

Recovering unpaid road tolls will become easier across Europe – Council approves provisional deal

It will soon become easier for member states to **trace people who fail to pay road fees**, even when their vehicles are registered in another EU country. A new information-sharing system allowing this is included in the **updated electronic road toll rules** that member states' ambassadors approved today in the Council's Permanent Representatives Committee. A provisional deal was reached by the presidency and the European Parliament on 20 November.

This reform puts all road users on an equal footing when it comes to paying road fees. It also makes electronic tolling systems more interoperable and therefore more cost-efficient and user-friendly.

Norbert Hofer, Minister for Transport, Innovation and Technology of Austria, President of the Council

Under the reform, national authorities will have access to other member states' national vehicle registration data in order to identify owners of vehicles for which road fees have not been paid. The information exchange relates to fees to be paid electronically or manually for using road infrastructure. The possible administrative or legal consequences will depend on the national law of the country where the fee was left unpaid.

The new rules will also remove administrative barriers, such as local technical specifications, and give electronic tolling providers easier access to the toll collection market.

The new measures will become applicable 30 months after the entry into force of the directive.

This is the first proposal in the three mobility packages to be agreed on between the Council and the Parliament.

Next steps

Once the agreed text has undergone legal and linguistic finalisation it must be formally adopted, first by the Parliament and then by the Council. Following adoption, the directive will be published in the EU's Official Journal.

The text of the draft directive will soon be available on this webpage.

[Download as pdf](#)

Study: Trade supports over 36 million jobs across the EU

EU exports to the world are more important than ever, supporting 36 million jobs across Europe, two thirds more than in 2000. 14 million of these jobs are held by women. In addition, EU exports to the world generate €2.3 trillion of value added in the EU.

Since the beginning of this Commission in 2014, the number of jobs supported by exports has increased by 3.5 million. These jobs are on average 12% better paid than jobs in the rest of the economy.

Commissioner for Trade Cecilia **Malmström** said: *"This study makes it crystal clear that trade means jobs. Exports from the EU to the world support the livelihoods of a vast, and increasing, number of citizens in every corner of Europe. Almost 40 percent of those whose jobs are supported by trade are women. EU trade also supports millions of jobs far beyond EU borders, including in developing countries. So here's even more proof that trade can be a win-win: what's good for us is also good for our partners around the world."*

The report released today, during the [EU Trade Policy Day](#), includes detailed factsheets about the results for every EU Member State. Exports create and support jobs all across the EU, and the numbers are increasing. The highest increases have been seen since 2000 in Bulgaria (+312%), Slovakia (+213%), Portugal (+172%), Lithuania (+153%), Ireland (+147%), Estonia (+147%) and Latvia (+138%).

The figures released today highlight an important positive spillover effect from exports to the world. When EU exporters in one Member State do well, workers in other Member States also benefit. This is because firms providing goods and services along the supply chain also gain when their end-customer sells the final product abroad. To give an example, French exports to the rest of the world support around 627,000 jobs in other EU Member States.

Finally, EU exports to countries around the world support almost 20 million jobs outside the EU. These jobs have more than doubled since 2000. For instance, more than 1 million jobs in the United States are supported by the production of US goods and services that are incorporated into EU exports through global supply chains.

The study looks also into the gender balance, concluding that there are almost 14 million women in jobs supported by trade in the EU.

Background

The European Commission identified trade policy as a core component of the

European Union's 2020 Strategy. Given the fast changing global economy landscape it is more important than ever to fully understand how trade flows affect employment. This can only be done by gathering comprehensive, reliable and comparable information and analysis to support evidence-based policymaking.

Guided by that objective, the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) and the Commission's Directorate General for Trade have collaborated to produce a publication that aims to be a valuable tool for trade policymakers and researcher.

Following up the [first edition of 2015](#), the report features a series of indicators to illustrate in detail the relationship between trade and employment for the EU as a whole and for each EU Member State using the new World Input-Output Database for the year 2016 as the main data source. This information has been complemented with data on employment by age, skill and gender. All the indicators relate to the EU exports to the rest of the world to reflect the scope of EU trade policymaking.

