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Statistics in focus

EXTERNAL TRADE

THEME 6 – 2/2002

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EU TRADE WITH OPEC

Tim Allen

EU exports to the 11 members of OPEC increased in value by 62% between the first quarter of 1995 and the second quarter of 2001, passing from 10 billion ECU to 16 bn euro. This rise was due both to a rise in prices and, to a lesser extent, to an increase in volumes exported.

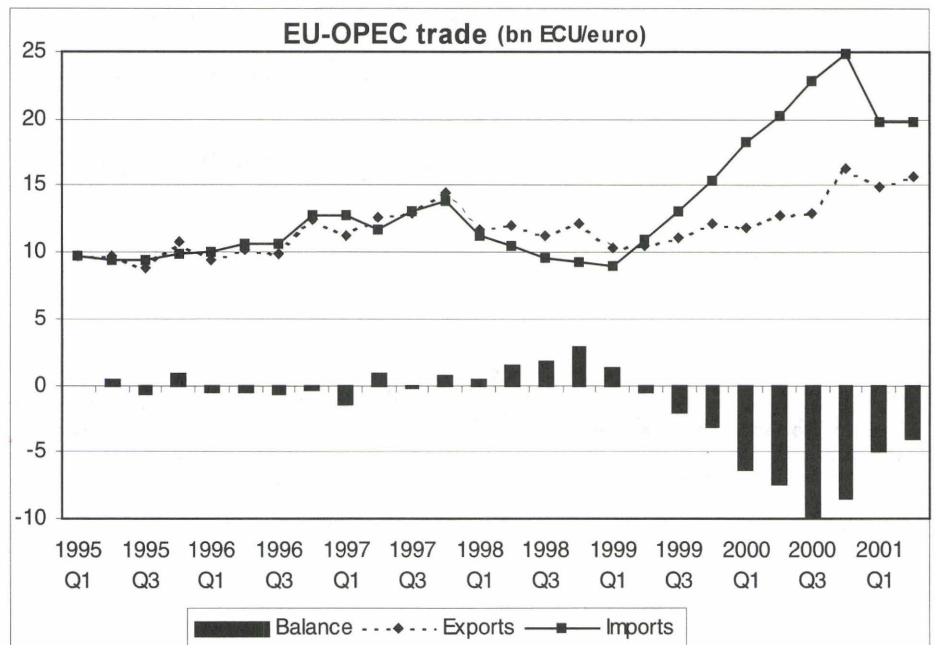
Over the same period imports increased by 102%. This rise took place entirely since the beginning of 1999, from when, in the course of two and a half years, import prices, mainly for oil, have increased by 130%.

The EU has registered a trade deficit with OPEC since the beginning of 1999, which peaked at 10 bn euro for the third quarter of 2000. In 1998, however, the trade balance was positive, whereas before then it fluctuated from one quarter to the next.

Imports from OPEC members mainly reflect trends for petroleum products. In the first quarter of 1999, imports of these products were worth 4 bn euro; by the fourth quarter of 2000 they had passed to 17 bn, before declining to 12 bn in the first two quarters of 2001.

France and Germany are the largest exporters to OPEC among EU Member States, with a share of 20% each of total EU exports to OPEC members in 2000. Italy is the main importer, with a share of 24% of total EU imports from OPEC members in 2000.

Eight Member States are in surplus, and seven in deficit, with OPEC, with Spain and Italy recording the highest deficits, and the UK and Finland the highest surpluses in 2000.



EU-OPEC trade flows

EU exports to OPEC members have increased in value by 62% between the first quarter of 1995 and the second quarter of 2001, passing from 10 billion ECU to 16 bn euro.

Exports in value grew, with variations between one quarter and the next, up to the end of 1997; at which point they had reached a peak value of 15 bn ECU. They then fell strongly up to the beginning of 1999, when they were worth 10 bn euro; since then they have again grown strongly, peaking at 16 bn euro in the final quarter of 2000.

The actual quantity of goods exported to OPEC members has also experienced strong fluctuations from one quarter to another, leading however to a basically unchanged situation by the end of 2000 (a 2% rise in the volume of goods exported between the first quarter of 1995 and the third quarter of 2000). Recent quarters, however, have registered an expansion in the volume of exports, with the quantity rising by more than 20%.

