

Harmonisation of Intrastat concepts and definitions as a precondition for Intrastat Simplification

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The harmonisation of methodology and data comparability is a precondition for further simplification of Intrastat.

The Czech Republic promotes the harmonisation not only of the obligatory indicators sent to Eurostat by Member States, but also of the indicators for other administrations (e. g. ECB, national banks, national accounts etc.).

The harmonisation of Intrastat concepts and definitions concerning estimation methods, data exchange between NSIs on trade transaction level, further harmonization of work on confidentiality or analysis of ways how to make obligatory for the PSIs on the dispatch side to furnish CN codes to the partner trader on the arrival side could help to reduce the asymmetries in mirror trade flows including further.

There are some general reasons for asymmetries that can hardly be changed, e. g. time gap, fraudulent VAT declarations, different ways of defining the value of goods, warehouses trading, differences between national and Community concept. On the other hand, some methods can be harmonised, especially adjustments, confidentiality, thresholds could be applied in the same way throughout EU, PSI's data and VIES data should be made available to international teams working on reduction of asymmetries, choice of the partner country should be harmonised and brought into line with EU-methodology, the use of simplified codes in chapter 99 should be strictly regulated by Eurostat etc.

The trade between the Member States becomes more and more complex. The goods move among several Member States and it is not reduced to a movement only between two Member States. The Czech Republic support therefore the recommendation of Eurostat, that countries should periodically conduct bilateral and multilateral reconciliation studies or implement data exchanges to reduce asymmetries between Member States.

More over it is important to guarantee satisfactory quality of statistical data while simplifying the Intrastat system.