



# The European Parliament, EU Trade Policy, and Civil Society

Re-Globe Conference

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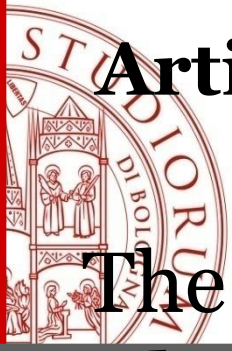
*Alma Mater Studiorum* – Università di Bologna

# **Re-Globe Jean Monnet Module (2022 – 2025)**

**<https://site.unibo.it/reglobe/en>**

# **SustainEUorPlanet Jean Monnet Chair (2025 – 2028)**





# Articles 218 and 207 TFEU & Article 10 TEU

The Lisbon Treaty marks a major advancement for the formal involvement of the European Parliament in the conclusion of international agreements (Articles 218 and 207 TFEU)

**EU Democratic aspirations** – Article 10, para. 1 TEU: «The functioning of the Union shall be founded on representative democracy»



# Principles and Purposes of EU International Action

Article 3, para. 5 TEU: «In its relations with the wider world, the Union shall uphold and promote its values and interests and contribute to the protection of its citizens. It shall contribute to peace, security, the **sustainable development of the Earth**, solidarity and mutual respect among peoples, **free and fair trade**, eradication of poverty and the protection of human rights, in particular the rights of the child, as well as to the strict observance and the development of international law, including respect for the principles of the United Nations Charter”



# Principles and Purposes of EU International Action

Article 21 TEU: “The Union’s action on the international scene shall be guided by the principles which have inspired its own creation ... The Union shall seek to develop relations and build partnerships with third countries, and international, regional or global organisations which share the principles referred to in the first subparagraph. **It shall promote multilateral solutions to common problems**, in particular in the framework of the United Nations”



# Article 207 TFEU

• The common commercial policy shall be based on **uniform principles**, particularly with regard to changes in tariff rates, the conclusion of tariff and trade agreements relating to trade in goods **and services**, and **the commercial aspects of intellectual property**, **foreign direct investment**, the achievement of uniformity in measures of liberalisation, export policy and measures to protect trade such as those to be taken in the event of dumping or subsidies. The common commercial policy shall be conducted in the context of **the principles and objectives of the Union's external action.**

## WSSD (1995): the 3 pillars

### UN World Summit for Social Development-WSSD

#### The Copenhagen Declaration

“6. We are deeply convinced that **economic** development, **social** development and **environmental** protection are interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development”

# UN Agenda 2030 (2015)

**UNGA Resolution A/RES/70/1**

**“Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”**

**Sept.25<sup>th</sup>, 2015**



# UN Agenda 2030 (2015)





# Article 218 TFEU - Consent

Article 218, para. 6, lett. a) TFEU establishes that the Council may conclude an international agreement only after having obtained the **consent of the European Parliament** for the following types of treaties:

- (i) association agreements;
- (ii) agreement on Union accession to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms;
- (iii) agreements establishing a specific institutional framework by organising cooperation procedures;
- (iv) agreements with important budgetary implications for the Union;
- (v) agreements covering fields to which either the ordinary legislative procedure applies, or the special legislative procedure



# Duty to inform the Parliament – Article 218, para. 10 TFEU & Article 207, para. 3 TFEU

Article 218, para. 10 holds that «The European Parliament shall be **immediately and fully informed at all stages of the procedure**”

For international trade agreements, Article 207, para. 3 reinforce **the transparency requirement**, as **the Commission has to “report regularly ... to the European Parliament on the progress of negotiations”**”

OPINION 2/15 OF THE COURT (Full Court) -  
16 May 2017

**“... the objective of sustainable development ... forms an integral part of the common commercial policy” (para. 147)**





OPEN  
SUSTAINABLE  
ASSERTIVE  
**TRADE**  
For a resilient  
and competitive Europe





**More than 30 million people in the EU**  
work in **jobs** related to **EU exports**.

**10 million Europeans**  
work in EU-based affiliates of foreign companies.

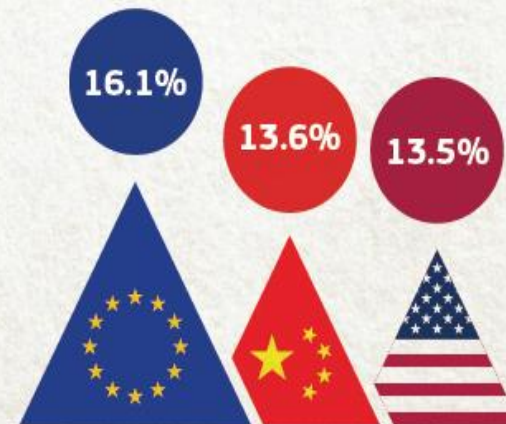
**Over 720,000**

European companies export outside the EU,  
including more than **690,000** small businesses.

