

# Procedure file

Basic information	
COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Regulation	Procedure completed <a href="#">1997/0162(COD)</a>
Statistics on the trading of goods between Member States: nomenclature, SLIM, Intrastat (amend. regul. 3330/91/EEC)	
Subject 2.80 Cooperation between administrations 8.60 European statistical legislation	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	<b>JURI</b> Legal Affairs and Internal Market		23/09/1999
		ELDR <a href="#">BEYSEN Ward</a>	
	Former committee responsible		
	<b>ECON</b> Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy		03/09/1997
		PPE <a href="#">LULLING Astrid</a>	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	<a href="#">Economic and Financial Affairs ECOFIN</a>	<a href="#">2245</a>	28/02/2000

Key events			
06/06/1997	Legislative proposal published	<a href="#">COM(1997)0275</a>	Summary
13/06/1997	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
18/03/1998	Vote in committee, 1st reading		Summary
18/03/1998	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	<a href="#">A4-0102/1998</a>	
01/04/1998	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T4-0194/1998	Summary
27/04/1998	Modified legislative proposal published	<a href="#">COM(1998)0269</a>	Summary
28/02/2000	Council position published	<a href="#">14100/1/1999</a>	Summary
16/03/2000	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 2nd reading		
25/05/2000	Vote in committee, 2nd reading		Summary
25/05/2000	Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading	<a href="#">A5-0153/2000</a>	

13/06/2000	Debate in Parliament		
14/06/2000	Decision by Parliament, 2nd reading	<a href="#">T5-0261/2000</a>	Summary
10/07/2000	Final act signed		
10/07/2000	End of procedure in Parliament		
26/07/2000	Final act published in Official Journal		

### Technical information

Procedure reference	1997/0162(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	JURI/5/12576

### Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal	<a href="#">COM(1997)0275</a> <a href="#">OJ C 245 12.08.1997, p. 0012</a>	06/06/1997	EC	Summary
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	<a href="#">CES1185/1997</a>	29/10/1997	ESC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	<a href="#">A4-0102/1998</a> <a href="#">OJ C 138 04.05.1998, p. 0005</a>	18/03/1998	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading	T4-0194/1998 <a href="#">OJ C 138 04.05.1998, p. 0077-0092</a>	01/04/1998	EP	Summary
Modified legislative proposal	<a href="#">COM(1998)0269</a> <a href="#">OJ C 164 29.05.1998, p. 0014</a>	27/04/1998	EC	Summary
Council position	<a href="#">14100/1/1999</a> <a href="#">OJ C 087 24.03.2000, p. 0011</a>	28/02/2000	CSL	Summary
Commission communication on Council's position	SEC(2000)0410	09/03/2000	EC	Summary
Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading	<a href="#">A5-0153/2000</a> <a href="#">OJ C 067 01.03.2001, p. 0011</a>	25/05/2000	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading	<a href="#">T5-0261/2000</a> <a href="#">OJ C 067 01.03.2001, p. 0063-0149</a>	14/06/2000	EP	Summary
Implementing legislative act	<a href="#">32002R1385</a> <a href="#">OJ L 278 16.10.2002, p. 0009</a>	15/10/2002	EU	Summary

### Additional information

European Commission	<a href="#">EUR-Lex</a>
---------------------	-------------------------

### Final act

<a href="#">Regulation 2000/1624</a> <a href="#">OJ L 187 26.07.2000, p. 0001</a> Summary
--

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

---

**OBJECTIVE:** the objective of the proposal for a regulation is to simplify the statistical declaration relating to trade between the Member States for the providers of statistical information. **SUBSTANCE:** in the framework of the Intrastat system goods are currently identified by the combined nomenclature provided for under Regulation 3330/91/EEC; it is the key element in all the statistical information collected and a uniform application at Community level is essential to allow a comparison of results. The Commission proposes modifying the current basic regulation by simplifying this nomenclature while preserving the link with the nomenclature used for the exchange of goods with third countries and its consistency with other statistical nomenclatures. This simplification forms part of the group of actions intended to simplify the Intrastat system which will be taken as part of the SLIM initiative (simpler legislation for the internal market). It will be of benefit to all the undertakings involved in trade between the Member States and which are required to submit periodic Intrastat declarations. The aim is to reduce the number of codes used and thus to facilitate the classification and coding of goods by undertakings. ?

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

---

The present Intrastat system is a major source of cost, complication and frustration, particularly for SMEs. The Committee therefore endorses the Commission's objective of reducing the items in the Intrastat nomenclature to around 7,000. However, it feels that more can still be done in this area and that the present proposals should be regarded as a first stage in an on-going process of simplification aimed at culminating in a dramatically-streamlined common system for Intrastat and Extrastat to be introduced concurrently in the year 2002. Decisions on IN, CN and HS nomenclatures should not be taken in isolation but as a coherent package. ?