Export prices have increased in a somewhat more regular way, with a total rise of 33% with respect to

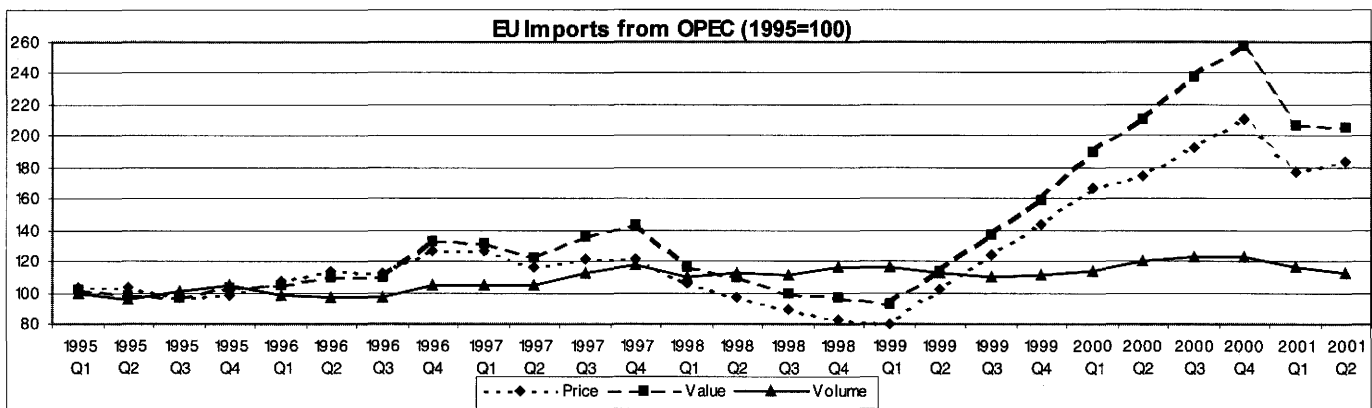
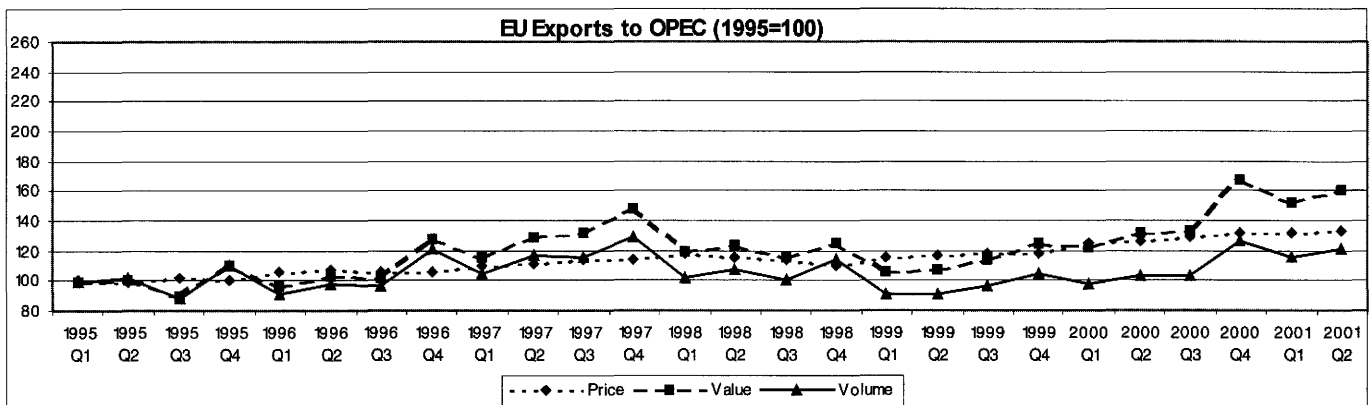
the beginning of the period considered. The rise in the value of exports has thus been more dependent on price rises than on an increase in volumes.

The analysis of import flows is particularly interesting. It can be seen that the volume of goods imported has not grown significantly in the time period considered (+16%).

