

SOME CONSIDERATIONS ON THE ACTUAL STATEMENT OF THE WORLD TRADE IN COMMERCIAL SERVICES

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Abstract

The paper aimed to present the current statement of the global trade in services and also by geographical regions, emphasizing the top exporting and importing countries. A special attention was given to transport and travel services. The global export in services accounted for USD 4,645 Billion and the world import in services was USD 4,390 Billion in 2013. The share of the export services in the global trade with commodities and services is 20 %. Compared to the previous years, in 2013 it was noticed a decline in various regions regarding the annual change. However, the highest growth rate of the export in services belongs to the Netherlands, France, Germany, China, the USA, India, Japan and United Kingdom. The top exporting countries of services are: USA 14.3 % market share, United Kingdom 6.3 %, Germany 6.2 %, France 5.1 %, and China 4.4 %. The top importing countries of services are: the USA with 9.8 % market share, China 7.5 %, Germany 7.2 %, France 4.3 %, and United Kingdom 4 %. The EU-28 is the top exporter of services with USD 891 Billion export value, representing 25 % of the world export and also the top importer with USD 668 Billion import value of services. It was followed by the USA, China, India and Japan. The travel services and transport services represent about 25 % and, respectively 22 % in the global trade with services.

Key words: actual statement, commercial services, tourism and travel, transportation, world trade

INTRODUCTION

Services are defined as the result of a production activity that changes the conditions of the consuming units (transformation services), or facilitate the exchange of products or financial assets (margin services). They are of a large variety including: transport, telecommunication and computer services, construction, financial services, wholesale and retail distribution, hotel and catering, insurance, real estate, health and education, professional, marketing and other business support, government, community, audiovisual, recreational, and domestic services. [4]

The commercial services have become an important sector of the world economy with high contributions to the growth of the global GDP, employment and international trade.

The high growth rate of the services was stimulated by the globalization process, the development of knowledge based society, the advancement in information and

communication technologies, the liberalization of service exchange at global level according to GATT and WTO and the intensification and increased complexity of the relationships between organizations. [1]

At present, the commercial services contribute by more than 68 % to the world GDP and even by about 73 % in the high developed countries. The share of services in the total employment is the highest in the USA (78%), 72 % in the high income economies, 70 % in the EU and lower in the emergent economies, for instance in China about 17 %. [3]

The share of the global export with services in the global export is about 20 %, but the international trade with services is more dynamic than the trade with commodities. Thus, in the year 2011, while the international trade with services was 10.7 times higher compared to the year 1980, the international trade with commodities was only 9 times higher. [1, 6]

As in case of commodity trade, the services liberalization requires both the elimination of the discriminatory barriers, and specific nontrade measures to protect health, environment, public order, and morals, and other issues related to competition and consumer protection. [2]

In this context, the purpose of the paper was to present the statement of the international trade in services regarding its volume at world level and its distribution by geographical region and also a special attention was paid to transport and travel services. Also, there were presented the top exporting and importing countries of commercial services in the world.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The purpose of the paper was to identify the main development trends of the commercial services at world level. It presents the most important issues regarding the dynamics of the services volume at world level and also their geographical structure by region, pointing out the main changes especially in the field of transport and tourism and travel services.

The data were collected from WTO World Trade Development 2014. [5]

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The export value of commercial services accounted for USD 4,645 Billion in the year 2013, having 6 % growth rate in 2013 compared to 2012, especially due to the development of services in the EU.

In 2013, the 160 WTO member states carried out USD 4,6 Trillion commercial services export value, representing 99.03 % of the world export with commercial services.

About 50 % of the world export of services is achieved by 10 exporting countries and 34 % is carried out by 34 % of the developing economies.

The distribution of the world export by category of commercial services was the following one: 25.51 % tourism and travel services, 19.48 % transport services and 54.89 % other commercial services.(Table 1).

