

Intrastat simplification: why not to embrace the single flow

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Starting 2007, Intrastat survey has been looked at by the European Commission as one of the statistical fields where to impose a drastic simplification, cause it was considered as imposing a huge burden on enterprises, specifically micro and small ones. Eurostat, together with the Member States, took on board this task and made an in depth analysis of possible simplification's methods. The *Single Flow* and *Changing the exclusion thresholds* have been the two selected alternatives.

This paper presents what has been the Italian position.

After a short digression on the political background, the results of a small survey on Intrastat respondents will be presented. Hence, the two methods will be analysed, showing both the impact on data quality and on enterprises' burden release, in terms of exempted respondents, at national and European level.

To support the argument, simulations on ISTAT and Eurostat data will be used.

The conclusion being that the *Single flow* solution still presents to many problematic aspects, and the chosen option of making the exclusion thresholds higher is, for the time being, the most reasonable one.