In 2019, the trade in goods and services between the European Union and Africa amounted to €280 billion.

Trade agreements between EU and Africa

5 applied Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) with 14 countries

- Southern African Development Community (SADC)¹
- Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA)²
- Cote d’Ivoire
- Ghana
- Central Africa (Cameroon)

4 Association Agreements with countries in North Africa with Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia

Unilateral preferences

Furthermore, in Africa the EU applies unilateral Generalized Scheme of Preferences (GSP):

- Standard GSP arrangement (Congo, Kenya, Nigeria)
- GSP+ (Cape Verde)
- Everything But Arms arrangement (33 countries)

The EU is Africa’s first trading partner and by far its largest export market.

Africa is the EU’s 4th largest trading partner.

Trade between the two regions is fairly balanced at €280 billion in 2019, although net EU exports to Africa slightly exceed net African exports to the EU by €8 billion euros.

¹ Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia, Mozambique and South Africa.
² Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and Zimbabwe.
The trade between the European Union and Africa increased by 20% between 2016 and 2019.

Through the preferential trade regimes, more than 90% of African exports enter the EU market free of import duties.

In 2019, EU exports to Africa amounted to €145 billion, close to 7% of total EU exports.

Africa is an attractive and growing market for EU trade and investment.

**Structure of Africa’s exports to the EU**

Moving towards export diversification and less dependency on fuels and raw materials

EU imports from Africa by type of product in 2020 (%)

- **Mineral fuels and oils**: 34%
- **Agricultural and fishery products**: 19%
- **Other products**: 17%
- **Chemicals and plastics**: 3%
- **Base metal and articles thereof**: 5%
- **Textile and clothing**: 6%
- **Vehicles and parts of**: 7%
- **Machinery and appliances; optical and medical instruments**: 9%
- **Rest of Africa**: 21%

**EU's Trading Partners in Africa**

- Morocco: 16%
- South Africa: 15%
- Algeria: 11%
- Egypt: 11%
- Nigeria: 10%
- Tunisia: 8%
- Libya: 3%
- Ivory Coast: 3%
- Ghana: 2%
- Rest of Africa: 21%

**Evolution of trade between the EU and Africa**

- EU exports to Africa
- EU imports from Africa

COVID-19 impact

EU's trading partners in Africa are shown with their contribution to total trade. The chart above shows the volume of trade between the EU and Africa from 2002 to 2020, with a focus on the impact of COVID-19.
Success stories of diversification of trade

Cars represented 14% of Morocco’s exports to the EU.

Ghana’s diversified its exports with semi-processed or prepared fruits, the value of which reached EUR 7 million in 2018, up 100% in 5 years.

South African exports of cars to the EU increased by almost 250% and accounted for 31% of South Africa’s total exports to the EU.

Egypt’s exports of cameras constituted over 3% of Egypt’s total exports to the EU.

Exports of textiles and clothing from Madagascar increased by more than 40%, accounting for over 33% of Madagascar’s exports to the EU.

Exports of watches and clocks from Mauritius represented 2.7% of Mauritius’ total exports to the EU.

Source of all statistics in the infographic: Eurostat