Table 1.The world export with commercial services by category of service in 2013

Commercial service	Export value of commercial services (USD Billion)	Share in the world export (%)
WORLD	4,645	100.0
Tourism and travel	1,185	25.51
Transport	905	19.48
Other services	2,550	54.89

Source: World Trade Development, 2014, www.wto.org, [5] Own calculation.

The value of the world import of commercial services was USD 4,380 Billion in the year 2013.

The distribution of the world import by category of commercial services was: 24.42 % services of tourism and travel, 27.73 % services of transport and 48.97 % other services.(Table 2, Fig.1.).

Table 2.The world import of commercial services by category of service in 2013

Commercial service	The import value of commercial services (USD Billion)	The share in the world import (%)
WORLD	4,380	100,0
Tourism and travel	1,070	24.42
Transport	1,165	27.73
Other services	2,145	48.97

Source: World Trade Development, 2014, www.wto.org, [5] Own calculation.

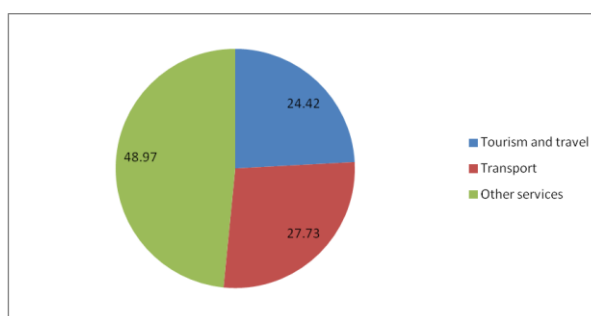


Fig 1. The share of services in the world export of commercial services in 2013 (%)

Source: World Trade Development, 2014, www.wto.org, [5] Own design.

The annual percentage change of the export of commercial services in 2013 compared to 2012 was 6% at world level, 2 % in the transport services, 7 % in the tourism and travel services and 6 % for other services. But, the most dynamic branch of the

commercial services has been tourism and travel, and taking into consideration the whole world trade, tourism and travel is also on the top position.

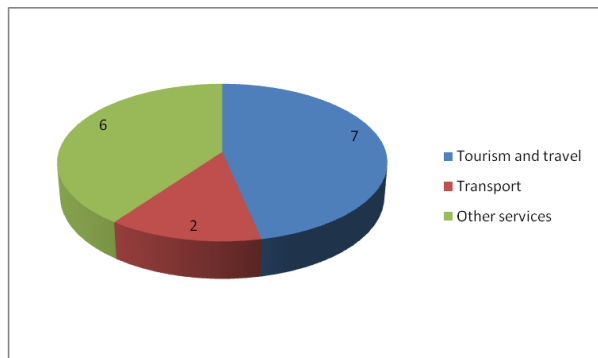


Fig.2. The annual percentage change of the commercial services in 2013 versus 2012 (%)

Source: World Trade Development, 2014, www.wto.org. [5] Own design.

The growth rate of the export with commercial services by geographical region was the following one in 2013 compared to 2012: 9 % in CIS, the highest growth rate, 7 % in Europe, 5 % in North America and 5 % in Asia, 4 % in the Middle East, 3 % in Africa and 2 % in Central and South America. (Fig.3.).

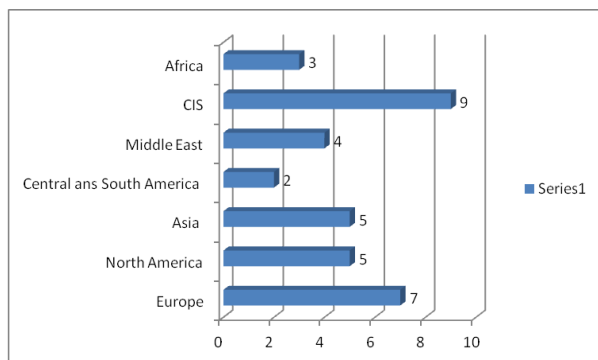


Fig.3. The annual percentage change of the commercial services by geographical region in 2013 versus 2012 (%)

Source: World Trade Development, 2014, www.wto.org. [5] Own design.

