not be a major factor in devising a new services classification?
24. Do you agree with the principle that a new services classification should be linked to the services part of CPC, as shown in the OECD document "The UN Central Product Classification (with special reference to services categories)" (TC/WP(87)59)?
25. Should there be a strict correspondence between the services classification and CPC (e.g. should services categories correspond to CPC Divisions) or could the correspondence be more flexible, with correspondences at different levels (e.g. a two-digit services item corresponding to a four-digit CPC Class)?
26. Should the two traditional balance-of-payments categories that are not defined by the nature of products but by the quality of consumers and that, hence, do not fit into the CPC system - travel and government services - be maintained?
27. Do you agree with the structure of the classification suggested in Appendix II (i.e. breakdown of total services into Categories 1 to 9)?
28. If you disagree with the main structure of the classification suggested in Appendix II, what alternative do you propose?
29. Do you agree with the proposed breakdown of Category 1 (Transportation)?

30. Do you agree with the composition of Category 2 (Goods-related services)?
31. Do you agree with the view that insurance and financial services should form separable categories?
32. Should the category "Insurance" cover all premiums and claims (EUROSTAT proposes to record only imputed insurance services as services, while premiums and claims are included with transfers)?
33. Do you agree with the breakdown of Category 3 (Insurance services)?
34. Do you agree with the breakdown of Category 4 - Financial services (EUROSTAT provides for a breakdown on an institutional basis)?
35. Do you agree with the composition of Category 5 (Communications)?
36. Do you agree with the breakdown of Category 6 (Business services)?
37. Do you agree with the composition of Category 7 - Personal services (EUROSTAT does not include educational and health/social services)?
38. Do you agree with the breakdown of Category 8 (Travel)?
39. Do you agree with the composition of Category 9 (Governmental services)?
40. Should there be an additional category "Other miscellaneous services"?