



International Trade

EBI position paper

The European recreational boating industry is a sector of unique know-how and technical excellence, key to the EU's industrial leadership. Over 32,000 companies employ directly employ 280,000 employees in peripheral and coastal regions. This expertise is especially held by Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) that are make over 95% of companies in the sector. The highly valued quality of the industrial sector gives it a very strong global trade perspective with European boats being appreciated all over the world. Manufacturers export more than a half of their goods thus making global trade a key issue for EBI and its members.

EBI supports the further development of the EU's trade policy towards lowering tariffs, as well as regulatory barriers for recreational boats.

Eliminating tariff barriers

EBI encourages strong European action to tackle tariffs barriers in the trade relationship with the US. Boating is the only recreational product to be singled out in the EU's retaliatory tariffs. These import tariffs disrupt growth opportunities for the European leisure marine industry, for which the US is a major market and a historical trade partner. Currently, more than a quarter of the European recreational boating products are exported to the US. The existing tariffs are likewise harmful for European companies with value that would be generated in the country of destination lost (final fittings, marketing, importers, dealers, etc.).

EBI promotes intensifying work between the EU and the USA aiming to quickly reach a resolution ensuring a close trading relationship for recreational boats and all related components in order to avoid threats to growth, jobs and innovation for the European leisure marine industry. EBI is united in this approach with its US counterparts, The National Marine Manufacturers Association and at international level with the International Council of Marine Industry Associations.

EBI equally supports deepening talks and rapidly reaching an understanding on Free Trade Agreements with other key trading partners.

Reducing Non-Tariff Barriers

EBI calls for a global effort to reduce technical barriers to trade and supports closer alignment of standards. Simplification of procedures in conformity assessments and mutual recognition of certification authorities and standards are key to developing genuinely free trade.

Mutual recognition in conformity assessments of recreational boats and relevant components and equipment should be integrated into any Free Trade Agreement between the EU and its trade counterparts. EBI supports close coordination with all EU trade partners to ensure a regular dialogue on technical requirements for marine industry products. EBI retains International Standardization

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Organization (ISO) standards as an indisputable guarantee for a products' quality and safety and calls for a global effort in aligning technical standards in recreational boating industry to ISO standards.

Future EU-UK trade partnership ¹

EBI calls for a close trade partnership between the EU and UK based on zero tariffs, zero quotas and the closest-possible regulatory alignment for recreational boats based on global standards and a level playing field.

About European Boating Industry (EBI)

European Boating Industry (EBI) represents the recreational boating industry in Europe. It encompasses all related sectors, such as boatbuilding, equipment manufacturing, marinas and service providers. The industry is a significant contributor to the European economy, representing 32,000 companies that employ over 280,000 people directly. Most of the sector is made up of Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs). It is a key contributor to tourism and has a global trade perspective. EBI is an established stakeholder at EU level, defending and promoting the interests of its members on key issues ranging from Single Market legislation to blue growth, tourism and trade policy. More information here: europeanboatingindustry.eu

¹ EBI has developed a separate position paper on the future EU-UK trade partnership. For more information, please contact: office@europeanboatingindustry.eu