Europe registered a recover of the services, while in Asia the growth rate of services is in decline compared to the previous years.

The main countries with the highest growth rate of the export with commercial services are: The Netherlands, France, Germany, China, the USA, India, Japan and United Kingdom (Fig.4.).

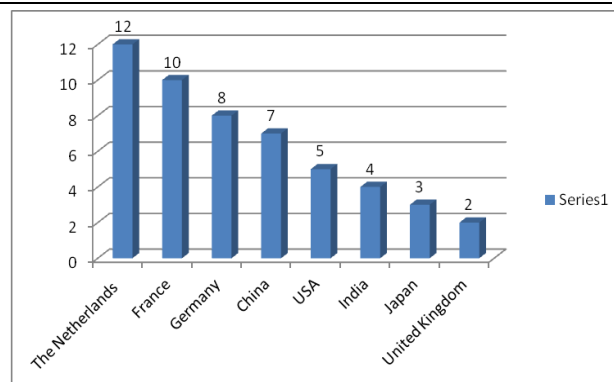


Fig.4. The growth rate of the export with commercial services in the main countries in 2013 compared to 2012

Source: World Trade Development, 2014, www.wto.org. [5] Own design.

The share of various geographical regions in the world export with commercial services was the following one: Europe 47.2 %, Asia 26.2 %, North America 16.4 %, Central and South America 3.1 %, Middle East 2.7 %, Africa 2.5 % and CIS 1.9 % (Table 3).

Table 3. The weight of various geographical region in the world export of services in 2013 versus 2005 (%)

Region	The share of various regions in the world export with services (%)	
	2005	2013
Asia	21.7	26.2
North America	17.3	16.4
Central and South America	2.8	3.1
Middle East	2.6	2.7
Africa	2.2	2.5
CIS	1.6	1.9
Europe	51.8	47.2

Source: World Trade Development, 2014, www.wto.org, [5]

The distribution of the countries by size classes of export value with commercial services:

-Over USD 100 Billion: USA, Canada, Brazil, Australia, China, Russia, India, Japan, Sweden, Germany, United Kingdom, France, Italy, Austria, Spain and the Netherlands.

-Between USD 50 and 100 Billion: Turkey, Finland, Poland, Arabian Emirates, Indonesia.

-Between USD 25 and 50 Billion: Mexico, Argentina, Chile, South Africa, Portugal, Hungary, Czech Rep., Egypt and Romania.

-Between USD 0-25 Billion: the rest of the

world.

The main countries exporting commercial services are: USA, with 14.3 % market share, United Kingdom 6.3 %, Germany 6.2 %, France 5.1 %, China 4.4 %, India 3.2 %, The Netherlands 3.2 %, Japan 3.1 %, Spain 3.1 % and Hong Kong China 2.9 %. All these 10 countries achieved 51.73 % of the world export of commercial services (Table 4).

The main countries importing commercial services are: USA with 9.8 % market share, China 7.5 %, Germany 7.2 %, France 4.3 %, United Kingdom 4 %, Japan 3.7 %, Singapore 2.9 %, The Netherlands 2.9 %, India 2.8 % and Russian Fed. 2.8 %. All these 10 countries achieved 48.08 % of the world import with services (Table 4).

