

Sectors Proposed for Simplification	
Reason for proposing	This Regulation consists of an important general annex covering all economic activities and some annexes covering specific activities. The specific annexes demand very specific statistics for enterprises within manufacturing, construction and trade. Some of these specific statistics ought to be abandoned. This applies, e.g. to the statistics on 'payments for long-term rental and operational leasing of goods' and 'purchases of energy products' for enterprises within manufacturing. For enterprises within construction the same statistics as well as statistics on 'income from sub-contracting' should be removed, and for enterprises within trade the statistics on 'category of sales space for retail stores engaged in retail trade' and 'number of fixed market stands and/or stalls' are examples of statistics that should also be removed.
SECTOR	External trade, Intrastat
Legislation	Council Regulation (EEC) No 3330/91 and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1901/2000 laying down certain provisions for the implementation of Council Regulation (EEC) No 3330/91
Reason for proposing	The Commission (Eurostat) is at the moment working with a project to revise the Intrastat system by 2005, including a rewriting of the Regulation. The main objective is to simplify the Regulation and to change its impact with reference to the statistical needs of the Community. A draft for a new Regulation is to be presented in March 2003 at a meeting in the Committee on <i>Statistics Relating to the Trade of Goods Between Member States</i> . In this regard, several suggestions have been put forward, but it is still too soon to predict the outcome. Nevertheless, attention has been focused on the question of statistical thresholds. Different thresholds are used in Intrastat, which exclude minor companies from reporting and enable some transactions to be reported on a less detailed basis. A suggestion could be to increase one or more of the thresholds, taking into consideration the continued assurance of the quality of the external trade figures (both on an aggregate and detailed level).
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Legislation	Council Regulation (EEC) No 3330/91 and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1901/2000 laying down certain provisions for the implementation of Council Regulation (EEC) No 3330/91
Reason for proposing	The combined nomenclature (concerning commodities) defines the data to be reported for each commodity, including data on the quantity being traded. For many commodities two units must be reported; the main unit being net mass in kilograms and a supplementary unit (e.g. litre, pieces, etc.). As a result of earlier SLIM-studies, a simplification was introduced in Intrastat. A list of commodities was established. For the commodities included in the list, only a supplementary unit of quantity is to be reported and not the main unit being net mass in kilograms. A suggestion could be to carry out a study in order to assess further needs for excluding quantity information, although for commodities only where both units of quantity data are to be reported today.
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Legislation	Council Regulation (EEC) No 3330/91 and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1901/2000 laying down certain provisions for the implementation of Council Regulation (EEC) No 3330/91