



Small businesses represent 88% of all EU exporters. Their exports account for one third of all EU exports supporting 13 million jobs. The European Commission puts the interests of small and medium sized firms at the top of its agenda.

We are organising an event to discuss the challenges faced by small businesses in the EU to trade internationally in the difficult current context and how trade policy should respond.

### Invitation to online conference and presentation of Access2 Markets

**Executive Vice President and acting Trade Commissioner Valdis Dombrovskis** will open the conference and outline the Commission's efforts to shape EU trade policy in a post-pandemic economic environment.

**Denis Redonnet, the new Chief Trade Enforcement Officer** will elaborate on priorities of the CTEO's mission and outline the work plan of the coming months.

We will present the Commission's **new on-line platform (Access2Markets)** offering a one stop guide to trading internationally and lead a **discussion on the challenges and actions** being taken to support small firms from a trade policy perspective.

In the recovery process, we need to ensure that small and medium sized firms trading internationally rebound quickly and remain as competitive as before. Global trade and its integrated value chains will remain a fundamental growth engine and will be essential for Europe's recovery.

Over time, the European Union has established a wide network of preferential trade agreements. However, agreements are only as good as their take up. The European Commission is stepping up efforts to ensure that EU companies, especially small and medium sized firms, are made aware of the opportunities and can unlock the full potential of international trade.

Small businesses face particular challenges in international trade. They have fewer resources than bigger companies to access information and overcome barriers.

For many years, the European Commission has been providing high quality, free of charge information on imports and exports. However, we strive to do more and better.

At the conference, the Commission will present the new Access2Markets portal.



**Access2Markets**

The new Access2Markets portal is a comprehensive one-stop-shop for small and medium sized firms to obtain information about trade agreements.

Designed specifically to enhance small and medium sized firms' use, it brings into a single, easy-to-use tool all relevant information for small and medium sized firms: export and import information including rules of origin and also information regarding intra-EU trade.

The Access2Markets responds to requests from companies and stakeholders to explain trade agreements better, to help companies with the analysis and application of rules of origin of each of the agreement.

The conference will take place on

**Tuesday, 13 October 2020, from 9:00 to 12:00**

9:00 –9:45 Keynote address by Executive Vice President and acting Trade Commissioner Valdis Dombrovskis

9:45—10:30 The CTEO's mission and work plan by the Chief Trade Enforcement Officer, Denis Redonnet

10:30—12:00 Presentation of the Access2Markets database

Please register your participation through the following [LINK](#), by **Tuesday 6 October**.

Three days before the event, you will receive a reply confirming your registration and granting you access to the online conference. If you do not receive a confirmation, please contact us through [TRADE-SME-EVENT@ec.europa.eu](mailto:TRADE-SME-EVENT@ec.europa.eu).

We look forward to welcoming you to this event.