

World Ceramic Tiles Forum

Key developments in trade



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- I. FTA negotiations - Overview
- II. Technical barriers and tariffs
- III. Cooperation on standardisation
- IV. WTO Trade Facilitation

I. EU Free Trade Agreements & negotiations

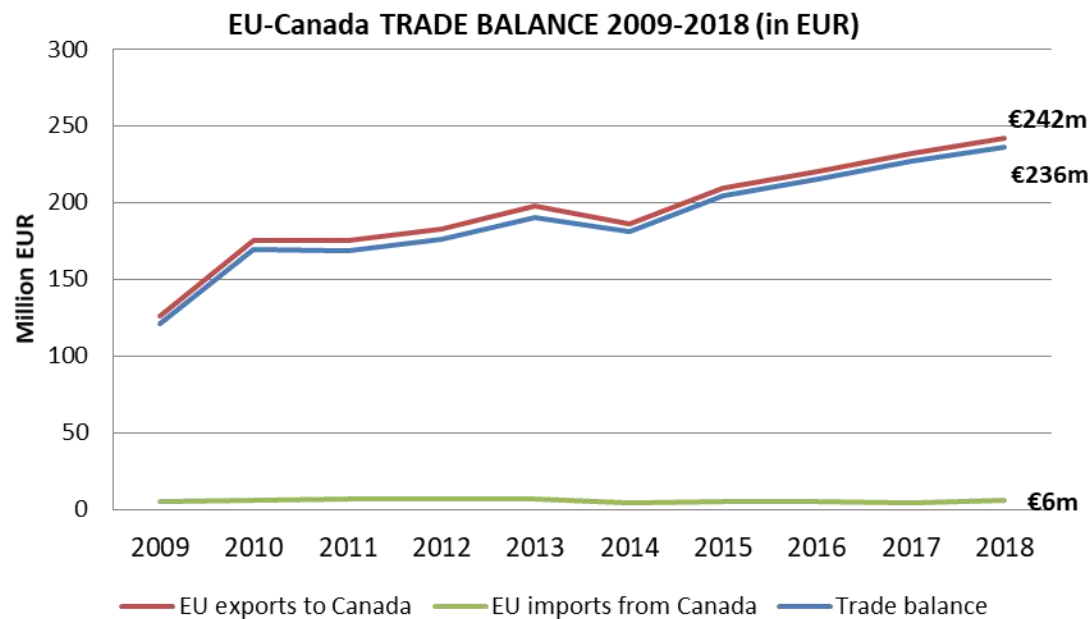


FTA ongoing negotiations - EU and other trading partners

Stage of agreement	Partner	EU export 2018 of ceramic tiles (m ²)	Next steps <i>obstacles</i>
Finalised, yet to be ratified	Canada	11,302,220	MS ratification
	Mexico	8,525,065	Text finalisation
	Singapore	1,686,180	Pending on final formalities from each party
	Vietnam	1,214,396	European Parliament consent
Under negotiation	Chile	1,987,594	Negotiations ongoing
	Indonesia	74,305	Negotiations ongoing <i>EU ban on palm oil</i>
	Mercosur	3,603,136	Negotiations concluded <i>Legal review</i>
	Australia	5,904,936	Negotiations ongoing
	New Zealand	864,959	Negotiations ongoing <i>Geographical Indications</i>
Awaiting initiation	UK	14,071,383	Awaiting Council mandate <i>Brexit</i>

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

- 2nd year of provisional entry into force of CETA
- Support schemes for companies, especially SMEs, wishing to export on both sides



