NALED

TRADE BULLETIN

Overview of relevant news and events

NALED - INTRODUCTORY REMARKS AND OVERVIEW ↗

Welcome to the third edition of the NALED Trade Bulletin, where we provide an overview of the most important domestic, regional, and global developments affecting companies engaged in international trade. In this issue, we place special emphasis on the latest edition of the Grey Book and its priority recommendation aimed at facilitating and accelerating foreign trade procedures, as well as on the challenges faced by Serbia's transport sector in doing business with the European Union.

We also examine the significance of Serbia's accession to the Single Euro Payments Area (SEPA), the CEFTA priorities for 2026, and the EU's new import control requirements. In addition, this edition covers key developments in international trade, ranging from shifts in global trade flows and new free trade agreements to the impact of geopolitical tensions on supply chains and energy prices. As always, the objective of this bulletin is to provide the business community with timely information and insights into the trends shaping the trade environment in which we operate.

SERBIA ↗

NALED Publishes New Edition of the Grey Book - Facilitating Foreign Trade Procedures Among the Ten Priority Recommendations

At NALED's General Assembly marking the association's 20th anniversary, the latest edition of the Grey Book was presented, featuring 100 recommendations to the Government of Serbia and public institutions aimed at reducing bureaucracy and improving the business environment. As many as 22 recommendations have been awarded the "EU Badge" due to their particular relevance for Serbia's EU integration process.

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Sustainability is a prerequisite for competitiveness in the European market, concludes NALED ESG roundtable

Europe's sustainability agenda is increasingly shaping business conditions, supply chains, and market access, making ESG standards no longer a secondary issue but one of the key drivers of competitiveness. This was the main message at the third ESG panel organized within the project "More Efficient Public Procurement and Sustainable Supply Chains for Greater Competitiveness," implemented by NALED with the support of the Government of Sweden.

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Challenges for Serbia's Transport Sector Continue – New Protests Announced

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Current Situation in the Strait of Hormuz and Its Implications for Serbia

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Serbia and China Sign New Bilateral Cooperation Agreements

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SEPA System Becomes Operational in Serbia

As of 5 May 2026, the Republic of Serbia has become fully operational within the Single Euro Payments Area (SEPA), following a period of technical and regulatory preparation by the banking sector. The integration was carried out by the National Bank of Serbia in coordination with 18 commercial banks, which have been offering SEPA payment services to their clients since May 2026. Through this development, Serbia has joined a network of 41 countries and territories, including members of the European Economic Area, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the signatories of the CEFTA 2006 Agreement.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS ↗

WTO Members Agree Not to Impose Duties on Digital Trade

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WTO: U.S. Tariffs Are Slowing Global Trade

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Pressure on the Shipping Industry Increases Amid Global Trade Disruptions

Representatives of leading global shipping companies have warned of rising costs and growing operational challenges during a meeting with WTO Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala. Although global supply chains have demonstrated a degree of resilience, the rerouting of maritime traffic caused by ongoing disruptions – particularly in the Gulf region and other key shipping corridors – is increasing costs not only for carriers but also for end consumers.

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Global Institutions Warn of the Economic Consequences of the Middle East Conflict

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New Goals on the CEFTA Agenda for 2026

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EU Tightens Measures on Steel Overcapacity

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EU Trade Policy: Provisional Application of the EU-Mercosur Trade Agreement Begins, While the EU and Mexico Sign New Trade Agreements

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New EU Import Control System (Import Control System 2 - ICS2)

Since 1 September 2025, the European Union has been implementing the new Import Control System 2 (ICS2), an advanced customs security platform designed to strengthen the safety and security of international supply chains and cross-border trade. The conditions governing the entry of goods into the EU customs territory are set out in the Union Customs Code and related legislation.

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OTHER TRADING PARTNERS ↗

United Kingdom and Gulf States Reach Historic Trade Agreement

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U.S. Court of International Trade Rules Trump's 10% Tariffs Unlawful

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