

# World Ceramic Tiles Forum – National Context

Key developments in trade



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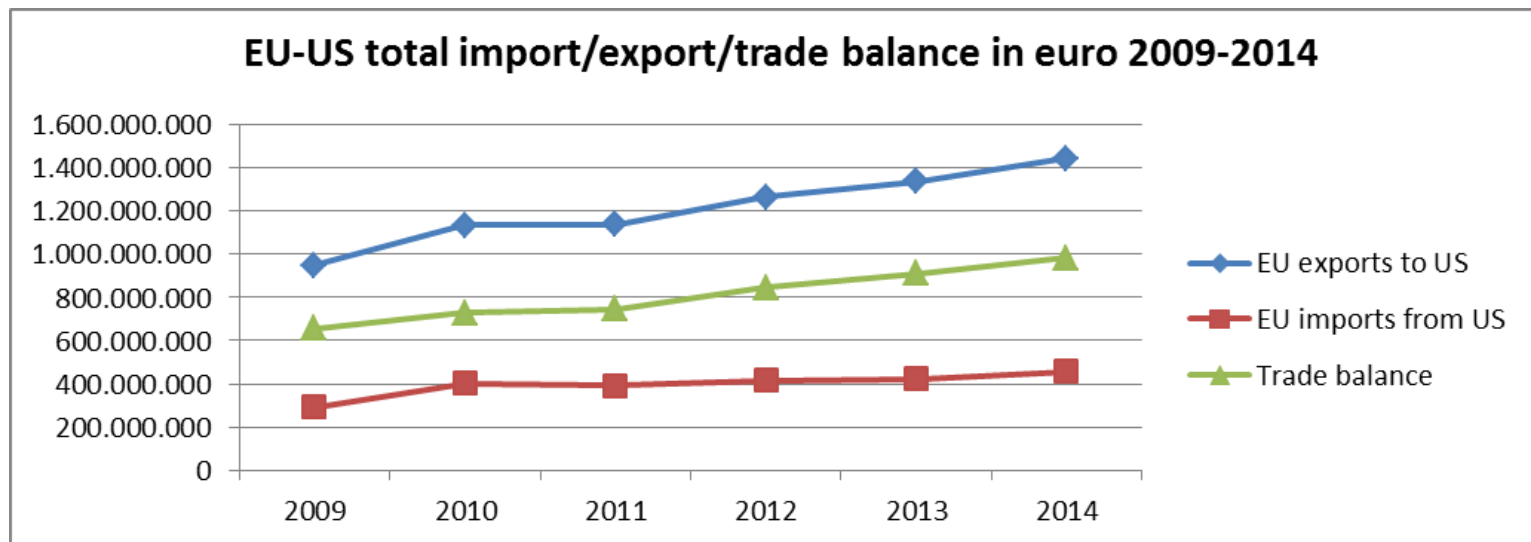
- I. FTA negotiations
- II. TTIP
- III. Technical barriers and tariffs
- IV. WTO Trade Facilitation negotiations

