



NEWSLETTER

The latest news from EU-GCC project



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The EU-GCC Dialogue on Economic Diversification project has three components Events, Research and Communications. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the working plan has to be changed and adapted to the phase. Mr. Douglas Aitkenhead, Team Leader of the project said *"In terms of contingency planning to maintain project momentum, the project has adopted a strategy to transform physical events such as roundtables and workshops into a virtual format"*.

This had already worked successfully with the Competitiveness Office of the Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development with a webinar on 'Improving the Business Environment' in Abu Dhabi. The project is organising further online events on International Financing for SME's, Innovative Digital Solutions in times of Covid-19 crisis, EU-GCC Business matching platform and an analysis of the impact of the pandemic on GCC economies.

*EU GCC Dialogue on Economic Diversification Project
27th April 2020*



Coronavirus Global Response

Aware of the importance and necessity of a global response, the European Union and its partners hosted an international pledging marathon Monday 4th May 2020 and running until the end of May 2020.

The aim is to gather significant funding to ensure the collaborative development and universal deployment of diagnostics, treatments and vaccines against coronavirus.

European Commission President **von der Leyen** said: *"We need to bring the world, its leaders and people together against coronavirus. In just 10 days, we will launch a global pledging effort. A real marathon. Because beating coronavirus requires a global response and sustained actions on many fronts. We need to develop a vaccine, to produce it and deploy it to every corner of the world. And we need to make it available at affordable prices."*

On 4th May 2020, the Commission registered 7.4 billion Euros in donations worldwide, including a 1.4 billion Euros pledge from the European Commission.

This is very close to the initial target of 7 billion Euros and is a solid basis for the start of the worldwide pledging marathon which started 6 May 2020.

The aim of this donation collection is to accelerate and develop the collaborative and universal deployment of diagnostics, treatments and vaccines against coronavirus.

This event was organized by the EU, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Norway, Spain and the United Kingdom.

Donors are invited to continue pledging to the Coronavirus Global Response until the end of May 2020. They can choose which priority to donate to Test, Treat or Prevent.

The campaign can be followed on the website global-response.eu as well as on Twitter [@EU_Commission](https://twitter.com/EU_Commission) [#UnitedAgainstCoronaVirus](https://twitter.com/UnitedAgainstCoronaVirus).

Coronavirus Global Response

[#UnitedAgainstCoronavirus](https://twitter.com/UnitedAgainstCoronaVirus)

[#StrongerTogether](https://twitter.com/StrongerTogether)

[#GlobalResponse](https://twitter.com/GlobalResponse)

For more information:

https://global-response.europa.eu/index_en

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_710



Digitalisation of freight transport information



In early April, the Council adopted new rules which will make it **easier for freight transport companies to provide information to authorities in digital form**.

Specifically, the new rules require all relevant public authorities to accept any data made available online on certified platforms whenever companies choose to use such a format to provide information as proof of compliance with legislative requirements, in light with the advantages of digitalisation.

The new rules will create a uniform legal framework for the use of electronic freight transport information for all modes of transport. However, companies will still be able to present the information in paper format if they prefer.

Increased digitalisation of freight transport and logistics will bring significant cost savings for businesses, and make the transport sector more efficient and sustainable.

For more information:

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/04/07/digitalisation-of-freight-transport-information-council-adopts-new-rules/>

<http://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-5142-2020-REV-1/en/pdf-new-rules/>

EU ensures transparency towards its trade partners on coronavirus-related actions

In this context, the EU has informed the WTO about eight steps, either new measures or guidance covering existing legislation, taken in the context of the coronavirus crisis. This includes various fields of action touching upon various aspects of international trade operations, such as:

- [Import duty and VAT](#) relief on products needed to fight coronavirus
- [Border management](#), including [Green Lanes](#) to ensure availability of essential goods and services
- [Facilitation of air cargo operations](#)
- Human, animal and plant health and animal welfare measures to contain risks linked to control system disruptions due to coronavirus
- [Public procurement guidance](#) relating to emergency provisions in current legislation to allow for quicker purchasing of necessary goods
- [Export authorisation](#) requirements to support the adequacy of supply and meet vital demand for personal protective equipment in the EU

Consistent with its G20 commitments, the EU is also making sure that emergency measures aimed at protecting health will be targeted, proportionate, transparent, and temporary.

The EU remains fully committed to an open trade and investment environment. That is the only way we can minimise the economic and social damage from the coronavirus pandemic and ultimately restore global growth.

For more information: <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=2131>



Restrictions on export

In relation to the COVID-19 pandemic, which is rapidly spreading across the world, measures are being enacted by government authorities to mitigate the Virus spread effect.

Governments are swiftly enacting temporary trade measures that aim to restrict exports of vital medical supplies and to liberalize imports of vital medical supplies.

