



RLA Market Insights – Thursday, 29 January 2026

India-EU FTA: Export Upside for India, Limited Import Pull from Europe

The proposed India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) is unlikely to trigger a big boom in chemicals trade between the two regions. However, it has the potential to position India as a strategically important sourcing partner for Europe, particularly in segments such as agrochemicals, specialty chemicals, polymers, fertilisers, pesticides and herbicides. Indian exports in these categories could gain traction as Europe's chemical industry continues to face structural challenges, including persistently high operating costs, declining competitiveness, and ongoing plant closures. This FTA could help India witness investments into its chemicals industry from European partners particularly so when EU is considering diversifying away from China for chemicals production as a part of China+1 strategy.

On the imports front, India is expected to remain a net importer of commodity chemicals, largely sourcing from the Middle East and the US. These regions currently enjoy significant cost advantages driven by lower feedstock prices, economies of scale, and competitive landed costs, making European alternatives less attractive. Logistical considerations also play a role. Unless Suez Canal transits for chemical cargoes return to pre red sea crisis levels, Indian buyers are likely to continue favouring Middle Eastern and US suppliers. Small volumes of chemicals are expected to be seen every now and then between both the partners. Overall, the agreement's true impact will become clearer as its provisions unfold over time.



SHORT TERM OUTLOOK – OIL TANKER MARKET

A monthly report covering the next four months including trends in oil supply, demand and trade, tanker demand and supply, spot, and time charter rates for MRs up to VLCCs, comparisons with FFAs plus the latest news on developments impacting the oil and tanker sectors.

MEDIUM TERM OUTLOOK – OIL TANKER MARKET

Concise analyses of topical issues, consistent market data series and views on future trends in tanker charter rates. The report covers Oil Prices; Economic Developments; Oil Demand and Supply; Trade; Tanker Demand, Supply and Rates. Sent to clients around January, April, July and October each year

SHORT TERM OUTLOOK – VLGC MARKET

A monthly report looking four months ahead at likely trends in the VLGC Spot Market with the latest on key LPG carrier trades, benchmark LPG prices, arbitrage developments, a comparison with FFAs and recent news

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CHEMICAL CARRIER WORLD SERVICE

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SINGAPORE OFFICE

10 Anson Road
#10-11 International Plaza
SINGAPORE 079903
T: +65-6950 7561

LONDON OFFICE

Terminal House
52 Grosvenor Gardens
London, UK SW1W 0AU
T: +44-20-3386 9413

INDIA OFFICE

SCO 10, First Floor
Sector - 79, Mohali,
Punjab, INDIA 140308
T: +91-172-4105887

E: info@wademaritime.com | research@richardsonlawrie.com

w: www.wademaritime.com | www.richardsonlawrie.com