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7	SDMX CONTENT-ORIENTED GUIDELINES:
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9	STATISTICAL SUBJECT-MATTER DOMAINS
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11	(DRAFT MARCH 2006)
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1 INTRODUCTION

A statistical domain refers to a statistical activity that describes a certain sphere of societal phenomena and has common characteristics with respect to concepts and methodologies for data collection, manipulation and transformation. Examples of statistical domains are price statistics, national accounts, environment statistics and education statistics. The statistical subject-matter domain list outlined below is intended to cover the universe of statistical information handled by a large number of international organizations and national agencies, often referred to as official statistics¹.

In the SDMX content-oriented guidelines, the list of Statistical Subject-Matter Domains has three functions: (1) it acts as a standard scheme against which similar domain lists of various organizations can be mapped to facilitate the exchange of data and metadata – refer to Section 3 below; (2) it acts as the first level identifier for searching statistical data on SDMX registries, and (3) it facilitates the identification and organization of corresponding "domain groups" that play an active role in the use of SDMX technical standards and content-oriented guidelines for the exchange of statistics and their related metadata (see Section 4 below).

The statistical domain list plays an important role in the implementation of the SDMX "registry", the architecture of which has been developed in SDMX Technical Standards Version 2.0. Based on Version 2.0, data and metadata providers are able to "register" the information they make available in SDMX formats using an SDMX registry. The scope of information that could be registered includes the categorization of the data flows or metadata flows against one or many categorization schemes to facilitate search and discovery of statistical information.

The SDMX initiative took advantage of an existing categorization scheme, the United Nations Commission for Europe (UNECE) Classification of International Statistical Activities, for the development of the statistical domain list needed for the registry against which data and metadata flows would be "registered" in the SDMX registry. It is expected that the initial list provided below will be subject to future adjustments, especially in the early phases of implementation of the standards. The various domain classification schemes - or domain lists - developed by national statistical offices that were reviewed display similarities; their organization follows key themes or subjects usually reflecting the organization of data production. Classification schemes adopted by international organizations respond to similar administrative requirements.

2 UNECE CLASSIFICATION OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES

The new UNECE Classification of International Statistical Activities (Version of September 2005²) has three levels of classification. The first level comprises five "Statistical Domains" that relate to the broad type or statistical activities, with domains

¹ Re. UN's Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, http://unstats.un.org/unsd/goodprac/bpabout.asp

² Document ECE/CES/BUR/2005/5 (http://www.unece.org/stats/)

1-3 constituting a subject area classification: 1. Demographic and social statistics; 2. Economic statistics; 3. Environment and multi-domain statistics; 4. Methodology of data collection, processing, dissemination and analysis; 5. Strategic and managerial issues of official statistics. The second level specifies the Statistical Areas within the Domains and the third level indicates a more detailed subject area. The third level is used only where necessary. Its elements are not meant as an exhaustive breakdown of the second level component - additional elements can be added if need arises.

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A simple view of Domains 1-3 of the classification is provided below.

				•			
Domain 1: Demographic and social statistics							
1.	1 F	Population and migration					
1.2	2 L	Labour					
1.3	3 E	Education					
1.4	4 F	Health					
1.5	5 Ir	Income and consumption					
1.6	6 S	Social protection					
1.7	7 F	Human settlements and housing					
1.8	8 J	Justice and crime					
1.9		Culture					
1.	10 F	Political and other community activities					
1.	11 T	Time-use					
Domain 2: Econo	omic st	atistics					
2.	1 Macroeconomic statistics						
2.2 Economic accounts							
2.3 Business statistics							
2.4	4 S	Sectoral statistics					
			2.4.1 Agri	iculture, forestry, fisheries			
			2.4.2 Ene				
				ing, manufacturing, construction			
			2.4.4 Trar	•			
			2.4.5 Tou				
				king, insurance, financial statistics			
2.5				public sector statistics			
2.0		International trade and balance of payments					
2.7	7 F	Prices					
2.8		Labour cost					
2.9		Science and techn					
Domain 3: Enviro	onment	and multi-domair	statistics				
3.		nvironment					
3.2		Regional and sma					
3.3	3 N	/lulti-domain statis					
				ng conditions, poverty and cross-			
			cutting socia				
				nder and special population groups			
				rmation society			
				balisation			
				cators related to the Millennium			
			Developme				
				tainable development			
3.4	3.4 Yearbooks and similar compendia						

