



Procedure file

Basic information	
COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Regulation	1997/0155(COD) Procedure completed
Statistics on the trading of goods between Member States: Intrastat, SLIM (amend. Regul. 3330/91/EEC)	
Subject 2.80 Cooperation between administrations 8.60 European statistical legislation	

Key players			
European Parliament			
	Former committee responsible		
	ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy	PPE LULLING Astrid	03/09/1997
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	Former committee for opinion		
	REGI Regional Policy	ELDR RYYNÄNEN Mirja	22/09/1997
Council of the European Union			
	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Telecommunications	2172	22/04/1999
	Agriculture and Fisheries	2162	22/02/1999
	Agriculture and Fisheries	2115	20/07/1998
	Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space)	2051	27/11/1997

Key events			
30/05/1997	Legislative proposal published	COM(1997)0252	Summary
13/06/1997	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
27/11/1997	Debate in Council	2051	
18/03/1998	Vote in committee, 1st reading		Summary
18/03/1998	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A4-0102/1998	
31/03/1998	Debate in Parliament		Summary

01/04/1998	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T4-0193/1998	Summary
27/04/1998	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(1998)0270	Summary
20/07/1998	Council position published	08776/1/1998	Summary
17/09/1998	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 2nd reading		
08/12/1998	Vote in committee, 2nd reading		Summary
08/12/1998	Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading	A4-0486/1998	
15/12/1998	Debate in Parliament		
16/12/1998	Decision by Parliament, 2nd reading	T4-0742/1998	Summary
22/02/1999	Parliament's amendments rejected by Council		
18/03/1999	Formal meeting of Conciliation Committee		
18/03/1999	Final decision by Conciliation Committee		
08/04/1999	Joint text approved by Conciliation Committee co-chairs	3608/1999	
19/04/1999	Report tabled for plenary, 3rd reading	A4-0226/1999	
22/04/1999	Decision by Council, 3rd reading		
06/05/1999	Debate in Parliament		
07/05/1999	Decision by Parliament, 3rd reading	T4-0470/1999	Summary
10/05/1999	Final act signed		
10/05/1999	End of procedure in Parliament		
09/06/1999	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1997/0155(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 095
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CODE/4/10794

Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal	COM(1997)0252 OJ C 203 03.07.1997, p. 0010	30/05/1997	EC	Summary
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES1184/1997	29/10/1997	ESC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st	A4-0102/1998	18/03/1998	EP	

reading/single reading		OJ C 138 04.05.1998, p. 0005			
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T4-0193/1998 OJ C 138 04.05.1998, p. 0077-0090	01/04/1998	EP	Summary
Modified legislative proposal		COM(1998)0270 OJ C 171 05.06.1998, p. 0012	27/04/1998	EC	Summary
Council position		08776/1/1998 OJ C 285 14.09.1998, p. 0001	20/07/1998	CSL	Summary
Commission communication on Council's position		SEC(1998)1418	07/09/1998	EC	Summary
Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading		A4-0486/1998 OJ C 098 09.04.1999, p. 0007	08/12/1998	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading		T4-0742/1998 OJ C 098 09.04.1999, p. 0144-0153	16/12/1998	EP	Summary
Commission opinion on Parliament's position at 2nd reading		COM(1999)0059	10/02/1999	EC	Summary
Joint text approved by Conciliation Committee co-chairs		3608/1999	08/04/1999	CSL/EP	
Report tabled for plenary by Parliament delegation to Conciliation Committee, 3rd reading		A4-0226/1999 OJ C 279 01.10.1999, p. 0010	19/04/1999	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 3rd reading		T4-0470/1999 OJ C 279 01.10.1999, p. 0493-0497	07/05/1999	EP	Summary

Additional information

European Commission

[EUR-Lex](#)

Final act

[Regulation 1999/1182](#)

[OJ L 144 09.06.1999, p. 0001](#) Summary

Statistics on the trading of goods between Member States: Intrastat, SLIM (amend. Regul. 3330/91/EEC)

OBJECTIVE: to simplify, for the benefit of intra-Community operators, the statistical declaration on the trading of goods between Member States (Intrastat declaration). SUBSTANCE: Intrastat is the system which lays down the rules for the collection and compilation of statistics on the trading of goods between Member States. It was introduced on 1 January 1993 and requires Community operators to submit monthly declarations of their dispatches and arrivals of goods. Under the SLIM (Simpler Legislation for the Internal Market) initiative, the Commission proposes removing from the declarations certain information whose usefulness and quality do not justify the excessive burden and constraints involved for those required to supply it. The information in question concerns: -transport (mode of transport, port or airport of loading or unloading and port of airport of transshipment), -delivery terms. However, as information concerning mode of transport is considered essential, it will be removed from declarations only with effect from 01.01.2000, the expiry date for the derogations granted to Member States in connection with transport statistics. Member States which are able to provide the information by other means may effect the removal at an earlier date. The proposal is supplemented by other measures concerning the transparency of the system (the Commission undertakes to publicly disseminate the data required by each Member State) and the administrative organization of the Member States (national administrations will be endowed with competence to set deadlines for the forwarding of declarations by those responsible). ?