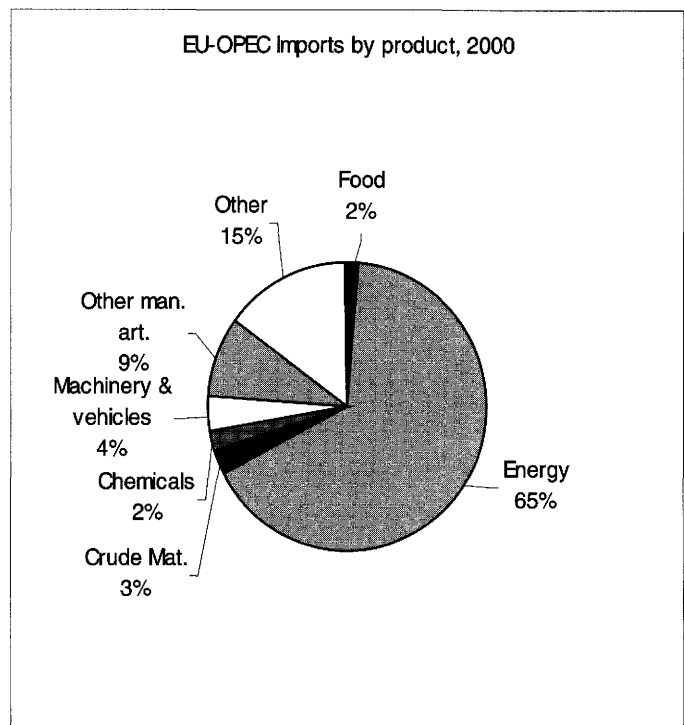
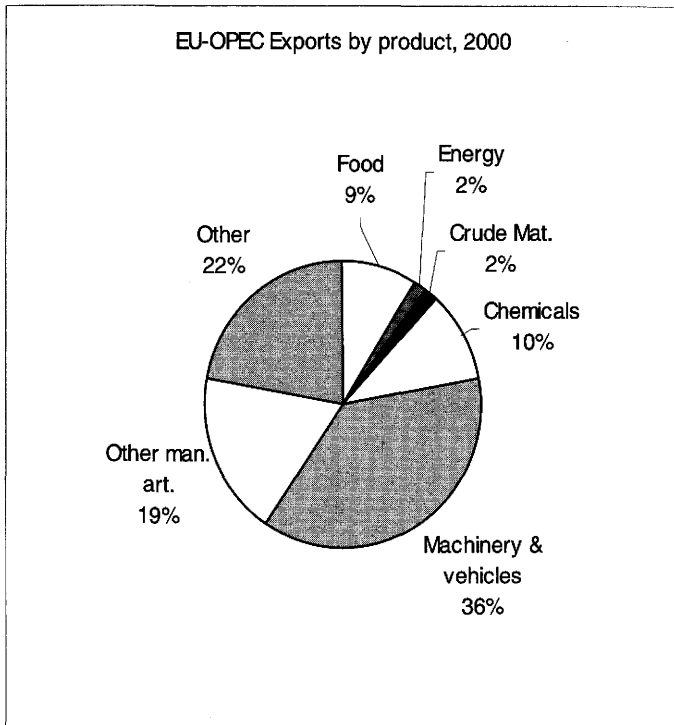
The trend in import prices, largely due to the price of crude oil, and correspondingly in the value of imports, has been totally different, and has in fact become a major concern for the European Union. In the time period considered, import prices have increased by 102%.

It was however from the beginning of 1999 that import prices shot up, although there has been a drop in prices recorded in the first two quarters of 2001.

The EU has registered a trade deficit with OPEC since the beginning of 1999. In 1998, however, the trade balance was positive, whereas before then it fluctuated from one quarter to the next.