Table 4. Top 10 countries in the world export and import of commercial services in 2013

Crt. No.	Country	Export of commercial services USD Billion	Market share %	Crt. No.	Country	Import of commercial services USD Billion	Market share %
0	World export of commercial services	4,645	100.0	0	World import of commercial services	4,380	100.0
1	USA	662	14.3	1	USA	432	9.8
2	United Kingdom	293	6.3	2	China	329	7.5
3	Germany	286	6.2	3	Germany	317	7.2
4	France	236	5.1	4	France	189	4.3
5	China	205	4.4	5	United Kingdom	174	4
6	India	151	3.2	6	Japan	162	3.7
7	The Netherlands	147	3.2	7	Singapore	128	2.9
8	Japan	145	3.1	8	The Netherlands	127	2.9
9	Spain	145	3.1	9	India	125	2.8
10	Hong Kong China	133	2.9	10	Russian Fed.	123	2.8
	Total	2,403	51.73		Total	2,106	48.08

Source: World Trade Development, 2014, www.wto.org. [5] Own calculation.

The world trade with transport services by geographical region in 2013.

The export of transport services had the following geographical distribution: Europe 47.84 %, of which EU-28 43.53 %, Asia 27.29 %, North America 11.5 %, Central and South America 3.31 %, CIS 4.53 %, Middle East 2.98 %, Africa 2.98 %.(Table 5).

The import of transport services had the following geographical distribution: Asia 33.99 %, Europe 32.27 %, of which EU-28 29.95 %, North America 11.24 %, Middle East 9.44 %, Africa 5.57 %, Central and South America 4.80 %, CIS 2.66 %, (Table 5).

Table 5. The world trade with transport services by geographical region in 2013

Region	Export of Transport services		Import of transport services	
	USD Billion	%	USD Billion	%
WORLD	905	100.0	1,165	100.0
North America	100	11.5	131	11.24
Central and South America	30	3.31	56	4.80
Europe	433	47.84	376	32.27
EU-28	394	43.53	349	29.95
CIS	41	4.53	31	2.66
Africa	27	2.98	65	5.57
Middle East	27	2.98	110	9.44
Asia	247	27.29	396	33.99

Source: World Trade Development, 2014, www.wto.org. [5] Own calculation.

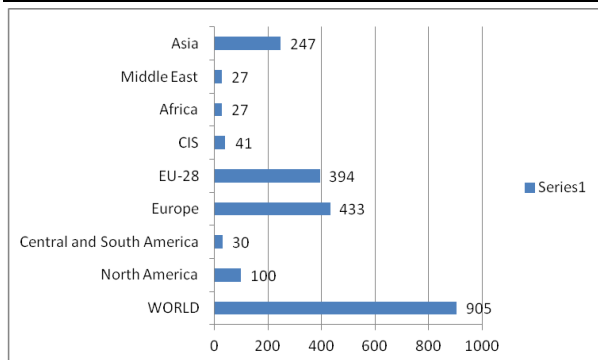


Fig.5. The world export of transport services by geographical region in 2013 (USD Billion)

Source: World Trade Development, 2014, www.wto.org. [5] Own design.

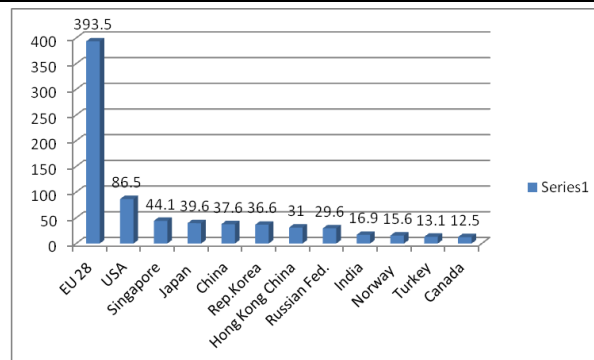


Fig.7. The top countries exporting transport services in 2013 (USD Billion)

Source: World Trade Development, 2014, www.wto.org. [5] Own design.

