



# Experience from bilateral comparisons of Trade in Goods Statistics among Eurasian Economic Union countries

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## Mirror Statistics

Analysis method based on a comparison of official statistics on trade in goods between the countries. produced by each of partner countries

Main objective of comparisons is to advance reliability of statistics on trade in goods of the Eurasian Economic Union Member-States and ensure an international comparison of statistical indicators of foreign trade in goods

Necessary conditions for mirror comparisons – the use of a common methodology to compile statistical indicators and an availability of data on bilateral trade of the partner countries



# Legal Framework for Mirror Comparisons of Statistics on Trade in Goods in EAEU



Agreement on the Eurasian Economic Union

Unified Methodology for maintenance of Customs statistics on Foreign Trade and statistics on Bilateral Trade of the Customs Union member-states

Approval of formats of presentation of official statistics by the competent authorities of the partner countries to the Eurasian Economic Commission

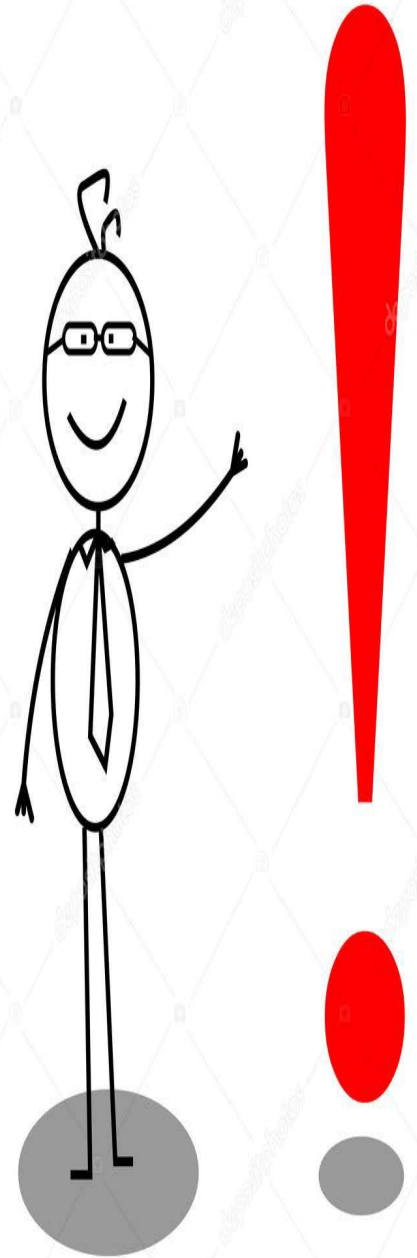


## Principle of formation of import within EAEU



# Issues on Arrangement of Mirror Comparisons

- ❑ Coordinating authority of mirror comparisons is the Eurasian Economic Commission (approves deadline and venue. responsible for comparisons)
- ❑ Frequency of mirror comparisons is annually
- ❑ Form of mirror comparisons is in presentio or in absentia



# Information Sources for Mirror Comparisons



1. Aggregated database of bilateral trade in goods statistics;
2. Primary data of the customs statistics and/or state statistical observations on bilateral trade in goods;
3. Information about a vendor and a buyer of goods from applications on import of goods and payment of indirect taxes for a year. submitted to the tax authorities;
4. Other information sources.



## Stages of Mirror Comparisons

1. Comparison of summary data for identification of total discrepancies – total volume of export is compared with total volume of import of a partner country. and the return flows are compared;
2. Identification of discrepancies at a level of EAEU HS (national version) 4-digits and selection of commodity groups for further analysis;
3. The discrepancies are analyzed at a level of EAEU HS 10-digits from selected commodity groups;
4. The discrepancies are analyzed at a level of business entities.



# Main Causes of Discrepancies Identified during Mirror Comparisons

## 1. Technical:

- underestimation of foreign trade transactions;
- errors in data provided;
- differences in goods coding.

## 2. Methodological:

- statistical observation threshold;
- use of additional information sources for production of mutual trade statistics;
- expert computations;
- differences in the accounting period for data in the bilateral trade statistics due to transportation time.





## Effectiveness of Mirror Comparisons

Discrepancies in data on bilateral trade in goods between  
Republic of Belarus and Russian Federation

(in %)

Export of BY and import of RU	Years	Import of BY and export of RU
43.0	2011	16.0
30.3	2012	10.3
19.6	2013	12.5
30.2	2014	13.0
16.3	2015	10.4
6.5	2016	1.0



# Discrepancies in data on bilateral trade in goods between Republic of Belarus and Republic of Kazakhstan

(in %)

Export of BY and import of KZ	Years	Import of BY and export of KZ
8.6	2011	30.8
20.2	2012	30.0
27.4	2013	44.1
17.1	2014	90.1
11.2	2015	8.1
9.4 (6.7)	2016	73.6 (15.6)



Thank you for your attention!