The SDMX initiative is working closely with staff responsible for reviewing the UNECE Classification of International Statistical Activities, with a view to using this classification for the purpose of the SDMX registry. This classification scheme will be the SDMX statistical subject-matter domains list.

3 SDMX STATISTICAL SUBJECT-MATTER DOMAINS LIST

The current release of the SDMX Statistical Subject-Matter Domains list uses Domains 1–3 of the UNECE Classification of International Statistical Activities as the main categorization scheme for SDMX registries. The scope of the three levels of classification is defined by the UNECE as set out below.

Domain 1: Demographic and social statistics

1.1 Population and migration – covers work in population and demographic statistics, topics like demography, vital statistics, population structures and growth, demographic projections, families and households (marriages, divorces, household size), migration, refugees and asylum seekers.

Excludes

- 120 causes of death (1.4)
 - methodology and organisation of population censuses (4.3.1)

 1.2 Labour – covers statistics on labour force, labour market, employment and unemployment; the more detailed topics include economically active population, labour conditions, health and safety at work (accidents at work, occupational injuries and diseases, work-related health problems), working time and other working conditions, strikes and lockouts, job vacancies, job creation.

Excludes

- 129 migrant workers (1.2)
- 130 unemployment insurance and unemployment benefits (1.6)
- 131 trade union membership (1.10)
- 132 unpaid work (1.11)
- 133 statistics on earnings, wages and salaries (2.8)
- 134 labour cost (2.8)

1.3 Education – includes educational participation, illiteracy, educational institutions and systems, human and financial resources invested in education, lifelong learning, vocational training and adult learning, impact of education, assessments of student performance, etc.

1.4 Health – covers the health and mortality related statistical activities, including topics like life expectancy, health status, health and safety, health determinants (including lifestyle, nutrition, smoking, alcohol abuse), health resources and expenditure, health care systems, morbidity and mortality (including infant and child mortality), hospital admission, causes of illness and death, specific diseases (e.g. AIDS), disabilities, pharmaceutical consumption and sales, health personnel, remuneration of health professions, environmental health status, health inequality, health accounts.

149 Excludes

150 – work related health and safety (1.2)

- 151 victimisation from criminal behaviour (1.8)
- 152 traffic accidents and injuries (2.4.4)

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158 159 1.5 Income and consumption – covers statistics on household income and expenditures from household viewpoint (all types of income and expenditure), including topics like distribution of incomes, in-kind income, income transfers received and paid, income- or expenditure-based measures of poverty, consumer protection, consumption patterns, consumer goods and durables, household wealth and debts.

Excludes

- 160 social protection schemes against various risks (1.6)
- 161 tax schemes (2.5)
- 162 poverty in a multidimensional sense (3.3.1)
- 163 living conditions (3.3.1)
- 164 social inclusion/exclusion (3.3.1)

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- 1.6 Social protection deals with statistics on measures to protect people against the risks of inadequate incomes associated with unemployment, ill health, invalidity, old age, parental responsibilities, or inadequate income following the loss of a spouse or parent, etc., includes statistics on pension beneficiaries, social security schemes, social protection expenditure, etc.
 - Excludes
- 172 insurance companies as economic actors (2.4.6)
 - pension funds as actors in financial markets(2.4.6)

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- 1.7 Human settlements and housing covers statistical activities on housing, dwellings and human settlements
 - Excludes
- 178 rents (2.7)
 - methodology and organisation of housing censuses (4.3.1)

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181 1.8 Justice and crime – activities including crime, convictions, operation of criminal justice systems, justice, safety, victims, clear-up rates, prison population, illicit drug production, trafficking and use, etc.