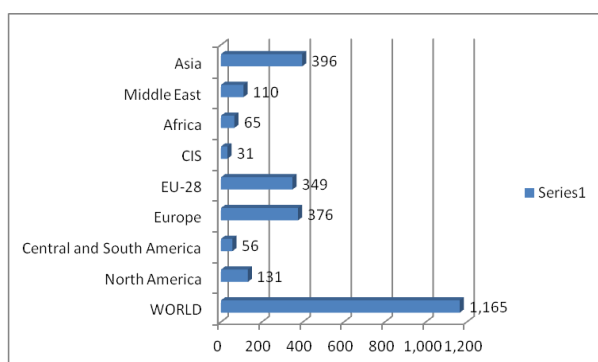


Fig.6. The world import of transport services by geographical region in 2013 (USD Billion)

Source: World Trade Development, 2014, www.wto.org. [5] Own design.

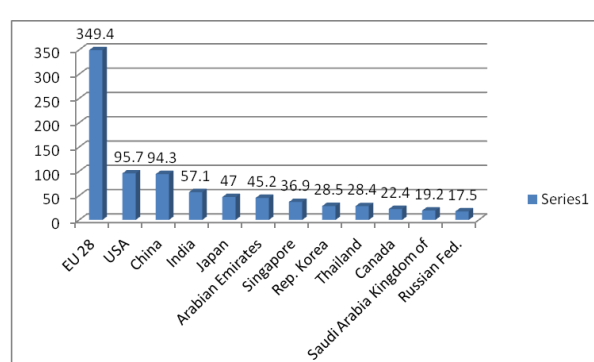


Fig.8. The top countries importing transport services in 2013 (USD Billion)

Source: World Trade Development, 2014, www.wto.org. [5] Own design.

The main countries exporting transport services are: the EU-28 with 43.4 % market share, USA 9.5 %, Singapore 4.9 % Japan 4.4 %, China 4.2 %, Rep. Korea 4 %, Hong Kong China 3.4 %, Russian Fed. 2.3 %, India 1.9 %, Norway 1.7 %, Turkey 1.4 and Canada 1.4 %. All these 12 countries registered USD 756.6 Billion export value of transport services with 83.60 % share in the world transport services.(Table 6)

The main countries importing transport services are: the EU-28 with 30 % market share, USA 8.2 %, China 8.1 %, India 4.9 %, Japan 4 %, Arabian Emirates 3.9 %, Singapore 3.2 %, Rep. Korea 2.4 %, Thailand 2.4 %, Canada 1.9 %, Saudi Arabia Kingdom of 1.6 %, Russian Fed. 1.5 %. All these 12 countries registered USD 841.6 Billion import value of transport services, representing 72.24 % of the world export of services.(Table 6)

The distribution of the world export with tourism and travel services by geographical region in 2013 was the following one: Europe 38.8 %, the EU-28 34.1 %, Asia 30 %, North America 17.3 %, Central and South America 4.4 %, the Middle East 4 %, Africa 3.3 %, and CIS 2.2 % (Table 7).

The distribution of the world import with tourism and travel services by geographical region in 2013 was as follows: Europe 37.2 %, the EU-28 33.2 %, Asia 29.4 %, North America 13.1 %, the Middle East 7.1 %, CIS 6.3 %, Central and South America 4.5 %, and Africa 2.4 %. (Table 7).

The top countries exporting tourism and travel services in 2013 were the following ones: EU-28 with 34.1 % market share, USA 14.6 %, Macao China 4.4 %, China 4.4 %, Thailand 3.6 %, Hong Kong China 3.3 %, Australia 2.6 %, Turkey 2.4 %, Malaysia 1.8 %, and Singapore 1.6 %. All these 10 countries recorded USD 859.7 Billion

tourism and travel services value in 2013, representing 72.54 % of the world export with this kind of services (Table 8).

