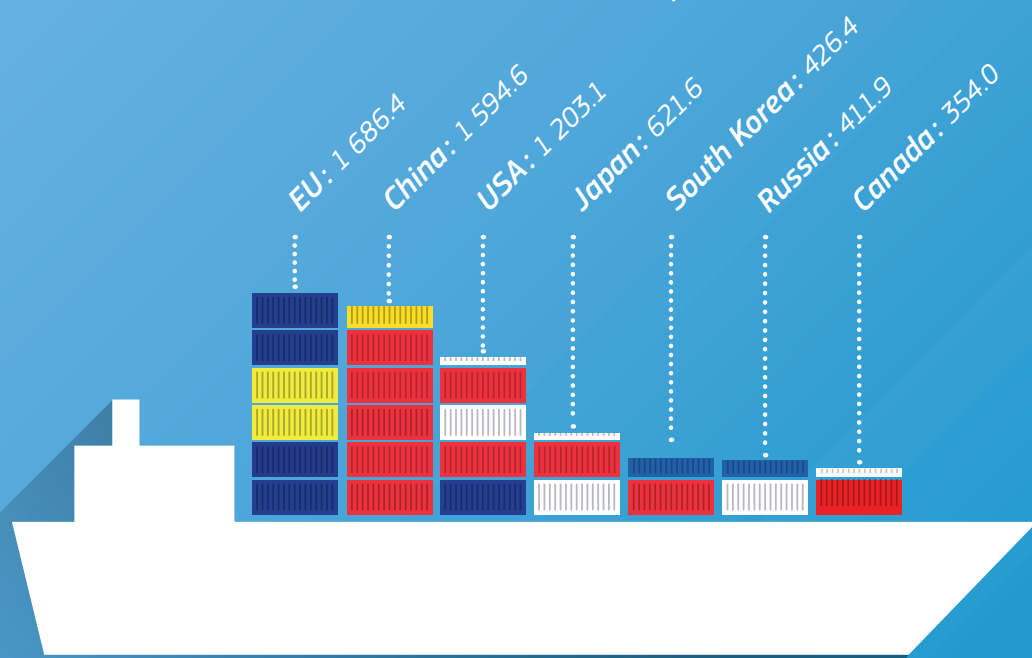


# GROWING TOGETHER: the EU on the global scene



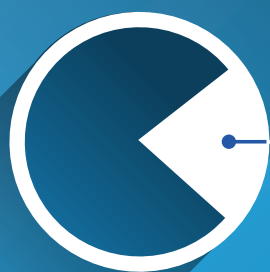
**AS A RESULT OF SUCCESSIVE ENLARGEMENTS,  
THE EU IS NOW THE LARGEST INTEGRATED ECONOMIC AREA IN THE WORLD,  
MAKING IT A STRONGER PLAYER ON THE WORLD STAGE**

The enlarged EU is the largest player on the global trading scene,  
with **16.4%** of world exports.



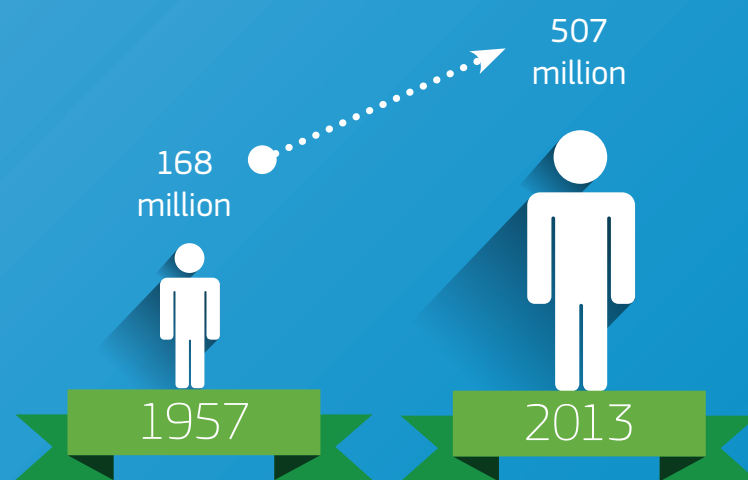
Exports of goods (billion EUR) in 2012

[http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2013/may/tradoc\\_151348.pdf](http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2013/may/tradoc_151348.pdf)



EU's share in the world GDP:  
**23%** (2012)

The EU has one of the highest standards of living in the world:  
it is amongst the top 5 best performing economies in the world,  
with average GDP per person of around EUR 26,000 in 2012.



Growing from the original six founding countries, to the current 28 Member States, the EU's population has roughly tripled.



The EU is the largest source and destination of foreign direct investment in the world.