

World Ceramic Tiles Forum – National Context

Key developments in trade



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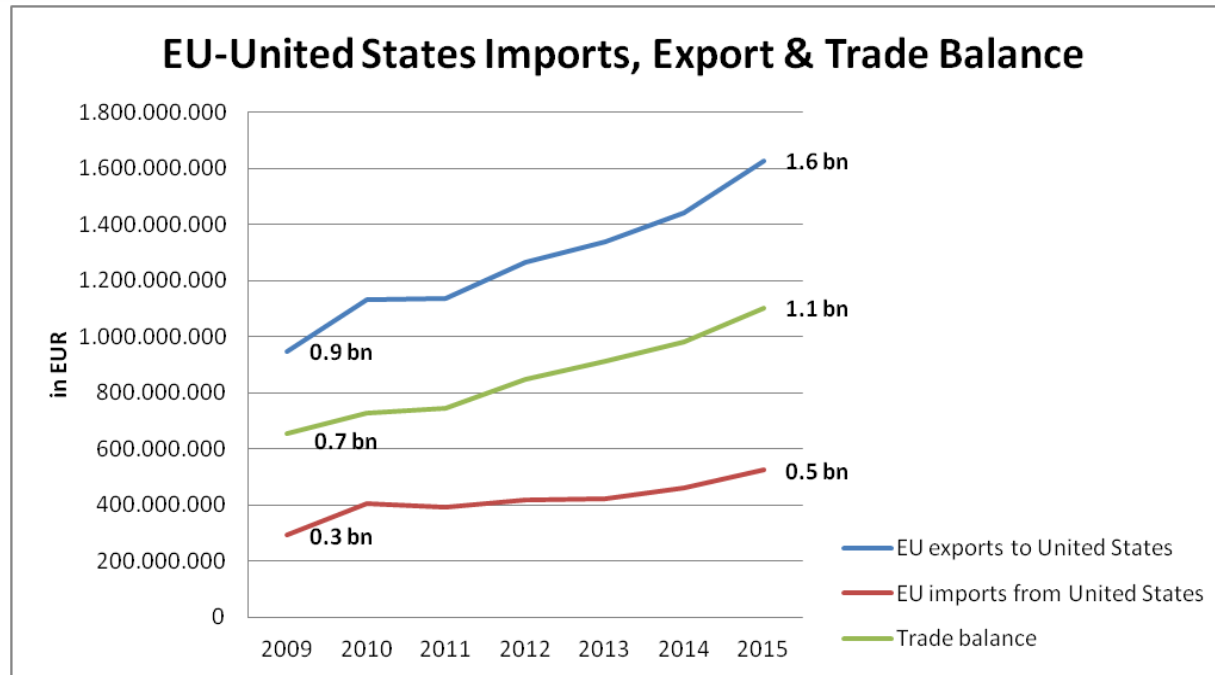


- I. FTA negotiations - Overview
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- IV. WTO Trade Facilitation negotiations

I. FTA negotiations

Ongoing Negotiations		Details
United States	3-7 October 2016	Since July 2013, EU and the US have held 15 rounds of negotiations for a Transatlantic Trade & Investment Partnership (TTIP) which deals with tariffs, technical barriers, energy & raw materials, and SMEs. The objective of the last negotiation round was to achieve as much progress as possible by the end of the year. In between formal rounds there will also be a number of technical, so-called intersessional talks.
Japan	26-30 September 2016	17 rounds have been held so far between the EU and Japan. Progress has been made on the implementation of the various roadmaps. Market access offers have been exchanged on trade in goods as well as on services and investment. Additionally, progress has been made with regard to consolidation of the negotiating texts for various chapters. The EU has also transmitted to Japan two lists of non-tariff measures which reflected concerns raised by Member States and European companies doing business in Japan. Both sides hope to conclude the negotiations in 2016 provided that the substance of the agreement is right and that the agreement is an ambitious one.
Mercosur	10-14 October 2016	In view of the significant political and economic developments that took place in late 2015, the negotiation process was resumed in April 2016 with the objective to conclude the agreement between the EU and Mercosur. An exchange of market access offers took place on 11 May 2016. The next negotiating round is scheduled for 10-14 October in Brussels.
China	26 September 2016	Negotiations of a comprehensive EU-China investment agreement were launched in 2013 (11 rounds took place so far) 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 12 round of negotiations is scheduled to take place in Brussels the week of 26 September 2016.
Vietnam	2 December 2015	On 2 December 2015, the European Commission and Vietnam announced the formal conclusion of the negotiations for a EU-Vietnam FTA. The legal review has begun and will be followed by translation with a view to submit the agreement for approval to the Council and the European Parliament in 2017. It is expected that the agreement can enter into force beginning of 2018.
Australia/NZ	11 March 2016	The European Commission started working on the negotiation mandate in order to get the approval from the European Council in spring next year and to launch the negotiations with Australia and New Zealand as soon as possible. An inception Impact Assessment has already been released while a public consultation was launched on 11 March.