Source: Eurostat 2019

This Project is funded by the European Union

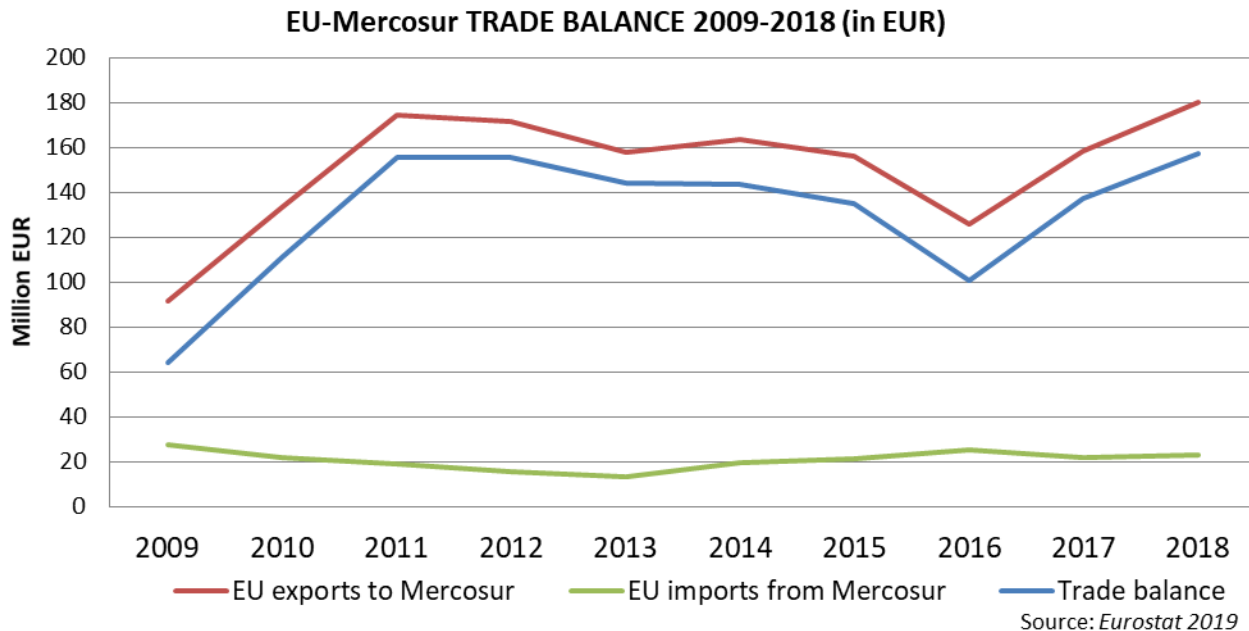
CETA Market Access Programme for EU Business
Supporting EU companies in Canada

EXPORT

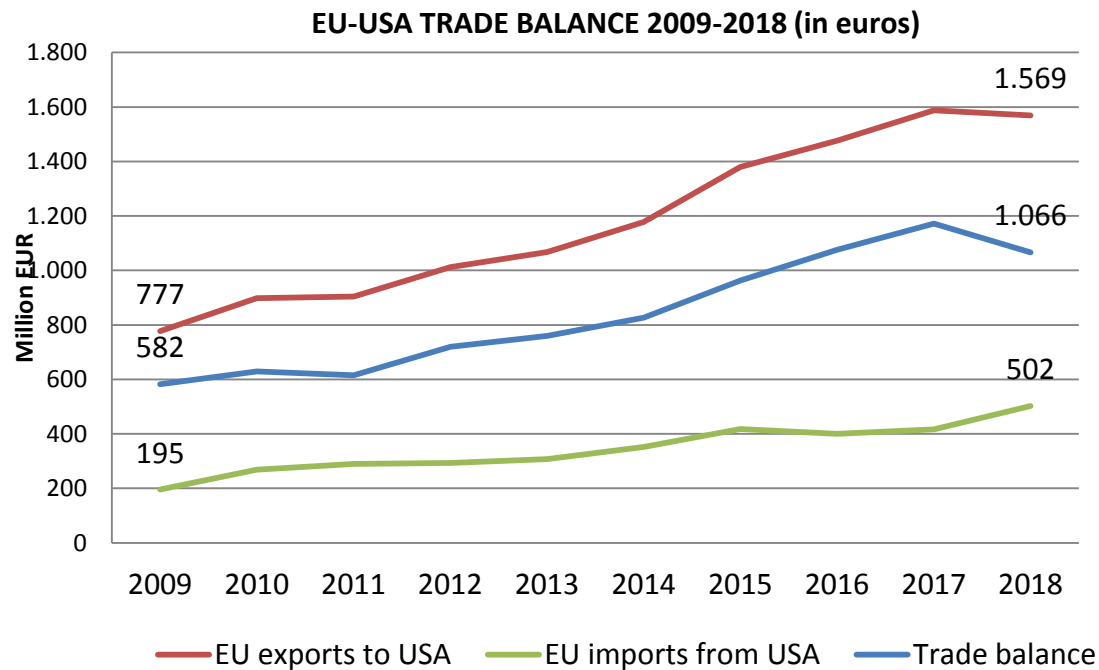
The CETA Market Access Programme provides sector-specific, practical and concrete information on the benefits of CETA for EU business.