For More Information

The [memo](#) with more detailed findings

[Interactive map](#) (28 country factsheets and 1 EU factsheet): how many jobs are supported by exports in your country?

[Full study – data and graphs](#)

[Trade and income study](#)

[Economist's note](#) – the data of the study, explained

[2015 report](#)

[European Trade Policy Day event page](#)

New report provides further evidence of link between trade and jobs

 European Commission – Fact Sheet

Brussels, 27 November 2018

The European Commission today published a report entitled, “EU exports to the world: effects on employment and income”.

The report covers the period from 2000 to 2017 – the latest figures available.

Key points

- EU exports to the world are more important than ever, supporting 36 million jobs in the EU. 13.7 million of these workers are women.
- Export-related jobs are, on average, 12% better paid than other jobs in the rest of the economy. The export wage premium ranges from 10% to 18%, depending on the workers' skill level and occupational profile.
- European workers from all Member States benefit from EU exports. These job opportunities emerge not only because exporting firms are expanding sales outside the EU but also because firms supplying goods and services inputs to exporters also sustain millions of jobs upstream across the supply chains within the Single Market.
- These upstream jobs may be located in the same Member State or elsewhere in the EU. On average, almost one fifth of the jobs supported by extra-EU exports are facilitated by the EU Single Market.
- With the expansion of global value chains, EU exports support more and more jobs not only in the EU but also in our trading partners. Almost 20 million jobs beyond the EU are supported by EU exports, thanks to EU firms participating in global supply chains.

Main findings

More and more jobs in the EU depend on exports to the rest of the world

- Between 2000 and 2017, EU jobs supported by exports to the rest of the world increased by 66% to reach 36 million. This is 14.3 million additional jobs supported by exports compared to 2000.
- EU Exports of goods and services to the world support nearly 14 million jobs for women in the EU.
- The share of EU employment supported by sales of goods and services to the rest of the world over total employment increased from 10.1% in 2000 to 15.3% in 2017. This means that one in seven EU jobs are supported either directly or indirectly by extra-EU exports.
- The manufacturing sector still supports the majority of jobs linked to exports (54%) across the EU.
- The machinery and transport equipment industry support 10.4 million jobs, followed by non-metallic and basic metals industry with 2.9 million, and the chemicals sector with almost 2 million jobs.
- The direct contribution of services exports has increased from 38% to 42% compared to 2000. However, when accounting for the significant and increasing share of services inputs in manufacturing exports, the EU services sectors are behind the majority of employment supported by extra-EU exports: for the EU as a whole, 61% of the total EU jobs

supported directly and indirectly by exports are located in the services sector.

Export-related jobs are better paid

- On average the EU export-related jobs are better paid than the jobs in the rest of the economy, which reflects the higher productivity of exporting firms.
- The data for 2014 showed that this compensation premium benefits the export-supported jobs across the full spectrum of skills: 15% for low-skilled jobs, 10% for medium-skilled jobs and 18% for high-skilled jobs.

The number of jobs supported by exports has been increasing in all Member States

- The Member States with the strongest increases in relative terms between 2000 and 2017 were Bulgaria (312%), Slovakia (213%), Portugal (172%), Lithuania (153%), Ireland (147%), Estonia (147%) and Latvia (138%).
- In absolute levels, in 2017 Germany exports to the rest of the world supported the largest number of jobs across the EU (8.4 million), followed by the United Kingdom (4.2 million jobs), France (3.4 million jobs) and Italy (3.2 million jobs).

Exports from one Member State help support jobs and increase competitiveness in other member states

- On average, 82% of the employment supported by extra-EU exports was in the Member State that ultimately exported to the rest of the world, while the remaining 18% of the jobs were in other Member States from where inputs to produce the exports were purchased. In Czechia, Hungary, Malta and Slovakia more than 30% of the employment supported by EU exports was due to other Member States exports.
- As the EU's biggest exporter, German exports to the rest of the world supported around 6.8 million jobs in Germany but also 1.6 million jobs in other Member States: more than 270,000 jobs in Poland, nearly 160,000 in Italy, 155,000 in the Netherlands, more than 150,000 in Czechia and 140,000 France.
- French exports to the rest of the world were the second most important driver of cross-country export-driven employment links, accounting for around 627,000 jobs in other EU Member States.

