

INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL REPORTING– THE DUTY OF ECONOMIC AGENTS

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Abstract: The study effectuated has for purpose to present the importance of the accounting information in the development of the foreign trade activities, as well as its importance for the statistic system that studies this domain.

Thus, in the first part of our paper we will offer a short definition of the foreign trade, through which we try to synthesize the main operations performed in the reports abroad. An important step in this sense is represented by the enumeration of the units that can develop foreign trade activities, as well as by the way in which these units can take part at the international commercial activities.

Taking into consideration the obligation of the commercial agents to organize their own accounting, it is emphasized the fact that, in the commercial domain, the accountancy provides complex economical information, used for the statistic and fiscal reports.

In the last part, it is synthesized the connection between the accounting information and the reports performed by the economic agents which develop foreign trade activities, through a series of examples surged from their complexity.

JEL classification: M41, M42

Key words: foreign trade, accounting information, statistical reporting, commercial flux, intrastat

1. Introduction

Through the statistical reporting concerning the international trade with goods that measure the quantity and value of the goods transitioned between the European Union member states (intra-community or within the EU trade activities) and of the goods transitioned between the EU member states and other countries (extra-community or outside the EU trade activities). Statistical reporting represent the official source of information which concern the imports, exports and the commercial balance

of every EU member state, but also the way of centralizing them at the level of the Union.

In order to allow the accomplishment of a comparison at global level of the international trade statistics, the statistical reporting must be performed according to strict rules and the publishing of these statistics is performed for every reporting country in the relationship with the partner country.⁵⁴

Statistical reporting for the individual member states supposes the classification of the commercial fluxes according to their affiliation of the partner state, as it follows:

- commercial fluxes outside the EU (extra - community);
- commercial fluxes within the EU (intra - community).

The commercial fluxes outside the EU are characterized by:

a. the import of goods from a country outside the EU, that enters statistically on the EU territory and to which the custom procedures are applied immediately or after a period spend in a customs warehouse;

b. the shipping of goods which leave the statistic territory of a member state which finds itself in free circulation on the territory of the EU.

The source of the traditional statistical data concerning the international trade with goods is the *customs evidence*. At the same time with the appearance of the Unique Market, on the 1st of January 1993, the customs formalities between the member states have been eliminated and thus the necessity of a new system of data collection has surged; this system carries the name of *Intrastat*. From that moment on the basis of statistics regarding the trade developed within the EU is ensured through this system.

Starting with 2007, along with the ascension to the EU, the activities of the companies which develop commercial transactions with partners outside and within EU have suffered important modifications. Thus, modifications of the customs regulations, new obligations of the economic agents regarding the external billing with or without VAT, as well as statistical reporting in the Intrastat system have appeared. There is a series of incertitude in solving the problems imposed by the practice and this is why all these modifications have created new costs related to the professional training.

2. OBJECTIVES

Starting with the observation that the statistical reporting through Intrastat still raises problems to the economic agents and practitioners, we propose ourselves to present the most important aspects referring to the statistical reporting. Also, the main objective is that of clarifying some of the most special situations surged in the practice of the foreign trade with goods, according to the statistical reporting at the level of Intrastat.

3. METHODOLOGY

The study effectuated for the achievement of this paper is based on data collected from the specialized materials in the domain of statistical reporting, which prove their utility in solving certain case studies, imposed by the practice. The data collected have been analyzed and processed in order to create a paper useful to the readers and practitioners.

⁵⁴ www.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/ Comerțul internațional cu mărfuri

4. INTRASTAT STATISTICAL REPORTING SYSTEM. CASE STUDY

An important element in calculating the payment balance of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), but also for short term economic studies, both at national as at international level, is represented by the statistic of the international commercial transactions of goods.

The main user of statistic information, at a national level, is the Government, which bases in great part, on the statistic data of foreign trade to establish global trading politics, but also to generate new initiatives concerning the trading markets.

The system of statistic reporting Intrastat has become operational starting with the 1st of January 1993 at the level of the European Union and is based on a series of regulations applicable in all the member states, as well as the Council Regulation no. 638/2004 regarding the trading statistics between the EU member states, modified through the European Council Regulation 222/2009 and the Commission Regulation no.1982/2004 to implement the Council Regulation no.638/2004, bearing subsequent modifications. These regulations are also applicable since the 1st of January 2007 in Romania and to them is added the Presidential Order INS no. 1948/2013 regarding the Regulations to complete the Statistical Declaration Intrastat for the year 2014. The community regulations above mentioned allow the increase of the volume in the international exchanges of every member state; they are at the base of the calculation of the macroeconomic indicators that emphasize the economic and social evolution of a certain country; they are used to reinforce the community politics (commercial, monetary, customs, etc.) and to determine the quota from the community budget that is fit for every EU member state.