II. EU-MERCOSUR agreement

- **28 June 2019:** EU and four founding members of **Mercosur** (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay) concluded political negotiations for a trade agreement
- The agreement will remove the majority of tariffs on EU exports to Mercosur, saving over €4 billion worth of duties per year.



II. EU-US Transatlantic Trade & Investment Partnership



Source: Eurostat

- Positive trade balance (total ceramic industry): **1 bn EUR in 2018.**
- TTIP could further **facilitate trade** across the Atlantic.
- 2013 – 2017: EU and US have held 15 rounds of negotiations for a Transatlantic Trade & Investment Partnership (TTIP).
- No progress in 2017, since the new US administration.

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	19	20	21	22	23	24	
Wall & floor tiles (6907, 6908)	Algeria	Argentina	Belarus	Bosnia & Herzeg.	Brazil	Cameroon	Canada	China	Colombia	Ecuador	Egypt	Cuba	Egypt	Ghana	India	Indonesia	Iraq	Iran	Israel	Ivory Coast	Japan	Jordan	Kenya	Kuwait	
VAT	19	21	20	17		19,3	5	17	19	12	14		14	12.5		10	15	9	17	18	8	16			
Other taxes, fees	x	x	x		x		x		x	x			x		x	x		x	x	x	x	x			
tariff barriers	8.4-9.6	14	7.5-12		14	30		7		15.6-18.2		10-15		20	10	5-20	15	55		20			25		
mandatory standards	x					x					x		x		x	x							x	x	
mandatory certification	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x		x	x		x	x	x		x		x	x	x	
other	x	x			x			x		x	x		x		x	x			x			x		x	
	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49
Wall & floor tiles (6907, 6908)	Lebanon	Libya	Malaysia	Mexico	Morocco	Niger	Nigeria	Peru	Philippines	Qatar	Russia	Saudi Arabia	Senegal	South Korea	Sudan	Syria	Tanzania	Thailand	Tunisia	Uganda	Ukraine	USA	Venezuela	Vietnam	Zimbabwe
VAT	11		6	16	20	19	5	18	12		18	5	18	10	17		18	7	18	20	20		12	10	15
Other taxes, fees	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x						x		x	x	x		
tariff barriers		5	5-60			0-5	20		3-10	5	7.5-12	12	20		40	20	25	10-30		35		8.5-10	14	20-45	9375
mandatory standards			x						x			x					x					x	x	x	
mandatory certification	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x
other	x			x	x			x	x		x	x	x			x			x		x	x	x	x	

Source: Market Access: Inventory of tariffs and certification requirements, European ceramic industry, 2018

IV. WTO Trade Facilitation negotiations



The Trade Facilitation Agreement entered into force February 2017 after **ratification by two thirds of the WTO's members** (110 countries).

- To **remove tariffs and non-tariff barriers** at multilateral level.
 - advance rulings, appeal and review procedures, discipline on fees and charges.
 - measures to enhance impartiality, non-discrimination, and transparency.
 - foster transnational administrative co-operation
- Flexible implementation for developing countries (implement when able).
- EU signatory (on behalf of 28 Member States).
- Committee on Trade Facilitation met on 15-16 October 2019.
- 146 WTO members or almost 90% of all members have deposited their ratification of the TFA.
- The **TFA Facility (TFAF) Grant Program** was launched to help developing and LDC WTO members to reach their TFA commitments.

The WTO estimates that it will reduce trade costs by **14.3%**



IV. WTO Reform



1. WTO shortcomings: rules unchanged for 20 years, blockage of Appellate Body, inability to address market distortions
2. The main issues at the core of the reform proposals are:
 - Appellate Body's role review
 - Subsidies – notification, transparency and enforcement
 - Market distortions – role of State-Owned Enterprises
 - Developing countries – modernization of preferential treatment system
 - Role of WTO secretariat and committees
3. Over the last year several attempts have been carried out by WTO members to put forward reform proposals:
 - EU, Japan and US trilateral talks
 - EU-US Executive Working Group
 - EU-China Working Group
 - Plurilateral meeting among Canada, Australia, Brazil, Chile, EU, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore and Switzerland





Thank you for your attention!