EU exports sustain an increasing number of jobs beyond European borders

- Our exports to the rest of the world support almost 20 million jobs outside the EU (up by 9 million from 2000)
- For example, more than 1 million jobs in the United States are supported thanks to US goods and services that are incorporated into EU exports through global supply chains.

- EU exports to the world also support many jobs in developing countries.

For More Information

[Interactive map](#) (28 country factsheets and 1 EU factsheet): how many jobs are supported by exports in your country?

MEMO/18/6567

EU clears national aid linked to EU funded programmes from state aid checks

The Council today adopted a regulation that enables the Commission to exempt two additional categories of national subsidies from the standard checks required under EU state aid rules.

The two new categories are :

a) national funds combined with EU centrally managed funds, such as the InvestEU Fund or 'Seal of Excellence' projects provided for by the next framework programme on research and innovation;

b) national funds for projects supported by EU European Territorial Cooperation programmes.

The new rules will significantly simplify the national financing of projects co-financed by the new EU funds provided for by the next multiannual financial framework.

The adopted regulation will improve the interaction of EU funding programmes with state aid rules. It will enable the Commission to make targeted modifications to its general block exemption regulation so that nationally managed funds and centrally managed EU funds can be combined as smoothly as possible, without having to prove that they do not distort competition in the single market.

The regulation will apply as from the twentieth day after its publication in the Official Journal.

The new rules will be part of the so-called 'enabling regulation', which constitutes the legal basis for the Commission declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market and enabling member states to directly finance certain projects without prior Commission approval.

EASO publishes four COI reports on Nigeria

Today, the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) published four Country of Origin Information (COI) Reports on Nigeria: [Security Situation](#), [Actors of Protection](#), [Targeting Individuals](#), and [Key Socio-economic indicators](#). The reports provide information relevant for the protection status determination of Nigerian asylum seekers.

*In 2017, Nigeria was the fourth most common country of origin in the EU+ countries with a total number of close to **42,000** applicants. In 2018, following a substantial decrease in the number of irregular arrivals in the central Mediterranean, far fewer asylum applications were lodged by Nigerian nationals in EU+ countries. Despite this decrease, Nigeria remained in the top-five among all countries of origin of applicants in the EU+ with about **21,500** applicants recorded between January and October 2018. At the end of October 2018, around **25,000 cases** awaited a first-instance decision.*

The EASO COI report [Nigeria Security Situation](#), following a brief and general introduction to Nigeria provides a general description of the security situation in Nigeria. The first chapter gives an overview of the recent conflicts in the country; actors in the conflict; recent security trends and armed confrontations; the impact of the violence on the civilian population and IDPs; and the impact of the violence on the state ability to secure law and order.

The main conflicts in Nigeria are elaborated upon in more detail in the second chapter. A general description at the level of the geopolitical zone contains information on the geography and population, and on the background of the conflict, including the actors active in the conflict. This is followed by a description of recent trends in the security situation, with regard to the nature of the violence, frequency, tactics and targets, locations and number of fatalities. Also the impact of the violence on the state's ability to secure law and order, and the impact on the population are discussed.

The report includes specific information on violent incidents and civilian casualties in the North East where Boko Haram is active. An increase is noted in the number of violent incidents in the North Central Zone and Kaduna State, where conflicts between herders and farmers are intensifying. By comparison, the Niger Delta saw a much lower number of fatalities than the

two previous zones. Striking is the relatively low number of incidents but resulting in a high number of fatalities in Zamfara State, where cattle rustling and mass attacks on villages have soared since the beginning of 2018.

The EASO COI report [Nigeria Security Situation](#) was drafted by the Office for Country Information and Language Analysis (OCILA) of the Dutch Immigration and Naturalization Service, in accordance with the [EASO COI Report Methodology](#). It was reviewed by an expert from the International and European Affairs Unit, Department for Asylum and Migration Policy, Czech Republic. The external expert Nnamdi Obasi, Senior Advisor on Nigeria, International Crisis Group also reviewed this report, in order to ensure the highest quality. The EASO COI report [Nigeria Actors of Protection](#) provides information on the Constitution and the state's legal structure, the police and armed forces, the public prosecution institutions, the court system, the National Human Rights commission, the Public Complaints Commission – (the Ombudsman) and the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP).

