

COMESA Activities in the Field of International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS)

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COMESA Activities in the Field of IMTS



Agenda:

- Country Technical Assistance and Training
- Reconciliation of Trade Statistics in COMESA
 - o COMESA-EU Mirror Study Dec 2006
 - o Round Table Reconciliation Meeting for EAC Nov 2006
 - Survey of Major Mining Companies in Zambia June 2006
 - O National Reconciliation Workshops 2007
- Data Quality Metrics for IMTS in COMESA 2008
- National Consultancies on CPCs
- Data Dissemination



1. Technical Assistance and Training

- > Provided to countries reporting problems
- > Technical assistance normally in use of Eurotrace
- ➤ Via mail/phone or mission
- > Trouble-shooting and re-fresher training
- ➤ No traditional training workshops for 2007 wp!
- ➤ In 2007, missions mounted to ZW, MW, ET, KE, SZ, EG, SD, DJ and KM

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2. Reconciliation of Trade Statistics

- Generally trade between two countries, A and B, should be a mirror image of each other.
- ➤ In practice however, disparities exist between bilateral merchandise trade flows published by two countries.
- Need for reconciliation studies to identify, explain and assess the causes, in the short term
- > Harmonisation of conceptual frameworks of countries in the long-term.



2. Reconciliation of Trade Statistics

2.1 COMESA-EU Mirror Study - Dec 2006

- > Conducted in last quarter of 2006
- > COMESA and EU regions
- > Annual data for 2004 and 2005
- > Sourced from COMESA Secretariat and EUROSTAT
- > EU lead consultant working with COMESA member states' trade statisticians (7)
- ➤ Used EU25, COMESA14 and COMESA15 datasets

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2.1 COMESA-EU Mirror Study - Dec 2006

COMESA Imports from the EU:

- Much lower than EU mirror Exports!
- In 2005, COMESA recorded imports of \$11.6 billion from EU while EU recorded exports to COMESA of \$16.5 billion
- The discrepancy of \$4.9 billion represents 43 per cent of COMESA's imports from EU



COMESA Imports from the EU:

Probable contributing factors to divergence:

- Undervaluation of imports for purposes of tax evasion
- Unprocessed data
- Non-declaration due to the dumping of goods in transit
- Egyptian imports
- COMESA imports of aircraft
- COMESA imports of banknotes
- Confidential trade

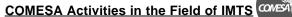
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2.1 COMESA-EU Mirror Study – Dec 2006

COMESA Exports to the EU:

- Figures more plausible compared with EU mirror imports figures!
- In 2005, COMESA recorded exports worth US\$7.9 billion to EU while EU recorded imports from COMESA worth US\$11.8 billion
- > The CIF-FOB adjustment partly accounts for the difference of US\$3.9 billion





COMESA Exports to the EU:

Probable contributing factors to divergence:

- Indirect trade
- Transit trade
- Export taxes
- Deliberate over-valuation
- Egyptian exports
- Confidential trade

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2.1 COMESA-EU Mirror Study – Dec 2006

Recommendations:

- o Study of Egypt's trade with EU
- o Need to identify confidential items included by EU
- o Methods sought to include imports of aircrafts
- o Product level reconciliation analysis be undertaken
- General improvement in quality of trade data through training and collection methodologies



2.2 Round Table Reconciliation Meeting for East African Countries – November 2006

- ➤ Held in Nairobi Kenya, November 2006 at CBS
- > Involved three countries, Burundi, Kenya and Uganda
- Considered three major products, Petroleum, Coffee and Tea.
- Based on 2005 and 1st half of 2006 data only
- > Attended by ISTEEBU, CBS, KRA, CBS and COMESA

11

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2.2 Round Table Reconciliation Meeting for East African Countries – November 2006

Major findings - Tea:

- Uganda's tea erroneously recorded as destined to Kenya
- Detailed info given to KRA and deficient to URA
- Burundi's tea recorded as destined to Kenya when in transit as recorded by KE!
- Burundi's tea undervalued from Burundi
- Tea blending activities take place in Kenya EPZs for tea from Malawi, Vietnam Kenya and other countries! UG/BI??



2.2 Round Table Reconciliation Meeting for East African Countries – November 2006

Major findings - Coffee:

- Uganda's coffee erroneously recorded as destined to Kenya
- Probable undervaluation on Kenya side owing to amount of transit bond in force to be paid
- Burundi's coffee also erroneously reported as destined to Kenya when in transit

12

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2.2 Round Table Reconciliation Meeting for East African Countries – November 2006

Major findings - Petroleum:

 Discrepancies exist in trade figures for Uganda and Kenya

1 /



2.3 Survey of Major Mining Companies in ZM – June 2006

- > Conducted in June 2006
- ➤ Objective : Collect detailed information on the realized values and quantities of copper and cobalt exports and their actual final destinations.
- > Covered period 2004 and 2005
- > 8 mining companies in 7 mining districts covered
- > By staff of CSO, BOZ and COMESA

15

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2.3 Survey of Major Mining Companies in ZM – June 2006

Summary of Major findings:

- Wast amounts of Zambian copper and cobalt are shipped from the ports of Dar and Durban to various destinations in Europe and Egypt
- ZRA erroneously record exports as destined to Tanzania and South Africa!



2.3 Survey of Major Mining Companies in ZM – June 2006

Recommendations made:

- * ZRA to urges mining companies to be completing the invoices correctly by recording proper countries of first and final destinations in the appropriate boxes provided for on the forms
- * ZRA officials should always check that the mining invoices are filled correctly and appropriate data capturing done accordingly.
- * KCM sends monthly insurance/shipping lists with final destinations of the copper to CSO for updating their database.
- * CSO should continue the process of collecting the export figures from the mines on a regular basis using the contacts established during the survey.

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2.4 National Reconciliation Workshops - 2007

- * Selected Member States asked to organize national workshops
- *** Funded by COMESA**
- * Involve all stakeholders producing and using IMTS
- * Disseminate reconciliation finds and map way forward



3. Data Quality Metrics in COMESA

Scoreboard for quality and basis of computation for IMTS

- Methodological Soundness (concepts/definitions/classifications/)
- Accuracy and Reliability Dimension (source/surveys/ports covered)
- Serviceability Dimension (periodicity/timeliness/consistency)
- Revision Policy and Practice (revision schedule/reasons)
- Data Accessibility (NSO websites/COMSTAT)
- To be publicly available on COMSTAT

10

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4. National Consultancies on CPCs

- COMESA Common Statistical Rules
- Harmonization and Update of CPCs Asycuda++
- Streamlining CPCs/Release codes in Egypt
- COMESA funded
- Planned for Kenya and Djibouti

