

Recent EU trade agreements to boost global market access for boating industry

Brussels, 31 March 2026 – European Boating Industry (EBI) applauds the recent EU free trade agreements announced with the Mercosur region, Australia and India. Opening new opportunities for Europe’s boating sector and reducing tariffs is critical for export-oriented boat builders and equipment manufacturers.

With provisional application of the EU-Mercosur trade agreement (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay) confirmed to start from 1 May 2026, the sector will see a gradual reduction of current high tariffs. For recreational boats, tariffs will gradually reduce over a period of 10 to 15 years while other products such as sails and lifejackets see reductions over 4 years. Current tariffs for exports to Brazil are as high as 20% to 35% for the boating industry.

EBI Secretary-General Philip Easthill said *“Competitiveness and new market access are critical for the diversification and success of our sector long-term and critical components of EBI’s strategy. Our sector is strongly reliant on exports, and ‘Made in Europe’ is sought after globally. Removing tariff and non-tariff barriers remains critical to unlocking export opportunities and we call on swift ratification of the trade agreements to support business.”*

In recent weeks, the EU Commission has also agreed trade agreements with Australia and India, providing significant opportunities that EBI will support its members on. Europe’s recreational boating industry is the largest exporter of recreational boats globally, as well as exhibiting a strong position across the entire supply chain.

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About European Boating Industry (EBI)

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, predominantly SMEs that employ over 280,000 people directly. The mission of EBI is to advance and represent a sustainable boating and nautical tourism industry

European Boating Industry