COMMUNICATION FROM POLAND

Classification of services

Responding to the proposal made by some delegations during the previous GNS meetings, Poland submits a note on classification of services with the request for its distribution to the members of the Group of Negotiations on Services.
1. Basic source of information on services in Polish foreign trade is the balance of payments, called in Polish statistical system: "balance of settlements". This balance is made on "transactions" basis by the National Bank of Poland. Data on trade in services are collected both from the payments statistics of the banking system and the statements of entities rendering services.

2. Gross value of services on the credit side and on the debit side is fully shown in the balance of settlements statistics, which means that all services rendered across the border are covered by the said statistics. This also includes the services which are mutually compensated, what is quite common in transport, communication or insurance.

3. All services covered by these statistics are divided into four broad categories:
   - transportation and communication,
   - travel,
   - maintenance of Polish state representations abroad and foreign representations in Poland and contributions to international organizations, and
   - other services.
4. The most important category of services in Polish balance of settlements is transport and communication. Data on these services are broken down into two sections, i.e., according to the means of transportation (maritime, railway, land, aerial, water-borne, and piping) and according to the IMF classification (shipment, which also includes freight of deliveries on "c.i.f." basis, and other transportation, including port expenses, fuel and stores supply, passenger services and charters). In particular, transport and communication services are subdivided into the following activities:
- maritime freight,
- port services and fleet current expenses,
- other maritime services,
- sea fishing services,
- railway services,
- services of the travel offices,
- automobile transportation,
- pipeline transportation,
- airline services,
- water-borne transportation,
- forwarding services,
- post and telecommunication services,
- fuel supply.

5. The next category, i.e., travel, embraces a number of services, but excluding the costs of transportation, which are shown under "transportation and communication services". Travel in the balance of
settlements consists of:
- business and training travels,
- tourist travels,
- services for foreigners visiting the country,
- money exchange services.

6. The position: "maintenance of representations and contributions to international organizations" embrace all costs of such maintenance and contributions.

7. The group of "other services" comprises:
- insurance,
- commissions,
- exchange of scientific and technological achievements,
- technical services,
- other professional services,
- services rendered in connection with the implementation of export contracts,
- fairs and exhibitions,
- technical services accompanying country's exports,
- maintenance of trade offices of foreign trade enterprises,
- conventional penalties,
- investment income,
- other payments.

8. In spite of the above classification of services in the balance of settlements, there is additional record of services related to foreign trade only, which is based on the customs statistics.