Due to the rapid development of this extraordinary situation, a daily update of enacted COVID-19 trade measures are available to be taken into account when consulting market access information throughout Market Access Map. The objective of this initiative is to improve transparency in international trade and market access in line with the mission of Market Access Map.

Overview of Adopted COVID-19 trade measures (May 16,2020)

Enacting Country	Type Of Measure	Affected Products	Measure	Effect On Trade	Affected Partners	Status Of Measure	Start Date	End Date
Bahrain	● Licensing or permit requirements to export	face masks, face shields	Ban to export of all types of protective face masks without prior permission of the Minister. The decision valid is 3 months.	Restrictive	All countries	Active	2020/04/09	2020/07/08
Kuwait	● Export prohibition	foodstuffs, medicines, medical supplies and equipment	Export prohibition for all foodstuffs, medicines, medical supplies and equipment, unless authorized by Ministry of Trade and Industry.	Restrictive	All countries	Active	2020/03/12	Unknown
Oman	● Export prohibition	masks, hand sanitizers	Directorate-General of Pharmacy and Drug Control bans exports of masks and hand sanitizers.	Restrictive	All countries	Active	2020/02/26	Unknown
Qatar	● Tariff reduction	refer to official document	Qatar suspends customs duties on 905 goods for 6 months.	Liberalising	All countries	Active	2020/03/23	2020/09/22
Saudi Arabia	● Duties on imports are postponed	all imports	The collection of customs duties on imports is postponed for a period of 30 days, or against the submission of a bank guarantee, for three months.	Liberalising	All countries	Active	2020/03/31	2020/06/30
Saudi Arabia	● Export prohibition	medical supply products, masks	Saudi Arabia stops all exports of coronavirus detection and prevention products.	Restrictive	All countries	Active	2020/03/02	Unknown
Saudi Arabia	● Export prohibition	medicines, pharmaceutical and medical devices	Export of medicines, pharmaceutical and medical devices will be halted, the Saudi Customs announced.	Restrictive	All countries	Active	2020/03/20	Unknown
United Arab Emirates	● Export prohibition	ferrous scrap ①	Ministry of Economy has announced a ban on exports of ferrous scrap for a period of four months starting on Friday May 15, 2020.	Restrictive	All countries	Investigation	2020/05/15	2020/09/14

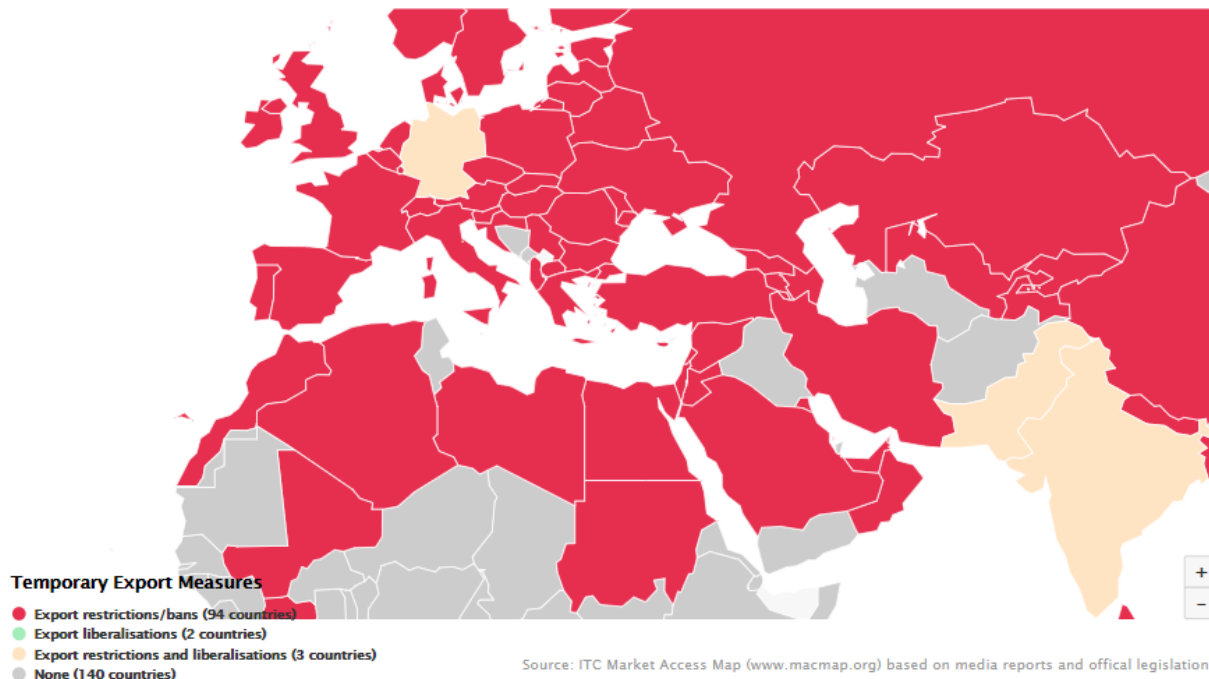
Source : International Trade Centre | May 2020