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

---

The Committee adopted, subject to a few amendments, two proposals from the Commission on statistics relating to the trade in goods between Member States. The amendments tabled by the rapporteur, Astrid Lulling (EPP, L) seek inter alia to alleviate the administrative burden that the proposals may impose on SMEs. To improve the quality of the statistics, the Committee also adopted an amendment aiming at gathering information on trade flows not only at the national level, but also by region.

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

---

The amended proposal accepts Parliament's opinion that the simplification benefits of a specific INTRASAT nomenclature, including a substantial reduced number of subheadings could, in the present collection system, be counterbalanced by additional costs for maintaining two nomenclature versions for intra- and extra-Community trade. The amendments taken over: - emphasise the idea of a single nomenclature - the Combined Nomenclature (CN) - for intra and extra-Community trade statistics and refers to the second phase of the SLIM initiative in which the CN is the subject of simplification; - stress that the simplifications should be designed in particular for the SMEs by introducing thresholds or other measures, e.g. tools facilitating the classification of the products, to simplify the declaration of the product code. ?

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

---

The Council's Common Position has adopted most of the European Parliament's amendments. In particular, the principle of preserving one single nomenclature for intra-Community and external trade statistics is accepted. The Council also accepts the principles which seek to reduce the statistical burden on small and medium-sized enterprises. The Council feels, however, that a different way of reducing the burden ought to be used: it considers that SMEs need only report a maximum of ten of the subheadings that are the most important in terms of value and regroup the other products in residual subheadings. The Council invites the Commission to examine the possibility of raising the simplification threshold from the present level of 100 000 euro to 200 000 euro.?

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

---

The Commission can in general support the common position that will allow simplifications to the benefit of SMEs, in particular, if the simplification threshold can be raised to 200 000 euro. The Commission considers that the amendments introduced by the common position of the Council do not water down its proposal, and include the accepted amendments of the European Parliament's first reading. Notably, the Council and Parliament's acceptance of the principle of a uniform nomenclature for intra and extra trade statistics should be taken into account.?

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

---

The committee adopted the recommendation for second reading (codecision procedure) by Eduard BEYSEN (ELDR, B) approving the Council's common position without amendment. The committee welcomed the fact that Parliament's amendments at first reading had been incorporated into the common position, with only one of these being significantly altered. It recognised that the Council's text on the latter point was an improvement, as it actually indicated in the Regulation itself the goods which undertakings must report, whereas Parliament's wording had left it up to the Commission to determine the implementing procedures for that provision. As this was a key issue, the committee shared the Council's view that it should be resolved in the Regulation itself and not left to the committee procedure. The committee therefore proposed that Parliament adopt the Regulation by approving the common position. ?

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

---

In its second reading on amending the Regulation on statistics for trade between Member States, and having regard to the report by Eduard BEYSEN (ELDR, Belgium), the European Parliament approved the Council's common position.?

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

---

PURPOSE: to simplify statistics relating to the trading of goods between Member States, referring specifically to the simplified application of the nomenclature of products. COMMUNITY MEASURE: Regulation 1624/2000/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Regulation 3330/91/EEC on the statistics relating to the trading of goods between the Member States, with specific reference to a simplified application of the nomenclature of products. CONTENT: Under Council Regulation 3330/91/EEC, the Community and its Member States compile statistics relating to the trading of goods between Member States (Intrastat) during the transitional period which began on 01.01.1993 and will end on the date of changeover to a unified system of taxation in the Member State of origin. The simplification of legislation for the internal market, as formulated in the SLIM (Simpler Legislation for the Internal Market) initiative, is intended to improve enterprises' competitiveness and job creation potential. The simplification of the Intrastat system has been chosen as a SLIM pilot project, and specific proposals drawn up by the SLIM-Intrastat Working Party for reducing the burden on providers of statistical information have been the subject of a communication to the European Parliament, and the Council. Thus, the simplified application of the product nomenclature is one such proposal, since information providers generally regard the classification of products as difficult. In conclusion, the use of simplification thresholds is an efficient tool to reduce the burdens of declaration on businesses, in particular the SMEs. ENTRY INTO FORCE: 01.01.2001.?

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

---

COMMUNITY MEASURE : Commission Regulation 1385/2002/EC amending Regulation 1901 :2000 laying down certain provisions for the implementation of Council Regulation 3330/91/EEC on the statistics relating to the trading of goods between Member States. CONTENT : the amendment provides that those Member States wishing to have more detailed information than that resulting from the application of Article 21 of the basis Regulation may, by way of derogation from that Article, organise the collection of that information. The introduction of that degree of flexibility is aimed at meeting specific national requirements, without having to reflect them systematically in the Combined Nomenclature. This measure will enable an overall reduction in the burden on intra-Community operators.?