Statistics on the trading of goods between Member States: Intrastat, SLIM (amend. Regul. 3330/91/EEC)

The ESC therefore approves the present proposals of the Commission as giving effect to the objectives of the SLIM initiative to produce simpler, more transparent and more effective legislation and as being in line with the recommendations of the Intrastat team which participated in the pilot project. The ESC considers that it would be a further improvement if the SD form were absolutely standard across the whole of the European Union, in order to assist businesses with branches or subsidiaries in more than one Member State and to improve the uniformity of the data collected. The ESC endorses the Commission's proposals but would like to see their beneficial impact on businesses enhanced by standardisation of the SD form across the European Union on the pattern of the least complex of the existing forms.?

Statistics on the trading of goods between Member States: Intrastat, SLIM (amend. Regul. 3330/91/EEC)

The rapporteur highlighted that the amendments proposed by the Committee on Economic Affairs were intended to reconcile the divergent interests of the various players, namely the SMEs who wanted significant relief in terms of the burden of making declarations and the users of the statistics who wanted detailed and high-quality information on intra-Community trade to be made available. Commissioner de Silguy said that the Commission was able to take over all the rapporteur's amendments.

Statistics on the trading of goods between Member States: Intrastat, SLIM (amend. Regul. 3330/91/EEC)

In adopting the report by Mrs Astrid LULLING (EPP, L) Parliament approved the proposal for a regulation on the statistics relating to the trading of goods between Member States. However it called for the administrative burden of the provisions contained in this directive to be limited for small and medium-sized enterprises. In order to improve the quality of the statistics it also called for the collection of information on trade flows not only at national but also at regional level. ?

Statistics on the trading of goods between Member States: Intrastat, SLIM (amend. Regul. 3330/91/EEC)

The amended proposal incorporated the amendments by the European Parliament with the exception of the immediate deletion of the 'delivery terms'. The Commission recommended a transition period for the suppression of this data element to allow the Member States to adjust their statistical systems in order to compensate for this loss of information. The Commission agreed to maintaining the region of origin/destination as optional data elements, and took into consideration the importance of this information for some Member States. However, the Commission was undertaking a study to examine the possibilities of using alternative sources for the collection of this data item, e.g. administrative registers. The Commission shared the point of view of the European Parliament that the simplifications should be designed in particular for the SMEs for which the declarative burden was often disproportionate to the utility of the trade statistics. This could be achieved by introducing thresholds for the collection of the optional data elements.?

Statistics on the trading of goods between Member States: Intrastat, SLIM (amend. Regul. 3330/91/EEC)

The common position, while deviating from the Commission proposal, takes account nonetheless of the wishes expressed by the European Parliament on several important points: a) as regards the data to be transmitted to national administrations, the common position limits the declarative burden on enterprises, especially small and medium-sized enterprises: by introducing a threshold, SMEs are exempted once and for all from supplying data on the mode of transport and the delivery terms. In addition, the optional data has been reduced; b) the common position also incorporates elements of the amendments which seek to: - introduce a threshold in order to limit the number of SMEs required to supply detailed statistics; - allow Member States to demand data on the region of origin and the region of destination from the companies required to supply statistics. Furthermore, the Council considers that it is the responsibility of the Member States to lay down the system of statistics and has not therefore deleted this facility from the common position. Contrary to Parliament's wishes, the Council considers it more appropriate for the Member States to set the threshold below which Member States cannot require SMEs to provide certain data in collaboration with the committee for statistics relating to the trading of goods between Member States. Finally, the Council did not accept that optional data can only be prescribed for enterprises other than SMEs.?

Statistics on the trading of goods between Member States: Intrastat, SLIM (amend. Regul. 3330/91/EEC)

The Commission felt that the common position did not reduce the volume of data which may be collected in the Member States to any significant degree. In fact, of the operational information, only two statistics have been deleted (airport or port of loading/unloading and airport or port of transshipment) and a threshold, which the Member States are free to set, has been introduced for statistics on the mode of transport and delivery terms. Consequently, SMEs below the threshold would only be exempted from providing four of the seven optional data elements. The Commission therefore proposes, in line with the opinion of the European Parliament, to delete further statistics and to concentrate on lightening the burden on small and medium-sized enterprises by means of a threshold set in a Commission regulation. Consequently, SMEs should be exempted from supplying all the optional data from the year 2000. As far as the mode of transport is concerned, the Commission proposes to abolish the collection of this data element from the year 2000, when the 'transport' directives will be applicable in their entirety in all Member States.?

