

## EU TRADE

The latest on EU trade

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### What's new

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#### **Exporters' Stories – how Europe's trade agreements benefit companies and communities**

EU trade deals give Europeans more opportunities for jobs, business growth and investment. Foreign trade brings European consumers a wider choice, higher quality goods and lower prices. It also makes Europe's businesses more competitive, while also contributing to sustainable development. And trade deals do not just benefit big firms: over 600,000 small businesses in Europe export goods and services to the rest of the world and each has its own story to tell. Our Exporters' Stories show case a number of examples. Over the coming weeks, we will be posting more such stories. Watch this space!

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#### **Commission provides €380.000 for customs reforms in Central Africa**

On 14 October the European Commission committed €380.000 to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) for the benefit of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) to improve coordination and implementation of customs reforms dictated by the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (FTA). The EU grant will support the countries of the region in putting in place the agreement. It will also boost capacities of their respective National Committees on Trade Facilitation to comply with other relevant national, regional and international requirements and share lessons learned throughout the region. The project will be run in cooperation with UNCTAD over a period of three years, starting in January 2017.

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#### **EU appeals findings of WTO compliance panel in Airbus case**

On 13 October the EU appealed the findings of the WTO panel assessing the EU compliance with an earlier ruling in the EU-US dispute over support to the European aircraft manufacturer, Airbus.

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#### **Final press conference of 15th TTIP round of negotiations**

The 15th negotiation round for a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership between the EU and the US took place in New York on 3-7 October 2016. The EU's Chief TTIP Negotiator Ignacio Garcia Bercero gave an overview of the talks at the final press conference.

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#### **Economic Partnership Agreement with southern African countries enters into effect**

The EU's development-oriented agreement with five southern African countries ensures immediate duty- and quota-free access for their exports to the EU market.

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#### **Commissioner Malmström stresses role of fair and ethical trade in a values-based trade strategy, outlines upcoming action**

At a breakfast meeting in the European Parliament with MEPs and a broad range of local authorities and civil society organisations, Cecilia Malmström stressed the importance of fair and ethical trade schemes. She argued they were an essential part of the EU's broader efforts to ensure responsible supply chains that respect human rights, labour rights and the environment.

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#### **EU trade policy and the retail and wholesale sector**

On 13 October Commissioner Malmström met in Brussels with representatives of retail and wholesale businesses from across the European Union. She noted the benefits to the sector of an open trade policy, since they are both importers of goods and exporters of services. She also challenged them to continue to work towards more responsible supply chains, and to support the EU's work in that direction, since open trade policies depend on us addressing the values issues that consumers and citizens care about.

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[Commissioner Cecilia Malmström's website](#)

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