The regulations in force, established at a national level through the Presidential Order INS no. 1948/2013, states that the declaration Intrastat is filed monthly by all the economic operators that fulfill cumulatively the following conditions:

are registered in the purpose of VAT taxes and in the Register of Intra – Community Operators (with a valid code of fiscal identification);

perform trading transactions with other EU member states;

the total value of the exchange of goods with other EU member states surpasses for each of the two fluxes, inputs and outputs, the limit value established by Intrastat for every year. The Intrastat limit values established for the year 2014 are: for intra-community inputs 500,000 RON; for intra-community outputs 900,000 RON.

The statistic information supplied by the economic agents are verified on the basis of the values of intra-community trade declared in the VAT returns (form 300) and the recapitulative statements (form 390) that they file at the Ministry of Public Finances. This does not mean that the Intrastat data and the VAT/VIES data must be identical, the checking being made only for the values regarding the intra-community goods trade. Through this relationship, the National Institute of Statistic can identify easier the economic agents that develop activities of intra-community goods trade, the volume of this type of trade and whether the economic agents in cause that must transmit the Intrastat declaration are fulfilling their reporting duty or not.⁵⁵

Due to the diversity of the commercial transactions, the data included in the Intrastat declaration can be different in comparison with the VAT return or the

⁵⁵ The National Institute of Statistic, *Guidebook for the suppliers of statistical information for Intrastat*, Part II, 2014

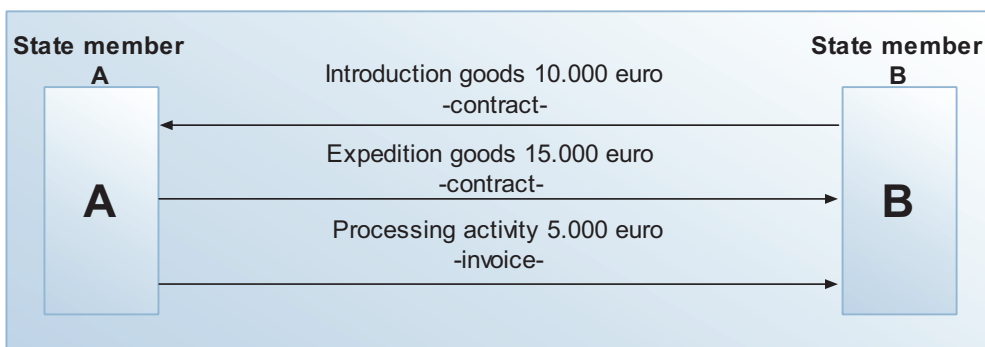
recapitulative declaration. Thus, in what follows we will follow some examples which characterize this situation.

Situation 1

One such example may be illustrated when entering some goods to process them based on a contract. So, we are going to look into the situation of two economic agents: A and B. Agent A, from Romania, registered for tax payable purposes, receives from agent B from Germany, also registered for tax payable purposes, goods of euro 10000(market value), based on the contract. After processing, the market value of the goods is euro 15000.

Therefore, agent A, from Romania, has to declare the goods value brought in the country is euro 10000 in the Intrastat statement, but is not the focus of the statement for the VAT deduction or for the revision statement. After processing, the goods are dispatched based on a contract of euro 15000, the value of the goods being also declared only in Intrastat in the dispatching field, while for the revision statement and the VAT deduction the economic agent will have to declare only the cost of the processing activity that has been billed to Agent B (euro 500), whose value will be put down in the “Services” field.

For a more illuminating look, the example may be summarized in the figure below:



Currently, there is an augmentation in the merchandise purchasing-reselling activities between the economic agents from different states. For this reason the Fiscal Code regulates this type of transactions under the name of triangle operations.

One triangular operation involves the existence of a succession of transactions between at least three people located and registered for VAT paying purposes in different member states. The documents that are issued in the case of triangle operations show that the goods are passed from one partner to the other, but physically they move directly from one provider to the end beneficiary.

