



TRADE BULLETIN

Overview of relevant news and events

NALED - INTRODUCTORY REMARKS AND OVERVIEW ↗

The Trade Newsletter is published on a bi-monthly basis, providing a comprehensive overview of the most relevant foreign trade developments in Serbia and globally, of importance to the domestic economy. The content of the newsletter is structured around key thematic areas, ranging from national trade trends and global developments within the framework of the World Trade Organization, to the CEFTA region and the EU's external trade policy, as well as relations with other trading partners. This systematized overview is prepared within the project "Enhancing competitiveness through more effective public procurement and sustainable supply chains (ESGs)", funded by Sweden and implemented by NALED.

As part of the same project, in September NALED organised a study visit to Sweden, bringing together representatives of the Serbian academic community to exchange knowledge and experience with Swedish institutions and experts in the areas of international trade, sustainable supply chains and competitiveness. At the same time, at the Montenegro 2026 Economic Conference, NALED participated in the panel "Trade without waiting: How to accelerate the flow of goods between the Western Balkans and the EU?", dedicated to key barriers and opportunities for accelerating trade flows between the Western Balkan countries and the European Union.



The Republic of Serbia and Ukraine signed Memorandum of cooperation on animal health and food safety

A Memorandum of Understanding between the two countries was signed on 8 August 2026. The aim of the Memorandum is to strengthen cooperation between the two countries in the areas of animal health and food safety by enhancing institutional cooperation, facilitating the exchange of information, knowledge and experience, and creating conditions for safe bilateral trade in agricultural products. Cooperation in this area is particularly important for enhancing transparency, thereby reducing uncertainty for participants in international trade. In this regard, the signing of the Memorandum is especially significant in the context of the free trade agreement negotiations between the Republic of Serbia and Ukraine, which are currently underway.

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Establishment of strategic cooperation between the Republic of Serbia and Uzbekistan

On 8 September 2026, Serbia and Uzbekistan established an institutional framework for the development of political and economic relations by signing a Joint Declaration on the Establishment of a Strategic Partnership and exchanging 20 bilateral agreements. The partnership places particular emphasis on institutionalising cooperation in the areas of trade and logistics. An initiative was launched to explore possible negotiations on a free trade agreement between the two countries, while agreements on customs cooperation were also concluded. The agreements also provide for cooperation in the fields of agriculture, energy, sustainable development, labour migration and digitalisation.

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World Trade Organization (WTO): Global trade in goods remained resilient in the first half of 2026 despite the war in the Middle East

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New EU packaging rules introduced stricter requirements for exporters from 12 August

The phased implementation of the new EU Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR) began on 12 August this year, introducing harmonised requirements for packaging placed on the EU market. The new rules aim to reduce packaging waste, increase recycling and promote the transition to a circular economy.

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EU launched public consultation on expanding the scope of new steel rules

The European Commission has launched targeted consultations on products that could potentially be covered by the EU Steel Regulation. The consultations, running from 28 July to 28 September 2026, concern the potential inclusion of four product categories: tubes, pipes and hollow profiles, of cast iron; wire of iron or non-alloy steel and wire of other alloy steel; stainless steel wire; and bars and rods of iron or non-alloy steel and bars and rods of other alloy steel. The European Commission will use the information and views submitted by steel producers and users, traders, importers and other interested parties to assess whether these products should be included within the scope of the Regulation, with the outcome expected by the end of 2026.

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EU customs reform entered into force: greater digitalisation and simplified procedures for traders

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CEFTA

Digitalisation and further trade facilitation in the CEFTA region

At the CEFTA meeting held in Skopje from 15 to 17 September 2026, particular attention was devoted to digitalisation as a means of enabling safer, faster and more interconnected trade among the CEFTA Parties. Through the SEED+ programme, procedures for the exchange of phytosanitary, veterinary and food safety certificates are nearing completion. The meeting also addressed concrete activities related to the exchange of electronic phytosanitary certificates, the use of CEFTA TRACES, and further development of the statistical portal.

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OTHER TRADING PARTNERS ↗



New US tariff threats against major importers of Russian oil and gas

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Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) launches safeguard investigation into increased imports of certain steel products

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