II. EU-US Transatlantic Trade & Investment Partnership

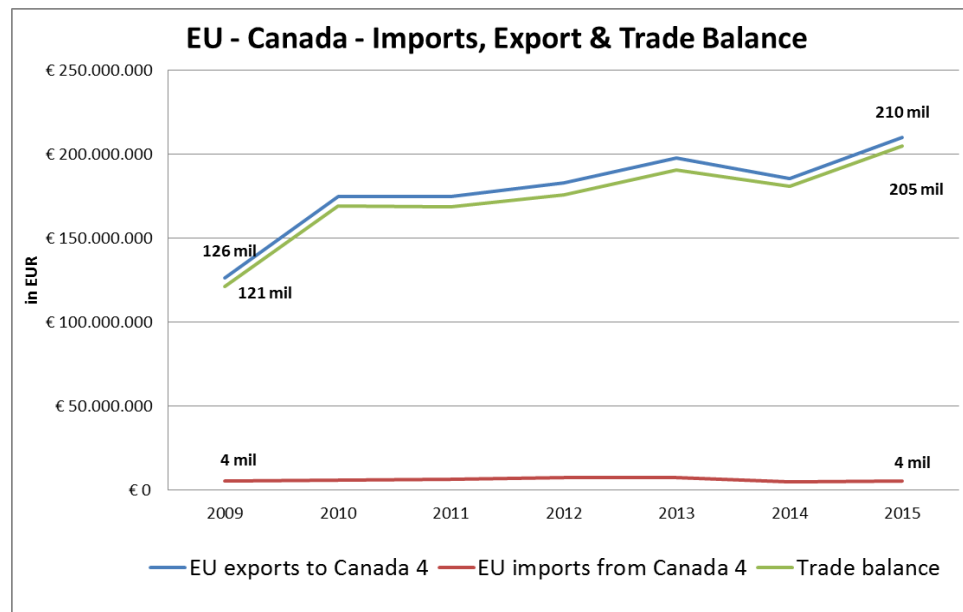


Source: Eurostat

- Positive trade balance (total ceramic industry): over **1,1 bn EUR in 2015** (as compared to 983 million EUR in 2014)
- **Increasing import/exports trends** on in the EU and the US
- TTIP could further **facilitate trade** accross the atlantic
- 15th negotiations round took place on **3-7 October 2016**
- Willingness to continue technical talks in 2017
- Expected delays in concluding the agreement

II. EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)

- **30 October 2016:** signature of CETA
- **December 2016:** Vote in European Parliament
- **1 March 2017:** possible provisional application of CETA



III. Technical barriers and tariffs

OVERVIEW - Wall and Floor tiles (6907 & 6908) on Market access - tariffs and certification requirements

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Wall & floor tiles (6907, 6908)	Algeria	Argentina	Belarus	Bosnia & Herzeg.	Brazil	Canada	Chile	China	Colombia	Ecuador	Egypt	India	Indonesia	Iran	Israel	Japan	Jordan	Kenya
VAT	17	21	20	17			19	17	16	12			10		16			16
Other taxes, fees	x		x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x				x	x	x
tariff barriers (in %)	21	12-14	10-12	0	12-14	8	0	12 - 24.5	0-10	5-25	6	10	5-20	55	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%								

	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35
Wall & floor tiles (6907, 6908)	Lebanon	Malaysia	Mexico	Morocco	Nigeria	Peru	Philippines	Qatar	Russia	Saudi Arabia	Senegal	Syria	Thailand	Tunisia	Ukraine	USA	Venezuela
VAT		6	16	5	18	12		18		18				10		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	20-50	10-30	0%	5-10	8.5-10	14-15
mandatory standards				x						x			x	x			
mandatory certification	x	x		x	x		x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x		
other	x		x			x			x		x				x	x	

Source: Market Access: Inventory of tariffs and certification requirements, European ceramic industry, 2016

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 10th Ministerial Conference in December 2015** in Nairobi, Kenya





Thank you for your attention!