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1.9 Culture – statistics dealing with cultural activities in society, like theatre, cinemas, museums, libraries, mass media, book production, sports, etc., including expenditure and financing of culture.

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1.10 Political and other community activities – statistics on voting turnout, participation in political and other community activities, trade union membership, social dialogue, civil society, social capital, etc.

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193 1.11 Time-use – statistics on the use of time by individuals, often related to work-life 194 balance (reconciling family responsibilities and paid work); unpaid work

Excludes

working time (1.2)

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B Domain 2: Economic statistics

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2.1 Macroeconomic statistics – all activities that are dealing with economy wide statistics at macro level, whether annual, quarterly or monthly. Examples are macroeconomic databases that combine national accounts and other macroeconomic

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indicators like Main Economic Indicators (OECD), Principal European Economic Indicators (Eurostat), etc.; business tendency and consumer opinion surveys, economic growth, stability and structural adjustment, cyclical indicators, statistics for business cycle analysis.

Excludes:

- methodology and frameworks of national accounts (2.1.)
- collection and dissemination of national accounts and productivity data not linked to other macroeconomic statistics (2.1)

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- 2.2 Economic accounts covers work on National Accounts in both current and constant prices, dealing with topics like implementation of the 1993 System National Accounts (1993 SNA), update of the 1993 SNA, European System of Accounts (ESA95), Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Gross National Income (GNI), non-observed and informal economy, measurement of capital, input-output tables, balance sheets, etc.
- 218 Excludes
- 219 agricultural economic accounts (in 2.4.1)
- 220 tourism satellite accounts (in 2.4.5)
- 221 detailed general government accounts (2.5)
- 222 financial accounts(2.5)
- 223 price statistics(2.7)
- 224 environmental accounts (3.1)

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- 2.3 Business statistics economy wide statistics on the activities of enterprises, covers work on economic statistics across different sectors (as opposed to 2.4 that deals with specific individual sectors), deals with topics like statistics on economic activities of enterprises, business demography, business investment, business services, demand for services, industrial performance, enterprises by size class, industrial production, commodities, structure of sales and services, outputs of the service industries, non-profit institutions.
- 233 Excludes:
- 234 business tendency surveys (2.1)
- 235 international trade (2.6)
- 236 prices (2.7)
- 237 labour cost (2.8)
- 238 science and technology (2.9)
- 239 ICT (3.3.3)
- 240 activities of foreign affiliates and multinational companies (3.3.4)
- 241 business registers (4.3.2)
- 242 methodology and organisation of economic censuses (4.3.2)
- 243 methodology and organisation of business surveys (4.3.4)

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- 245 2.4 Sectoral statistics statistical activities dealing with one of the specific branches of industry or services mentioned at the three digit level of the classification
- 247 Excludes:
- 248 education (1.3)
- 249 health (1.4)
- 250 social security (1.6)
- 251 culture (1.9)
- 252 statistics covering the whole industrial sector (2.3)
- 253 statistics covering the whole service or market service sector (2.3)
- 254 distributive trade (2.3)

- 255 government and public sector statistics (2.5)
- 256 research and development (2.9)
- 257 telecommunication statistics (3.3.3)

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2.4.1 Agriculture, forestry, fisheries – includes all agriculture, forestry and fishery related statistics, e.g. agricultural monetary statistics (agricultural economic accounts), agricultural structures (farm structure), trade in agricultural products, agricultural labour input, crop and animal production, agricultural commodities, agro-industry statistics (including food production and safety), organic farming and organic food, government expenditure for agriculture, fishing and forestry, products source and use tables, forest and forest product statistics, forest resource assessment and forest fire, trade in forest products, fisheries.