EU-OPEC trade by product

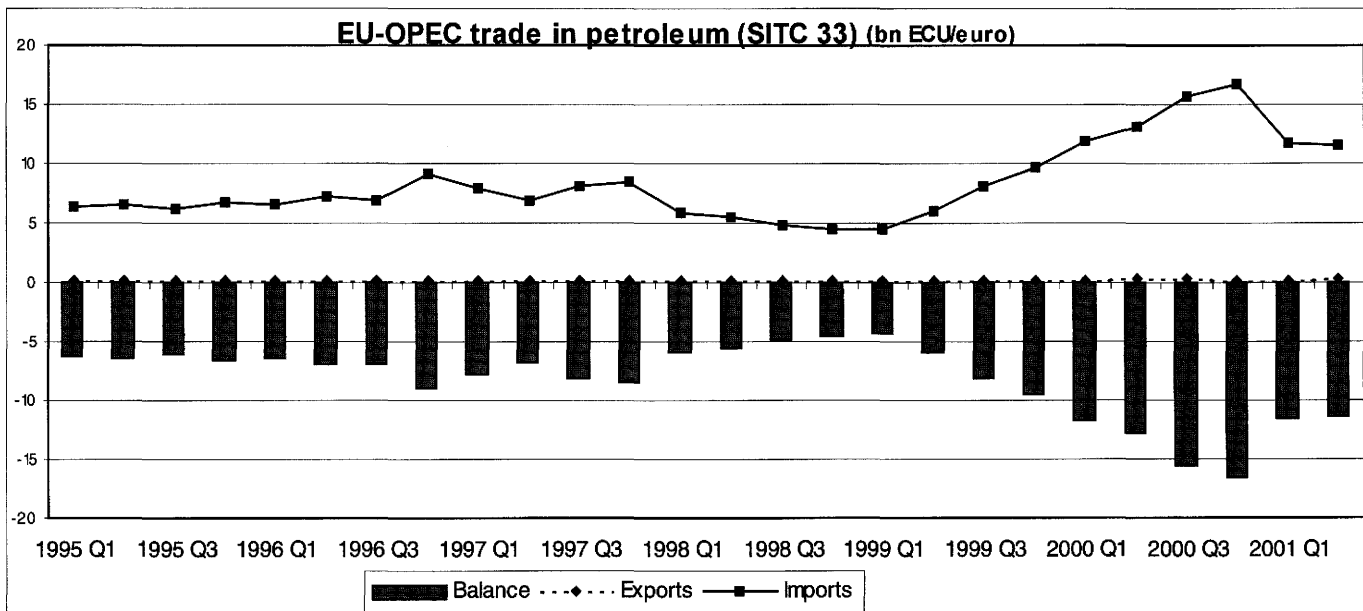


EU exports to OPEC members register a relatively higher share of 'Food' and 'Other manufactured articles', and a lower share of 'Machinery and vehicles', than is exported to all extra-EU countries.

However, it is imports that provide the main interest when analysing EU trade with OPEC members by product. In fact, 65% of imports in 2000 were made up of 'Energy', and in particular of 'Petroleum,

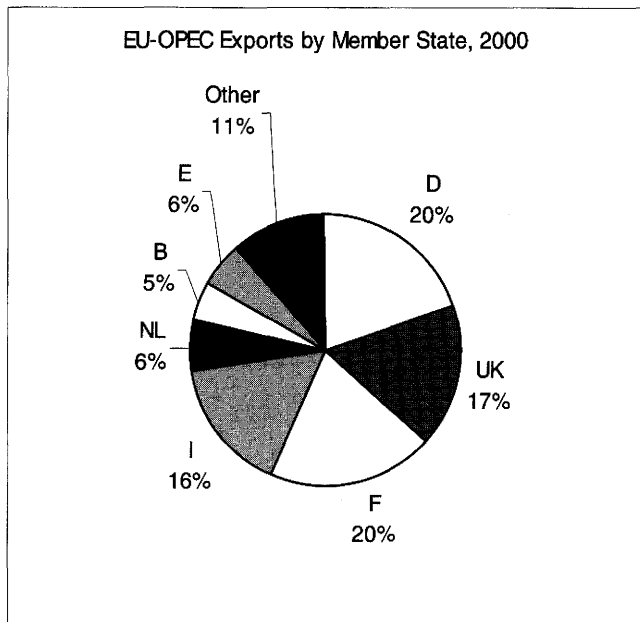
petroleum products and related materials' (SITC 33).

It can be seen that EU imports from OPEC members mainly reflect the trend for petroleum products. In the first quarter of 1999, imports of these products were worth 4 bn euro; by the fourth quarter of 2000 this had passed to 17 bn, before declining again to 12 bn in the first two quarters of 2001.