Statistics on the trading of goods between Member States: Intrastat, SLIM (amend. Regul. 3330/91/EEC)

As part of the SLIM initiative the Commission last year put forward two proposals aiming at simplifying the EC statistical system. While proposing some amendments, Parliament largely endorsed the two proposals at first reading. The Council, however, rejected one of the proposals (and did therefore not even adopt a common position) and substantially modified the second. Reporting for second reading, Ms. Astrid LULLING (EPP, L) points out that the Common Position does little to achieve the aim of the original proposal, namely to lighten the administrative burden on companies in the field of statistics. She has therefore retabled a number of amendments from first reading in order to offset the changes introduced by Council.. ?

Statistics on the trading of goods between Member States: Intrastat, SLIM (amend. Regul. 3330/91/EEC)

In adopting the recommendation for the second reading of Ms. Astrid LULLING (EPP, L), the European Parliament recalled the need to simplify the use of this combined nomenclature, while preserving a single nomenclature for the trading of goods within the single market and with third countries that is compatible with other statistical nomenclatures. The Parliament did not agree that the Commission should have the power to grant derogations to individual Member States allowing them to defer the application of this Regulation for a transitional period of up to two years. ?

Statistics on the trading of goods between Member States: Intrastat, SLIM (amend. Regul. 3330/91/EEC)

The Commission shares the view held by the European parliament that the focus should be on simplification measures for SMEs through the removal of more data than the Council for in its common position and the introduction of thresholds, to be set by the Commission, for the collection of optional data on 'country of origin' and 'region of origin/destination'. On the other hand, the Commission is not in a position to accept amendments which expressly seek to simplify the product nomenclature, as this simplification objective is covered by another proposal for a regulation which has not been the subject of a common position adopted by the Council.?

Statistics on the trading of goods between Member States: Intrastat, SLIM (amend. Regul. 3330/91/EEC)

In adopting the report by Ms. Astrid LULLING (EPP, L), the European Parliament approved the joint text.?

Statistics on the trading of goods between Member States: Intrastat, SLIM (amend. Regul. 3330/91/EEC)

PURPOSE: to amend Council regulation 3330/91/EEC on the statistics relating to the trading of goods between Member States with a view to reducing the data to be provided. **COMMUNITY MEASURE:** Regulation 1182/1999/EC of the European Parliament and the Council. **CONTENT:** Under the SLIM initiative (Simpler Legislation for the Internal Market), it has been proposed that, in order to reduce the burden on providers of statistical information, information on declarations, while maintaining an acceptable level of information for users, should be limited. To this end, this regulation deletes the mode of transport and the delivery terms from Council regulation 3330/91/EEC while, at the same time, retaining the reporting of the country of origin and/or the region of destination, which is considered of particular benefit to users. It is recognised that it may be necessary for certain Member States to require reporting of delivery terms, the presumed mode of transport and the statistical procedure. The regulation therefore makes provision for Member States to prescribe this additional information but, in order to avoid a disproportionate burden for small and medium-sized undertakings, solely in respect of providers of statistical information with dispatches or arrivals of an annual value in excess of thresholds to be fixed by the Commission in accordance with a procedure defined in regulation 3330/91/EEC. **ENTRY INTO FORCE:** the regulation enters into force on 26/06/99. it will apply from 01/01/2001. It should also be noted that two statements are attached to the regulation: - a Council statement: in recognition of the need to simplify the combined nomenclature to be used on a uniformed basis in both intra-Community and external trade, so as to make it easier to apply the system (in particular for SMEs), the Council undertakes to examine the proposal for an amendment of regulation 3330/91/EC, with specific reference to the nomenclature of products, preserving the principle of one single nomenclature and taking into account the amendments of the European Parliament and the results of the ongoing discussions conducted by the Commission in the SLIM framework. - a Commission statement: taking account of the report from the Working Group on Statistics approved by the Ecofin Council on 18/01/99, the Commission undertakes to submit, to the European Parliament and the Council, a report on the Intrastat system before the end of 1999, considering the results of studies and work under the SLIM/Intrastat initiative, in particular the quality and burdens on businesses, including implications for the activities under the Edicom programme. The Commission will propose any amendments to regulation 3330/91/EEC it considers necessary.?