Excludes

- 268 agricultural and similar prices (2.7)
- 269 rural development (3.2)
- 270 methodology and organisation of agricultural censuses (4.3.2)
- 271 methodology and organisation of agricultural surveys (4.3.4)

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- 2.4.2 Energy energy supply, energy use, energy balances, security of supply, energy markets, trade in energy, energy efficiency, renewable energy sources, government expenditure on energy
- 276 Excludes
- 277 energy prices (2.7)
- 278 environmental impact of energy use (3.1)

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2.4.3 Mining, manufacturing, construction – statistics on specific industrial activities, e.g. steel, shipbuilding, and on construction, trade in specific products related to mining, manufacturing and construction

Excludes

- 284 prices of manufactured products (2.7)
 - construction prices (2.7)

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2.4.4 Transport – covers statistics on all modes of transport (air, rail, road, inland waterways, sea), includes topics like transport infrastructure, equipment, traffic flows, personal mobility, safety, energy consumption and environmental impact, transport enterprises, passengers and freight transport, transport sector trends, road traffic accidents.

Excludes

- transport prices (2.8)

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2.4.5 Tourism – tourism products and destinations, tourism receipts and expenditures, tourist accommodation, economic aspects related to tourism behaviour, tourism satellite accounts, employment in tourism industry, environmental impacts of tourism, domestic tourism, meetings industry, international arrivals/departures.

Excludes

- prices for tourist services (2.8)

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2.4.6 Banking, insurance, financial statistics – money, banking and financial market statistics, including financial accounts, money supply, interest rates, exchange rates, stock market indicators, securities, bank profitability, private sector insurance and pension fund statistics, Financial Soundness Indicators.

306 Excludes

- 307 beneficiaries of private pension funds (1.6)
- 308 financing of state pension and of other state social security schemes (2.5)

2.5 Government finance, fiscal and public sector statistics – all statistics related to the government sector, including debt and deficit, revenue and expenditure, accounts of the government sector, central government, tax rates and revenues, tax and benefit systems, financing of state pension and other state social security schemes, public sector employment.

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- government expenditure in specific areas, like health (1.4), education (1.3), research and development (2.9), etc.)
- 2.6 International trade and balance of payments deals with statistics on all cross-border transactions recorded in the balance of payments, includes topics like trade in goods and services, external positions and debt, foreign direct investment, foreign affiliated trade, tariffs, foreign aid, development assistance, resource flows to developing countries

Excludes:

- trade in specific commodities/services mentioned in 2.4.1 to 2.4.5
- 326 multinational companies and activities of foreign affiliates (3.3.4)
 - 2.7 Prices covers any statistical activity dealing with prices, including Purchasing Power Parities (PPPs) and international comparisons of GDP, covers topics like Consumer Price Indices (CPI), inflation, Producer Price Indices (PPI), price indexes for specific products and services (e.g. Information and Communication Technology products).

Éxcludes

- interest rates (2.4.6)
- 335 wages (2.8)

2.8 Labour cost – statistics activities on labour cost, earning and wages, both for structural and short-term statistics

Excludes

- wages as part of total income of private households (1.5)
- 342 2.9 Science and technology activities on Science, Technology and Innovation, 343 includes Research and Development (R&D), innovation, patents, human resources in 344 science and technology, high tech industries and knowledge based services, 345 biotechnology, financing of R&D

Excludes:

- information and communication technologies (ICTs) (3.3.3)
- 348 research in statistics (various elements of sub-heading 4)

Domain 3: Environment and multi-domain statistics

This area includes statistical activities that cut across several different subject areas of Domains 1 and 2 (and 3.1), but remain focused on statistical results about such crosscutting issues. Examples are gender or regional statistics. Some of them deal with sets of indicators to monitor policy-defined goals originating from major international summits, like Millennium Development Goals, sustainable development, gender, etc. In order to keep the classification more compact, environment statistics is also included under this Domain.

