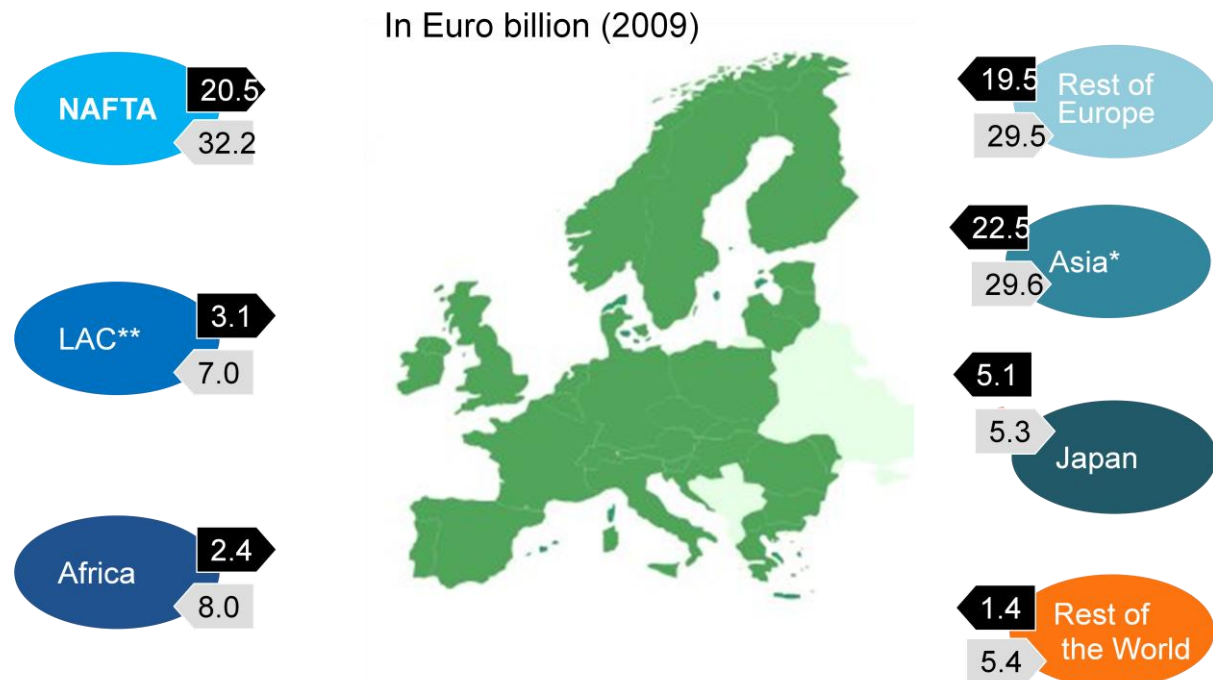


International Trade

Extra-EU chemicals trade flows with major geographic blocs



The three major geographic blocs trading with the European Union in 2009 were: North America, Asia (excluding Japan), and the Rest of Europe.

The European Union has a surplus with each main trading region – NAFTA, Asia, Japan, Latin America, Africa, Rest of Europe and Africa and has broadly retained its market share in global chemicals sales during the last decade. The Rest of Europe market plays a major role in 2009, with €10 billion in net trade surplus in chemicals for the European Union.

The Trade Competitiveness Indicator (TCI) –an indicator that compares the trade balance to the total trade, namely exports plus imports of a region– reveals a deteriorating competitiveness, however, of the overall EU chemicals industry since 2003. This means that total chemical imports are growing faster than total chemical exports.