The **EU** alone makes up **16.1%** of total world trade in goods and services, ahead of **China** and the **US**.



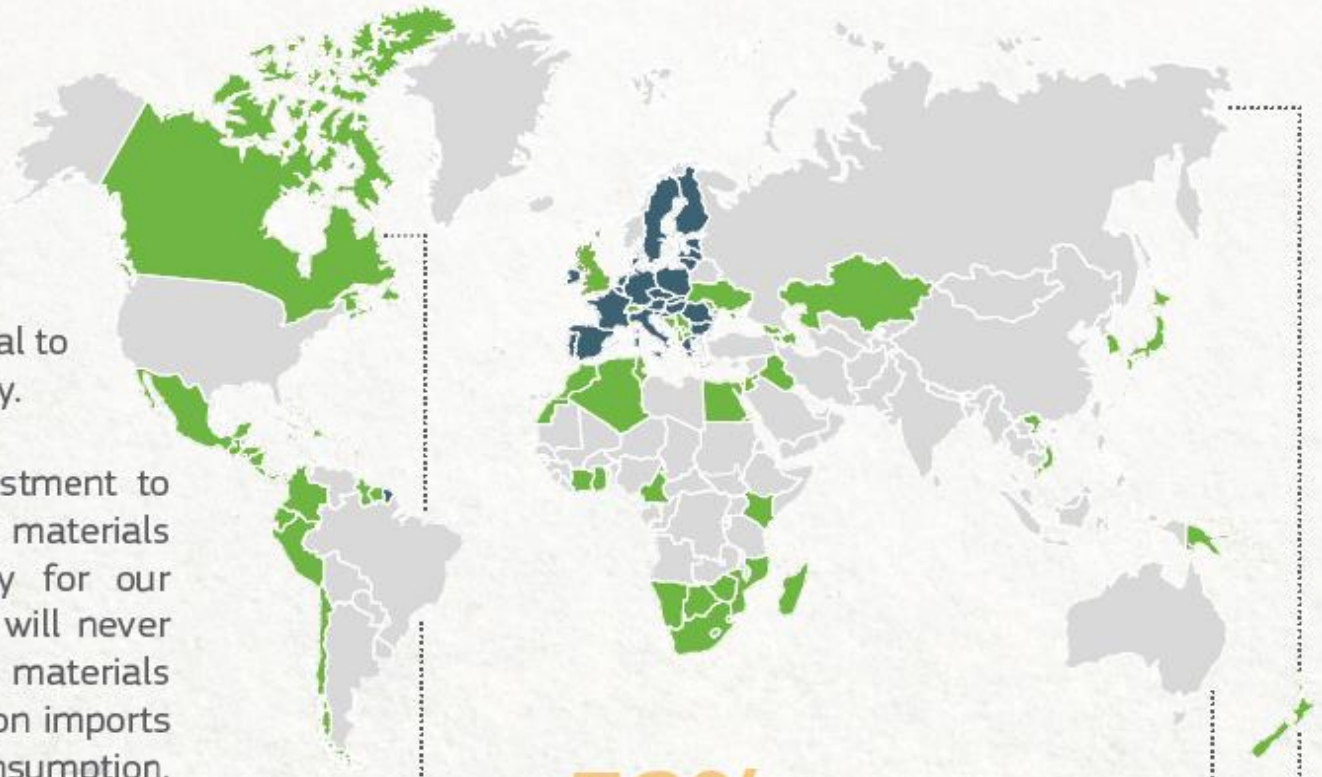
Trade agreements help us get more diverse access to **raw materials** such as lithium, away from single-country sources like China.



The EU has **44 trade agreements** with **76 countries**, accounting for almost half of all EU trade.

Trade openness is essential to diversify sources of supply.

We need trade and investment to secure access to the raw materials that we need, especially for our green transition. The EU will never be self-sufficient in raw materials and will continue to rely on imports for the majority of its consumption. Trade agreements can help secure these imports.



**38%** of Europeans want trade deals to **make it easier to import or export raw materials\***.





Find out what progress the von der Leyen Commission has made so far with the European Green Deal towards becoming climate-neutral by 2050.

# The European Green Deal

Striving to be the first climate-neutral continent





# EUROPEAN ECONOMIC SECURITY STRATEGY

20 JUNE 2023

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The COVID-19 pandemic, Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the rise in geopolitical tensions have exposed vulnerabilities in our economies. Deep technological shifts are adding to the complexity of security challenges.

The EU needs to **maximise the benefits** of its economic openness while **minimising the risks** from of economic interdependencies, through setting up a common strategic framework for EU economic security.

With our Strategy, the EU and its Member States will be better equipped to commonly **identify and assess the risks** to our economic security, to **use strategically the available tools** for dealing with these risks and to **develop new tools** where needed. Our actions will be guided by proportionality and precision.





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RE-GLOBE

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