# I. FTA negotiations

Ongoing Negotiations		Details
United States	19-23 October 2015	Since July 2013, EU and the US have held 11 rounds of negotiations for a Transatlantic Trade & Investment Partnership (TTIP) which deals with tariffs, technical barriers, energy & raw materials, and SMEs. Parties have confirmed their commitment to making progress and agreed to step up efforts to accelerate negotiations in each of the three areas of the talks (market access, regulatory and rules). In between formal rounds there will also be a number of technical, so-called intersessional talks. During the 11th Round second tariff offers were exchanged.
Canada	26 September 2014	The Canada-EU summit in Ottawa marked the end of the negotiations of the EU-Canada trade agreement (CETA). Legal review and translation of the agreement text, waiting for the approval by the EP and Council.
Japan	14-18 September 2015	Twelve rounds have been held so far between the EU and Japan. Both sides hope to conclude the negotiations by the end of 2015 provided the agreement is ambitious one.
Mercosur	18 November 2014	In the context of the EU-CELAC summit, the EU and Mercosur agreed to proceed with an exchange of market access offers in the last quarter of 2015. Commissioner Malmström will meet Foreign Minister Loizaga of Paraguay in Brussels on 18 November. Discussion with Member States at TPC FM on 13 November and FAC TRADE on 27 November. Commissioner Malmström and Foreign Minister Vieira agreed to talk again in the margins of COP21 in Paris or MC10 in Nairobi.
China	30 November 2015	Negotiations of a comprehensive EU-China investment agreement were launched in 2013 with the aim to remove market access barriers to investment and provide a high level of protection to investors and investments in EU and China markets. It will replace the 26 existing Bilateral Investment Treaties between 27 individual EU Member States and China by one single comprehensive EU investment Agreement. The 8th round of negotiations is scheduled to take place in Brussels the week of 30 November 2015.
Vietnam	4 August 2015	On 4 August 2015, the EU and Vietnam sealed a deal in principle after two and a half years of talks. The agreement is expected to take effect in late 2017 or early 2018 and will eliminate “nearly all” tariffs on goods traded between the two economies. However, although the substance of the deal has been agreed, this agreement now needs to be translated into legal texts and the investment chapter, still need to be completed. It is expected that both processes will be completed by the end of 2015.
Thailand	8 - 10 April 2014	Both sides seek to negotiate a comprehensive agreement covering, inter alia, tariffs, nontariffs, services, investment, procurement, intellectual property, competition, regulatory issues and sustainable development. The talks were officially launched in March. Four rounds have taken place so far. The last meeting took place on 8-10 April 2014 in Brussels.
Ecuador	end 2014	The next steps for Ecuador’s accession to the EU Colombia/Peru Agreement are to translate the negotiated texts and to agree on the Protocol of Accession together with Colombia and Peru that need to approve and subsequently implement the Protocol.
India		Negotiations on market access for goods were brought to a de facto standstill in the summer 2013 due to a mismatch of the level of ambitions and expectations. Both sides are seeking solutions.
Morocco		DCFTA negotiations are actively engaged. The aim is to reach an agreement that will extend significantly beyond the scope of the existing Association Agreement to include trade in services, government procurement, competition, intellectual property rights, investment protection and the gradual integration of the Moroccan economy into the EU single market, for example in areas like industrial standards and technical regulations or sanitary and phytosanitary measures.

## II. EU-US Transatlantic Trade & Investment Partnership

- Positive trade balance (total ceramic industry): **983 million EUR**
- **Increasing import/exports trends** on in the EU and the US
- TTIP could further **facilitate trade** accross the atlantic
- 11th negotiations round took place on **19-23 October 2015**
- Willingness to speed up talks ahead of US Presidential elections



Source: Eurostat

### III. Technical barriers and tariffs

Wall & floor tiles (6907, 6908)	Algeria	Argentina	Belarus	Bosnia & Herzeg.	Brazil	Canada	Chile	China	Colombia	Cuba	Ecuador	Egypt	Guyana	India	Indonesia	Iran	Israel	Japan	Jordan	Kenya
VAT	17	21	20	17			19	17	16		12		6		10		16			16
Other taxes, fees	x		x	x	x	x			x		x	x		x				x	x	x
tariff barriers (in %)	21-23	12-14	10-12	0	12-14	8	0	8-12	0-10	10	5-25	6	0-17	10	5-20	55-75%	0	1.7-2.1	0	25
mandatory standards				x										x	x					
mandatory certification	x		x	x				x			x	x			x	x	x		x	x
other		x			x			x			25%									

Wall & floor tiles (6907, 6908)	Lebanon	Malaysia	Mexico	Morocco	Nigeria	Peru	Philippines	Qatar	Russia	Saudi Arabia	Senegal	Singapore	South Korea	Syria	Thailand	Turkey	Ukraine	USA	Venezuela
VAT		16	20	5	18	12		18		18						20		12	12
Other taxes, fees	x	x	x	x	x	x			x		x							x	x
tariff barriers (in %)	3.6	5-60	0	0	20%	0	3-10	5	7.5 - 12	5-12	20	0	0-1.3	20-50	10-30	0	5-10	8.5-10	14-15
mandatory standards				x						x					x				
mandatory certification	x	x		x	x		x	x	x	x				x	x		x		
other	x		x			x			x		x						x	x	

Source: Source: Market Access: Inventory of tariffs and certification requirements, European ceramic industry, 2015

## IV. WTO Trade Facilitation negotiations

- Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) negotiations
- Aim to **remove tariffs and non-tariff barriers** at multilateral level
- **Facilitate trade** for businesses
  - advance rulings, appeal and review procedures, disciplines on fees and charges
  - measures to enhance impartiality, non-discrimination and transparency.
- differs from other WTO agreements
  - certain flexibilities in implementation for developing countries)
- Entry into force after **ratification by two thirds of the WTO's members** (total of 107 countries)
- EU adds 28 new countries to the list of 19 WTO members
- Ambitious goal ahead of **the 10<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference in December 2015** in Nairobi, Kenya

