



## **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

## **MEDIUM TERM OUTLOOK – LPG CARRIER MARKET**

A quarterly series of regular reviews, analyses and forecasts of the LPG Carrier Market. The report covers Economic Developments; LPG production, consumption and pricing; LPG, chemical gases and ammonia trade, LPG Carrier Demand, Supply and Rates for Fully Ref, Semi-Ref and Pressurised Ships. Reports are sent to clients around January, April, July and October each year.

## **CHEMICAL CARRIER WORLD SERVICE**

An annual consultancy service currently providing Clients with an Annual Fundamentals Report, a Forecast Update, two quarterly Market Monitors, Monthly Commodity Trade Bulletins for key countries, an annual presentation on the market outlook and access to RLA's consultants and analysts to discuss issues arising from these reports.



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