If all the three people are registered for VAT paying purposes, it is possible but also advisable to apply simplification measures (destination taxation) only in the event in which merchandise transportation is the responsibility of the provider of the buyer-reseller (intra-community delivery). On the contrary, for a contract under an EXW (ex works) condition, the goods are at the buyer’s disposal in the destination state, the former will have to get registered for tax paying purposes in that state, the physical delivery will be further on made to the end beneficiary.

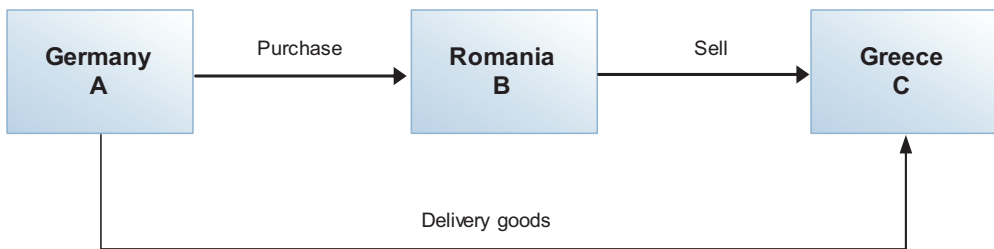
Situation 2

Case 1

This is the situation of three economic agents (Figure 2) located in different member states. The B economic agent from Romania purchases goods from the A provider from Germany that it sells afterwards to an economic agent C in Greece. The purchase invoice moves from A to B, and the delivery invoice from B to C. The goods are dispatched directly from the provider A from Germany to the end buyer C in Greece.

In Romania, the B economic agent, as intermediary provider registers based on the intra-community purchase invoice and the intra-community goods delivery invoice, the transaction that will be recorded in the revision statement as a triangle operation.

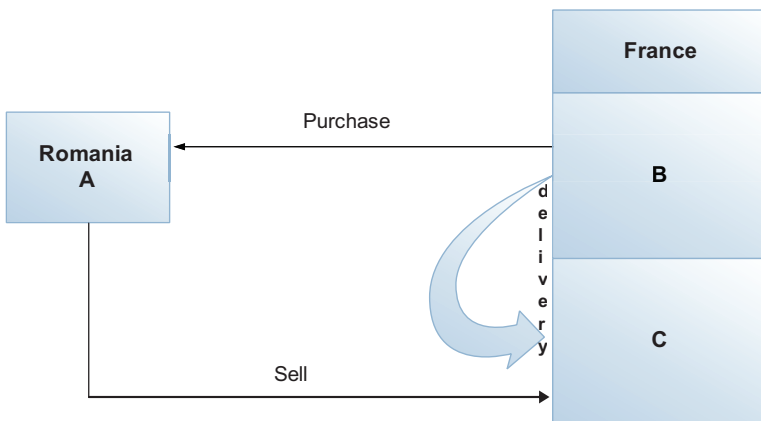
For the intrastate system, the B economic agent will not declare anything, since there is no physical movement of the goods in Romania.



Case 2

When an economic agent is from Romania and two economic agents are from France the situation is presented this way: the economic agent A from Romania purchases goods from the B economic agent in France, but the delivery destination is the headquarters of the C economic agent in France. The first invoice is issued by the B agent in France, however, the goods do not cross in any way Romania.

In this situation the A economic agent from Romania doesn't have to declare anything in the Intrastat, however, from a fiscal standpoint it needs to declare this transaction in the revision statement, as both purchase and intra-community delivery.



Case 3

It is assumed that there is a situation when the A economic agent from Romania sells goods to B economic agent from Italy, but the delivery takes place at the headquarters of C economic agent in Romania, In this case the A economic agent issues an invoice to agent B in Italy, but the goods never leave Romania.

So, the A agent from Romania does not have to declare anything in the Intrastat, however, it has to fiscally declare the transaction as intra-community goods delivery in the revision statement.

CONCLUSIONS

The foreign trade and its activity forms constantly leave their mark on the organization and management model of accounting in this important sector of the national economy.

So, we may say the organization and management model of accounting in foreign trade are influenced by factors such as: the foreign trade particulars, the variety of the units that carry on foreign trade activities and the connections between these ones.

Starting from the analysis of these factors, the accounting information, entered and processed, based on valid national and European regulations, reported by users, supporting also the fiscal and statistic information.

All in all, the focus is the quality of the accounting and statistic information, in the foreign trade area, as well as the possibility to compare it in the European Union, based on which there may be further suggestions for national and European rules and regulations.

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