How to export to the EU?
facts & figures

Why do business with the EU?

The European Union has created the **largest single market** in the world economy and has set up clear and transparent rules applicable to all trading partners.

A **single set of trade rules and administrative procedures** and a **single tariff** simplify trade and create a stable, predictable and safe trading environment.

The 500 million plus consumers living in the EU represent the world's most lucrative market presenting multiple opportunities for exporters from all around the globe.

Did you know that …

Demography:

… the EU with its half a billion of inhabitants accounts for 7% of the world population.
…EU27 with its 502.4 millions citizens is the third largest member of the G20 in terms of population.
…Europeans live among the longest in the world.
…infant mortality in EU27 is the third lowest among the G20.
…European lives 12 years longer (79.8 years) than the average citizen in the world (67.9 years).

Economy:

…the EU accounts for 25.2% of the world's GDP.
…GDP per capita (in €) in the EU27 is 25 100€ and in the euro-area 28 300€, which places Europe among the five most performing economies (2011).
…the euro area's GDP is with 9 414 billion euro almost twice as high as the GDP of China with its 5 243 billion euro (2011).
…EU GDP grew by nearly 35% over 1995-2008 and reduced by less than 1% over 2008-2010. Over the last 15 years, this represents an average anual
…the EU has only experienced a small trade deficit over the last decade as a result mainly of its imports of energy and raw materials.
…the EU is dependent on raw materials. The share of imports of raw materials, notably energy, has been continuously rising and now represents more than a third of total EU imports.
…the value of exports of raw materials from the EU has more than doubled between 2002-2011.

Debt crisis and economic governance

…in 2011 the EU27 had a lower government deficit (-4.5% of GDP) than the United States (-9.6% of GDP) and Japan (-8.2% of GDP).
…in 2011 the EU27 had a lower government debt (83% of GDP) than the United States (102.9% of GDP) and Japan (229.8% of GDP).
…inflation in the euro zone (2.7%) in 2011 is around three times lower than inflation in Russia (8.4%), India (8.6%) or Argentina (9.3%).
…the European Union, in 2011, overhauled and dramatically strengthened its mechanisms for coordinating economic and budgetary policies.
… in December 2011 a package of six EU laws for closer surveillance of public finances and macro-economic imbalances entered into force, with improved prevention and enforcement including more effective sanctions.

…the 17 Member States of the euro area completed the ratification process of the reinforced financial backstop EFSF (European Financial Stability Facility) in less than three months, on 14 October 2011.
…the ESM (European Stability Mechanism) is scheduled to come into effect in July 2012, as the permanent mechanism for financing crisis management in the euro area.
…altogether, the EU and the euro area are mobilising a firewall of around €800 billion, or about $1 trillion.
…to tackle the effects of the economic crisis, Europe provides conditional support to banks to ensure that the flow of credit to homes and businesses is not cut off.
…the European Commission issues every year (last time on 30 May 2012) 27 sets of country-specific recommendations, for each Member State plus one for the euro area as a whole, on budgetary and economic policies and with operational guidance for preventive action per country.
…euro area Member States are subject to a three-step sanctions procedure if they deviate from the maintenance of sound public finances: going from an interest-bearing deposit with the Commission, over an non-interest-bearing deposit, to a fine.
…the EU, together with Member States and the IMF, took unprecedented actions to help Greece to implement its challenging economic reform agenda.
…the total package of assistance to Greece adds up to about € 380 billion. This is equivalent to 177% of Greek GDP, or € 33 600 per Greek inhabitant (for instance, the post-war US Marshall Plan transfers represented only 2,1% of GDP of recipient countries).
…Greek government deficit has been cut from almost 16% of GDP in 2009 to 9,25% of GDP in 2011

Sources of growth

…EU27 GDP in 2008 was 2.13% or €233 billion higher than it would have been if the Single Market had not been launched in 1992.
…the level of employment would have been 1.32% lower (2.77 million jobs) compared to its actual level in 2008 without the Single Market.
…65% of EU exports go to other EU Member States. More than 60% of the EU's foreign direct investment (FDI) is invested inside the EU (2011).
…thanks to the euro, intra-euro area trade rose by 5-15%, and intra-euro area investment flows by 15-35%.
…the EU is the largest exporter and the largest importer of goods among the G20. The EU benefits from being one of the most open economies in the world.
…by 2015, 90% of future economic growth will be generated outside of Europe.
…EU trade with the rest of the world doubled between 1999 and 2010.
…in 2010, roughly ¼ of EU growth came from international trade.
…the recently concluded EU-South Korea Free Trade Agreement offers new export opportunities worth nearly €20 billion for the EU.
…EU inward investment from the rest of the world is playing an increasingly important role in GDP growth.
…Europe is a world leader in environmental technologies. This global market is forecast to triple by 2030.