The report highlights the complexity of the country's pluralist legal system, consisting of common law, Islamic law, customary law at federal, state, and local levels. Problematic capacity and integrity issues with the police and the national army are noted, leading to human rights abuses and corruption, as well as the high number of complaints received by the National Human Rights Commission, reaching one million over 2017.

The EASO COI report [Nigeria Actors of Protection](#) was drafted by the International and European Affairs Unit, Department for Asylum and Migration Policy, Czech Republic, in accordance with the [EASO COI Report Methodology](#). The report was reviewed by the Office for Country Information and Language Analysis (OCILA) of the Dutch Immigration and Naturalization Service. In addition, the report was reviewed by the external expert Stella Amadi Odiase, Lawyer and International Development Practitioner, and by the Austrian Centre for Country of Origin and Asylum Research and Documentation (ACCORD).

The EASO COI report [Nigeria Targeting Individuals](#) is divided into two main sections, following a first brief and general introduction to Nigeria. The second chapter on actors discusses several non-state actors, such as Boko Haram, militant groups in the Niger Delta, student/university cults, traffickers, and state or state-affiliated actors.

The third chapter discusses 15 profiles of persons subject to targeting by one or more actors, or by society in general. These profiles, which sometimes overlap, include: persons targeted by Boko Haram, by university cults, members of militant groups in the Niger Delta, persons involved in herders-farmers conflict, religious minorities, persons affected by witchcraft and ritual killings, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) persons, women and children, and others.

The EASO COI report [Nigeria Targeting Individuals](#) was drafted by members of the Country of Origin Information (COI) sector in EASO, in accordance with the [EASO COI Report Methodology](#). The report was peer reviewed by Office for Country Information and Language Analysis (OCILA) of the Dutch Immigration

and Naturalisation Service, and by Lifos, the Centre for Country of Origin Information and Analysis of the Swedish Migration Agency. In addition, the report was reviewed by the external expert Dr Megan Turnbull, Assistant Professor of Comparative Politics at the University of Georgia in the Department of International Affairs.

The EASO COI report [Nigeria Key Socio-economic indicators](#) is divided into two main sections, after a first brief and general introduction to Nigeria in Chapter 1. Chapter 2 provides information on the following key socio-economic indicators: demographics, economic growth, employment, poverty, food security, housing and living conditions, education, health care, social networks and support mechanisms.

A main emphasis, where information is available, is on the situation in Abuja and Lagos and on the socio-economic situation of women, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and returnees. The third chapter provides information on mobility and internal travel possibilities.

The EASO COI report [Nigeria Key Socio-economic indicators](#) was drafted by the Country of Origin Information (COI) sector in EASO, in accordance with the [EASO COI Report Methodology](#). The report was peer reviewed by Lifos, the Centre for Country of Origin Information and Analysis of the Swedish Migration Agency. In addition, the report was reviewed by the Austrian Centre for Country of Origin and Asylum Research and Documentation (ACCORD).

It is EASO's intention to continue to produce such reports on important countries of origin and to update them on a regular basis in order to raise and harmonise COI standards in the EU and to further support the practical implementation of the Common European Asylum System.

The reports can be downloaded via:

EASO, COI report Nigeria, Security situation, November 2018,
https://coi.easo.europa.eu/administration/easo/PLib/2018_EASO_COI_Nigeria_SecuritySituation.pdf

EASO, COI report Nigeria, Actors of Protection, November 2018,
https://coi.easo.europa.eu/administration/easo/PLib/2018_EASO_COI_Nigeria_ActorsofProtection.pdf

EASO COI report Nigeria, Targeting of individuals, November 2018,
https://coi.easo.europa.eu/administration/easo/PLib/2018_EASO_COI_Nigeria_TargetingIndividuals.pdf

EASO, COI report Nigeria, Key-socio-economic indicators, November 2018,
https://coi.easo.europa.eu/administration/easo/PLib/2018_EASO_COI_Nigeria_KeySocioEconomic.pdf