Table 6. The top countries exporting and importing transport services in 2013

Crt. No.	Country	Export of transport services USD Billion	Market share %	Crt. No.	Country	Import of transport services USD Billion	Market share %
0	World export of transport services	905	100.0	0	World import of transport services	1,165	100.0
1	EU-28 Extra EU-28 export	393.5 187.1	43.4 20.7	1	EU-28 Extra EU-28 import	349.4 154.8	30.0 13.3
2	USA	86.5	9.5	2	USA	95.7	8.2
3	Singapore	44.1	4.9	3	China	94.3	8.1
4	Japan	39.6	4.4	4	India	57.1	4.9
5	China	37.6	4.2	5	Japan	47.0	4.0
6	Rep. Korea	36.6	4.0	6	Arabian Emirates	45.2	3.9
7	Hong Kong China	31	3.4	7	Singapore	36.9	3.2
8	Russian Fed.	29.6	2.3	8	Rep. Korea	28.5	2.4
9	India	16.9	1.9	9	Thailand	28.4	2.4
10	Norway	15.6	1.7	10	Canada	22.4	1.9
11	Turkey	13.1	1.4	11	Saudi Arabia Kingdom of	19.2	1.6
12	Canada	12.5	1.4	12	Russian Fed.	17.5	1.5
	Total	756.6	83.60		Total	841.6	72.24

Source: World Trade Development, 2014, www.wto.org. [5] Own calculation.

Table 7. The world trade with tourism and travel services by geographical region in 2013

Region	Export of tourism and travel services		Import of tourism and travel services	
	USD Billion	%	USD Billion	%
WORLD	1,185	100.0	1,070	100.0
North America	204	17.3	140	13.1
Central and South America	51	4.4	48	4.5
Europe	459	38.8	398	37.2
EU-28	403	34.1	356	33.2
CIS	26	2.2	68	6.3
Africa	39	3.3	26	2.4
Middle East	48	4.0	76	7.1
Asia	356	30	315	29
	6		5	.4

Source: World Trade Development, 2014, www.wto.org. [5] Own calculation.

The main countries importing tourism and travel services in 2013 were: EU-28 with 33.2 % market share, China 12 %, USA 9 %,

Russian Fed. 5 %, Canada 3.3 %, Australia 2.5 %, Brazil 2.3 %, Singapore 2.3 %, Japan 2 % and Rep. Korea 2 %. All these 10 countries registered USD 789 Billion tourism and travel services value in 2013, representing 73.73 % of the world import with this sort of services.(Table 8)

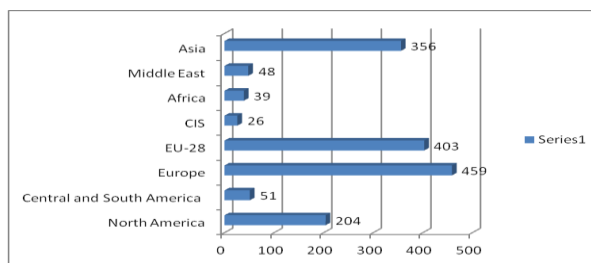


Fig.9. The world export of tourism and travel services by geographical region in 2013 (USD Billion)

Source: World Trade Development, 2014, www.wto.org. [5] Own design.

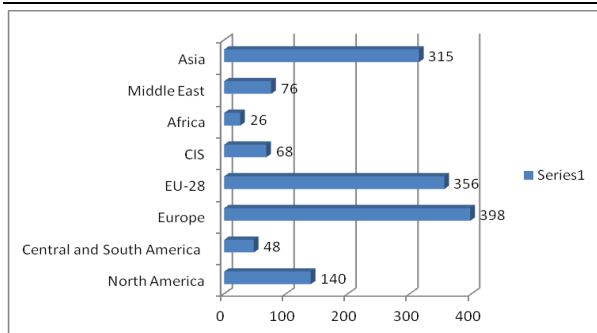


Fig.10. The world import of tourism and travel services by geographical region in 2013 (USD Billion)
Source: World Trade Development, 2014, www.wto.org. [5] Own design.

