Working Party on Transport Statistics

Sixty-fifth session
Geneva, 18–20 June 2014
Item 3 (b) of the provisional agenda
**Data collection, methodological development
and harmonization of transport statistics**

Classification system for transport statistics

Note by the secretariat

At its last session, the Working Party decided to establish a Task Force on classification with the following mandate: to maintain the conversion between NSTR and NST 2007 and other classifications, to propose where to classify new goods, to answer questions related to classification and to report to the present session of the Working Party.

A short consultation between the secretariat, Eurostat, representatives from Czech Republic and the Netherlands agreed that the mandate of the Task Force should cover four components: defining levels of aggregation and using more detail, maintenance of the classification NST2007, maintenance of the correspondence tables between HS/CN, NSTR, and classification of specific commodities.

1.   Defining levels of aggregation and using more detail

In some cases countries need to aggregate the 20 NST2007 groups into less categories. On the other hand there is a need to distinguish between more categories (e.g. *02 Coal and lignite, crude petroleum and natural gas*).

2.   Maintenance of the classification NST2007

Each classification, especially commodity classifications need maintenance. It may be difficult to classify certain (new) goods or goods combinations.

3.   Maintenance of the correspondence tables between HS/CN, NSTR

The "mother" classifications like CPA may change. It needs attention to take these changes into account. Also the HS or CN classification is adapted in a yearly cycle.

4.   Classification of specific commodities

Some countries and users have to classify commodities based on text strings provided on questionnaires or other data sources. This is a challenging work especially if statistics manually have to be coded into NST2007.

_____