3.1.1 Environment – includes topics like climate, climate change, biodiversity, environment and health, natural resources, soil, water, air, landscape, waste, environmental expenditure, expenditure for the protection of the environment, environmental accounts, agri-environmental indicators, environmental pressure, environmental monitoring, material flow analysis, environmental decoupling indicators, pollution, ecosystems, land use and cover, environmental protection, nationally protected areas

Excludes

environment as part of sustainable development (3.3.6)

3.2 Regional and small area statistics – activities dealing with regional statistics and statistics referring to sub-national areas or areas based on administrative units, urban and rural statistics, rural development, regional accounts, regional typologies, regional disparities.

Excludes

- international work on classifications of regional and local units outside regional databases or analytical work (4.2)
- geo-referenced data (4.4)
- thematic maps as form of dissemination (4.5)

3.3 Multi-domain statistics and indicators – deals with conceptual or data work based on a specific thematic approach to outputs that cut across several economic, social or environmental subject areas; the two-digit-level of the classification covers activities dealing with such type of issues that are not explicitly mentioned at the three-digit level

Excludes:

- multi-domain statistics based on a regional approach (3.2)
- yearbook type of compendia or similar products by international organisations not following a specific thematic approach (3.4)

3.3.1 Living conditions, poverty and cross-cutting social issues – includes work on multidimensional methods to measure poverty, living conditions in the broad sense, social inclusion/exclusion, social indicators, social situation

Excludes:

- purely monetary approach to poverty (1.5)

3.3.2 Gender and special population groups – their living conditions and role in the society: comparisons men/women and situation of special population groups like children, youth, women, elderly, disabled, minority groups, etc.

3.3.3 Information society – statistics allowing to assess the use and impact of information and communication technologies on society, includes access and use of ICTs (including Internet), ICT expenditure and investment, ICT infrastructure, telecommunication networks, electronic communications, e-government, electronic commerce, e-learning, broadband penetration, ICT services, communication tariffs, network infrastructure, revenues, expenses and investment of operators, Internet indicators, trade in telecommunications equipment

3.3.4 Globalisation – deals with measuring the economic activities of multinational companies, as well as with attempts to measure globalisation through a variety of components from other subject areas

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3.3.5 Indicators related to the Millennium Development Goals – work on sets of indicators to monitor the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals agreed upon at the UN Millennium Summit

3.3.6 Sustainable development – work on indicators and frameworks to monitor the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

3.4 Yearbooks and similar compendia – multi-domain statistical publications, databases and other data products without specific thematic or issue-oriented focus.

Excludes:
 Multi-domain statistical products based on specific thematic approaches, like sustainable development, MDGs etc. (under 3.3.1 to 3.3.5)

3.1 Using the SDMX Statistical Subject-Matter Domains

The above classification provides a useful high-level scheme for organising statistical data and metadata in many types of applications. It is anticipated that this classification will be used for one of the basic functions of SDMX at a technical level: the organisation of SDMX registries (see the SDMX Technical Specifications, version 2.0). For this purpose, it is probable that in future some registries will require a finer-grained classification in their areas of focus.

The SDMX Technical Standards version 2.0 provide a mechanism for increasing the granularity (level of detail) of a classification scheme while still making clear where the SDMX Statistical Subject-Matter Domains stops, and its own sub-classification begins.

This mechanism involves creating sub-categories expressed as a valid SDMX-ML Category Scheme, and then using the Structure Set mechanism within SDMX to map the lower-level nodes of the SDMX Statistical Subject-Matter Domains to the highest-level categories in the more granular sub-schemes.

This provides for a high-level interoperability between different SDMX registries, while allowing specific SDMX registries to have the granularity they need. The mappings can be exchanged in the form of SDMX-ML Structure Messages.

For more specifics about this, consult the SDMX Technical Standards version 2.0.

4 DOMAIN LIST AND DOMAIN GROUPS

In addition to its key role in supporting categorization of data and metadata flows, the development of a list of statistical domains within the SDMX initiative allows the identification of "domain groups". These groups comprise organizations, working parties, expert groups, task forces, intersecretariat working groups, UN city groups, etc., that are responsible for the development of statistical guidelines and recommendations and identification of best practice for statistics falling within the scope of a particular statistical domain.