Financial regulation

…the EU is delivering swiftly on its commitment to global efforts for financial regulation.
…the European Commission proposal on a common framework for banking crisis management and resolution makes Europe the first jurisdiction in the world to be delivering on all the past G20 commitments to strengthen regulation and supervision of the banking sector.
…the EU has completely overhauled and strengthened its financial supervision. The new European System of Financial Supervision is operational since 1 January 2011.
…the European Commission has announced key proposals to introduce more integrated banking supervision and common deposit guarantee and resolution funds by autumn 2012.
…the European Commission has tabled over 30 pieces of legislation since 2008 to strengthen financial regulation; many of them have been turned into European law already.
…the EU was the first G20 jurisdiction to begin the legislative process to implement the new Basel III capital requirements (draft EU law on which the EU ministers of finance have reached political agreement, covering all 8.300 banks in the EU: CRD IV).

Financial transaction tax

...from 2008 to 2011, the European Commission approved state aid measures (including recapitalisations, guarantees and asset relief), deemed essential to keep the banking system operational and keep credit flowing, and worth around €4.5 trillion, i.e. 37% of EU GDP, or 6% of the of the total assets of the sector.
…in September 2011 the European Commission proposed a law for a Financial Transaction Tax for all 27 Member States, and that political negotiations are ongoing.
…a Financial Transaction Tax could generate revenues of €57 billion per year in Europe alone.
…10 EU Member States already apply a kind of financial transaction tax, including France and the United Kingdom.

Climate action and energy

…energy consumption per capita in 2008 in the EU (3 616 kgoe) was lower than energy consumption per capita in Canada (7 539 kgoe), United States (7 075 kgoe), Saudi Arabia (6 176kgoe) and Australia (5 975 kgoe).
…energy consumption per capita in the EU is the lowest among the industrialised countries of the G20.
…European carbon dioxide emissions (8.2 tonnes per capita) are less than half of the emissions per capita of the US (19.3 tonnes per capita), Australia (17.7 tonnes per capita) and Canada (16.9 tonnes per capita).

Digital and social

…the EU digital economy is growing at 12% each year.
…the EU digital economy is as big as the Polish economy, and bigger than Belgium, and that the global digital economy is more than €2 trillion each year.
…the EU now has 95% broadband coverage.
…the EU has the highest broadband penetration rates in the world (1 subscription for every three people).

Agriculture

…the EU's Common Agriculture Policy has become much more development-friendly over the past 20 years. The days of 'wine lakes' and 'butter mountains' are long gone.
…developing countries have excellent market access to the EU with low or zero tariffs and market distortions are significantly reduced.
… the value of EU imports of agricultural products from developing countries is more than those of the USA, Canada, Japan, Australia and New Zealand put together.
… around 70 % of the EU's agricultural imports originate from developing countries.
… export subsidies have been reduced drastically: 15 years ago, we spent €10 billion a year on export subsidies. In 2011, we spent no more than € 179,4 million and this number is expected to be lower in 2012. In the context of the WTO negotiations, the EU has offered to eliminate all export subsidies by 2013

Development

…Europe is the world's biggest donor of development aid. The EU spends 0.42% of its gross national income (€53 billion or $73.6 billion) in 2011. This accounts for more than half of the global aid.
…trade exchanges between the EU and Africa have doubled during the last decade (2000-2009) and the EU remains the main trade partner for Africa with a share above 40%.
…the EU and Member States remain the world's largest Aid for Trade donor. With 41% Africa accounted for the largest share in Aid for Trade.
…the EU Commission proposed an EU law in support of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) on 25 October, which requires the disclosure of payments to governments on a country and project basis by listed and large non-listed companies in the extractive (oil, gas and mining) and forestry sectors

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Check it at www.exporthelp.europa.eu