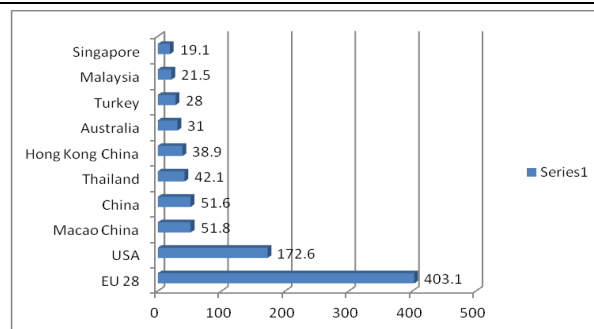


Fig.11. The top countries exporting tourism and travel services in 2013 (USD Billion)
Source: World Trade Development, 2014, www.wto.org. [5] Own design.

Table 8. Top 10 countries exporting and importing tourism and travel services in 2013

Crt.No.	Country	Export of tourism and travel services USD Billion	Market share %	Crt.No.	Country	Import of tourism and travel services USD Billion	Market share %
0	World export of tourism and travel services	1,185	100.0	0	World import of tourism and travel services	1,070	100.0
1	EU-28 Extra EU-28 export	403.1 134.8	34.1 11.4	1	EU-28 Extra EU-28 import	355.8 116.4	33.2 10.9
2	USA	172.6	14.6	2	China	128.7	12.0
3	Macao China	51.8	4.4	3	USA	95.9	9.0
4	China	51.6	4.4	4	Russian Fed.	53.5	5.0
5	Thailand	42.1	3.6	5	Canada	35.2	3.3
6	Hong Kong China	38.9	3.3	6	Australia	26.6	2.5
7	Australia	31	2.6	7	Brazil	25.1	2.3
8	Turkey	28	2.4	8	Singapore	24.6	2.3
9	Malaysia	21.5	1.8	9	Japan	21.9	2.0
10	Singapore	19.1	1.6	10	Rep. Korea	21.7	2.0
	Total	859.7	72.54		Total	789	73.73

Source: World Trade Development, 2014, www.wto.org. [5] Own calculation.

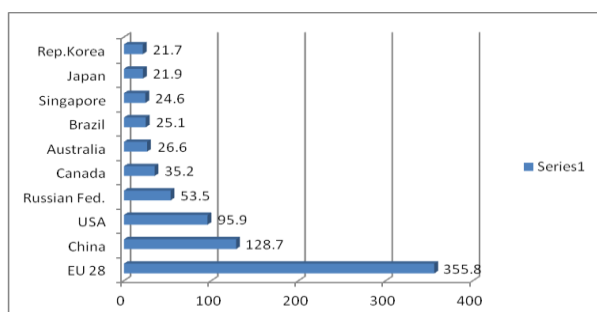


Fig.12. The top countries importing tourism and travel services in 2013 (USD Billion)
Source: World Trade Development, 2014, www.wto.org. [5] Own design.

The highest growth rate of the export with tourism and travel services in 2013 versus 2012 were registered by the following countries: Hong Kong China 18.18 %, Macao China 18 %, Thailand 24 %, EU-28 8 %, Turkey 7.7 %, USA 7 %, Malaysia 5 % and China 4 %.

CONCLUSIONS

Commercial services are a more and more important sector in the global economy contributing to the world GDP, employment

and international trade. They represented 20 % of total world trade in goods and commercial services in 2013.

Compared to the previous years, both the exports and imports of commercial services declined sharply in the most geographical regions.

The European Union is the top exporter of commercial services in 2013, as its exports accounted for USD 891 Billion in 2013, representing 25 % of the world export. It was followed by the USA 18.7 %, China 5.8 %, India 4.3 % and Japan 4.1 %.

The European Union was also the leading importer of services. It registered USD 668 Billion import value of services representing 19.7 % of the world import. It is followed by the USA 12.7 %, China 9.7 %, Japan 4.8 % and India 3.7 %.

The development of the commercial services will depend on how the policy makers would manage all the aspects involved in the cross-border trade in services regarding the dissolution of the discriminatory barriers, the assurance of corresponding to protect health, environment, public order, and consumers.

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