4.1 Identification of Domain Groups

As a starting point, the UNECE Classification of International Statistical Activities and the Database of International Statistical Activities in the UNECE Region (Integrated Presentation) (DISA/IP³) are particularly well suited for identifying current or potential participants in various subject-matter domain groups. One of the DISA/IP objectives is the promotion of close co-ordination of statistical activities in Europe and among international organizations. It achieves this close coordination by providing an extensive list of the domain groups, identifying their areas of interest as well as their activities during the year. A preliminary review of the various activities listed under the 2005 Integrated Presentation of the Conference of European Statisticians⁴ identified over 150 domain groups.

4.2 Role of Domain Groups

Domain groups within the Statistical Subject-Matter Domains play an active role in facilitating the use of SDMX standards. This role includes:

1. Identifying and defining concepts used in the domain and distinguishing between:

 Concepts that are cross-domain and which should be found in or added to the list of agreed SDMX "cross-domain concepts".

• Concepts that are domain-specific and can be articulated by the domain group.

2. Providing indicative domain-specific data structure definitions for use as data series identifiers and metadata structure definitions for providing information on data flows or other artifacts related to the domain.

3. Indicating the various code lists used for the various concepts of the domain, distinguishing those most commonly used.

4. Preparing and maintaining a code list showing the statistical agencies that agree to use SDMX standards for the statistics of the domain, in particular, distinguishing those that agree to use the data and/or metadata structure definitions provided by the domain.

5. Indicating where all the above information is maintained and made available to users by the domain.

5 REFERENCES

496 SDMX Content-Oriented Guidelines: Framework, SDMX, March 2006.

498 SDMX Content-Oriented Guidelines: Statistical Subject-Matter Domains, SDMX, March 2006.

³ See http://unece.unog.ch/IntPres/

⁴ Document CES/2005/3

500 SDMX Content-Oriented Guidelines: Metadata Common Vocabulary, SDMX, March 501 2006. 502 503 ISO/TS 17369:2005 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX), version 1.0, 504 505 ISO, April, 2005. 506 SDMX Technical Standards, version 2.0, SDMX, November, 2005. 507 508 6 APPENDIX I – SDMX-ML CATEGORY SCHEME 509 510 To support the users of SDMX-ML, a canonical Category Scheme represented as a 511 valid Structure Message (per SDMX Technical Standards version 2.0) is included here. 512 513 514 <?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?> 515 <!-- Copyright SDMX 2005 www.sdmx.org --> 516 517 <Structure 518 xmlns="http://www.SDMX.org/resources/SDMXML/schemas/v2 0/message 519 520 xmlns:common="http://www.SDMX.org/resources/SDMXML/schemas/v2_0/ 521 522 xmlns:compact="http://www.SDMX.org/resources/SDMXML/schemas/v2_0 523 /compact" 524 xmlns:cross="http://www.SDMX.org/resources/SDMXML/schemas/v2_0/c 525 526 xmlns:generic="http://www.SDMX.org/resources/SDMXML/schemas/v2_0 527 /generic" 528 xmlns:query="http://www.SDMX.org/resources/SDMXML/schemas/v2_0/q 529 530 xmlns:structure="http://www.SDMX.org/resources/SDMXML/schemas/v2 531 0/structure" 532 xmlns:utility="http://www.SDMX.org/resources/SDMXML/schemas/v2_0 533 /utility" xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance" 534 xsi:schemaLocation="http://www.SDMX.org/resources/SDMXML/schemas 535 /v2_0/message SDMXMessage.xsd"> 536 <Header> 537 <ID>BIS_01</ID> <Test>false</Test> 538 539 <Truncated>false</Truncated> 540 <Name xml:lang="en">Trans46301</Name> 541 <Prepared>2002-03-11T09:30:47-05:00</prepared>

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