Global map of COVID-19 temporary trade measures (May 16, 2020)

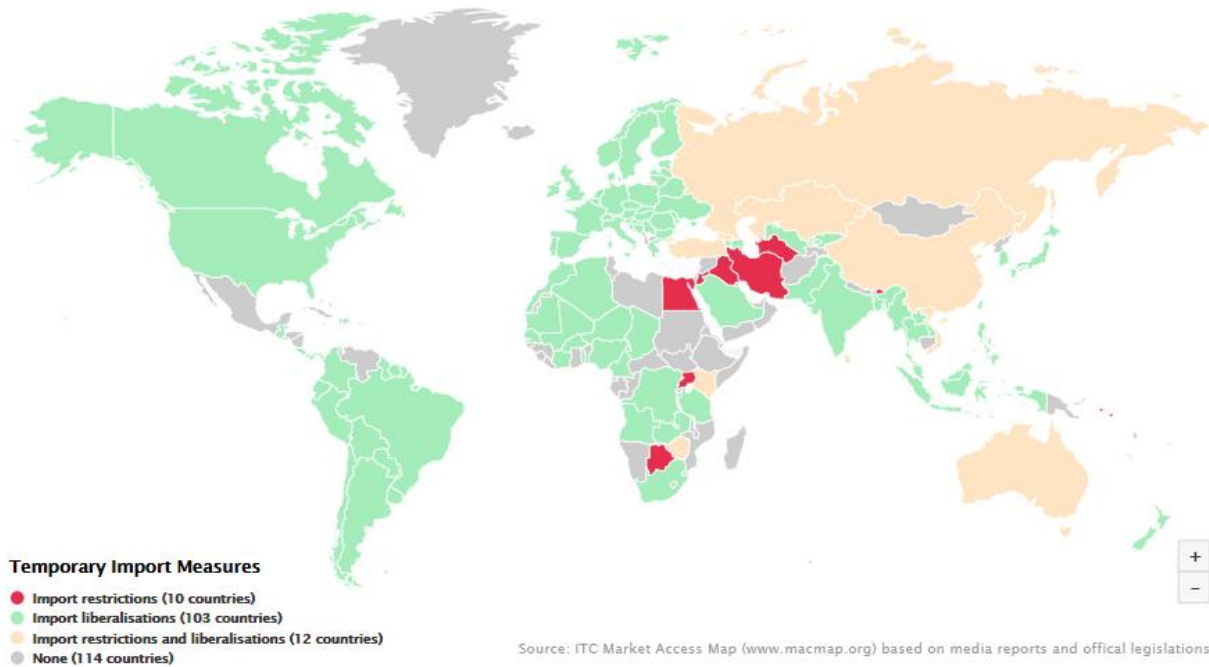
COVID-19 Temporary Export Measures

Affected products include personal protection equipment(e.g.masks, gloves), pharma products, hand sanitizer, food and certain other products



COVID-19 Temporary Import Measures

Affected products include personal protection equipment(e.g.masks, gloves), pharma products, hand sanitizer, food and certain other products



For more information: <https://www.macmap.org/fr/covid19>



For more information, the editorial team suggests the links below:

European Union

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/?Page=1>

<https://ec.europa.eu/trade/trade-policy-and-you/publications/news-archive/>

Gulf Wide

<http://www.gdnonline.com/>

<http://gulfbusiness.com/>

<https://www.arabianbusiness.com/gcc>

Bahrain

<http://www.newsofbahrain.com/>

<http://www.bna.bh/en/index.aspx>

KSA

<http://www.arabnews.com/>

<http://saudigazette.com.sa/>

<https://www.spa.gov.sa/?lang=en>

Kuwait

<http://www.arabtimesonline.com/news/>

<http://news.kuwaittimes.net/website/>

<https://www.kuna.net.kw/Default.aspx?language=en>

Oman

<https://timesofoman.com/>

<http://www.omanobserver.om/>

<https://www.muscatdaily.com/>

https://www.omannews.gov.om/ona_eng/#/home

UAE

<https://www.khaleejtimes.com/>

<https://gulfnnews.com/>

<https://www.thenational.ae/>

<http://wam.ae/en>

Qatar

<https://www.qatarday.com/news-category/local>

<https://www.qatarliving.com/news>

<https://www.gulf-times.com/>

<https://www.thepeninsulaqatar.com/>



EU-GCC Dialogue on Economic Diversification

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As always, we welcome your feedback on the topics and sectors that interest you most and you would like to see covered in future editions of the newsletter.

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