EU-OPEC trade by Member State

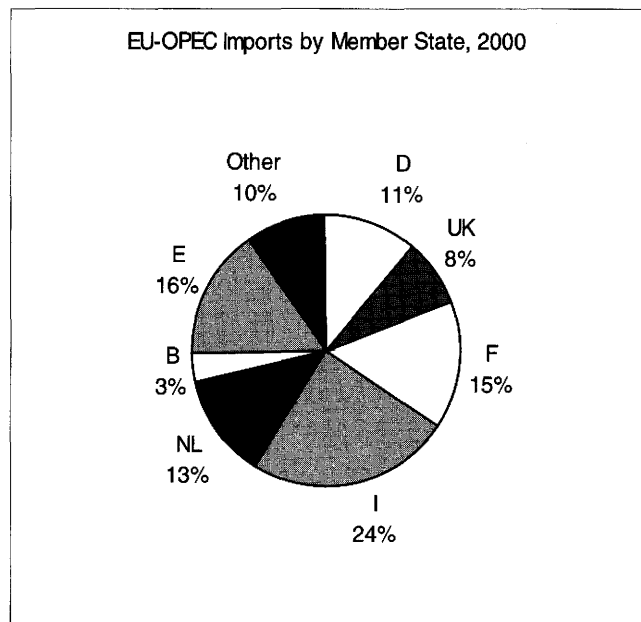
EU15 exports to OPEC																Million ECU/€	
	EU15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	
1995	38,988	1,758	650	8,957	199	2,076	7,709	468	5,763		2,529	767	113	685	855	6,460	
1996	41,941	1,857	648	8,730	273	2,185	7,425	469	6,691		2,176	829	112	941	1,249	8,356	
1997	51,139	2,311	691	10,155	256	2,466	8,599	569	7,329		2,708	957	115	980	1,519	12,483	
1998	47,085	2,205	659	9,726	243	2,662	8,365	631	7,147		2,628	892	114	665	1,363	9,786	
1999	43,936	2,134	638	9,113	237	2,348	8,758	745	6,948	36	2,767	904	113	534	1,084	7,576	
2000	53,842	2,637	734	10,729	310	3,006	10,678	910	8,500	52	3,241	927	159	1,200	1,789	8,970	
																Share	
1995	100.0%	4.5%	1.7%	23.0%	0.5%	5.3%	19.8%	1.2%	14.8%		6.5%	2.0%	0.3%	1.8%	2.2%	16.6%	
1996	100.0%	4.4%	1.5%	20.8%	0.7%	5.2%	17.7%	1.1%	16.0%		5.2%	2.0%	0.3%	2.2%	3.0%	19.9%	
1997	100.0%	4.5%	1.4%	19.9%	0.5%	4.8%	16.8%	1.1%	14.3%		5.3%	1.9%	0.2%	1.9%	3.0%	24.4%	
1998	100.0%	4.7%	1.4%	20.7%	0.5%	5.7%	17.8%	1.3%	15.2%		5.6%	1.9%	0.2%	1.4%	2.9%	20.8%	
1999	100.0%	4.9%	1.5%	20.7%	0.5%	5.3%	19.9%	1.7%	15.8%	0.1%	6.3%	2.1%	0.3%	1.2%	2.5%	17.2%	
2000	100.0%	4.9%	1.4%	19.9%	0.6%	5.6%	19.8%	1.7%	15.8%	0.1%	6.0%	1.7%	0.3%	2.2%	3.3%	16.7%	
EU15 imports from OPEC																Million ECU/€	
	EU15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	
1995	38,437	1,212	204	5,640	764	4,698	6,377	55	7,331		5,888	665	1,234	46	635	3,687	
1996	43,981	1,355	214	6,239	1,310	5,935	7,473	47	8,555		5,827	945	1,218	111	792	3,960	
1997	51,292	1,746	275	6,747	1,127	7,227	8,245	84	11,798		6,071	950	1,336	146	814	4,726	
1998	40,517	1,775	297	5,365	1,297	5,949	6,916	94	9,487		2,404	610	886	132	637	4,665	
1999	48,370	1,860	283	6,100	1,015	6,446	7,628	81	10,643	28	6,729	695	1,074	97	641	5,049	
2000	86,097	2,821	372	9,859	3,147	13,660	12,918	121	20,715	43	10,903	1,095	2,090	132	1,295	6,927	
																Share	
1995	100.0%	3.2%	0.5%	14.7%	2.0%	12.2%	16.6%	0.1%	19.1%		15.3%	1.7%	3.2%	0.1%	1.7%	9.6%	
1996	100.0%	3.1%	0.5%	14.2%	3.0%	13.5%	17.0%	0.1%	19.5%		13.2%	2.1%	2.8%	0.3%	1.8%	9.0%	
1997	100.0%	3.4%	0.5%	13.2%	2.2%	14.1%	16.1%	0.2%	23.0%		11.8%	1.9%	2.6%	0.3%	1.6%	9.2%	
1998	100.0%	4.4%	0.7%	13.2%	3.2%	14.7%	17.1%	0.2%	23.4%		5.9%	1.5%	2.2%	0.3%	1.6%	11.5%	
1999	100.0%	3.8%	0.6%	12.6%	2.1%	13.3%	15.8%	0.2%	22.0%	0.1%	13.9%	1.4%	2.2%	0.2%	1.3%	10.4%	
2000	100.0%	3.3%	0.4%	11.5%	3.7%	15.9%	15.0%	0.1%	24.1%	0.0%	12.7%	1.3%	2.4%	0.2%	1.5%	8.0%	
Trade balance																Million ECU/€	
	EU15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	
1995	551	545	446	3,317	-564	-2,622	1,331	413	-1,568		-3,360	103	-1,121	639	220	2,773	
1996	-2,041	502	434	2,492	-1,036	-3,750	-49	422	-1,864		-3,650	-116	-1,106	830	458	4,396	
1997	-153	565	416	3,408	-871	-4,761	354	485	-4,469		-3,362	7	-1,222	834	705	7,757	
1998	6,568	429	362	4,361	-1,054	-3,287	1,448	536	-2,340		223	282	-773	534	725	5,121	
1999	-4,434	274	355	3,012	-778	-4,097	1,131	664	-3,694	8	-3,963	210	-962	437	444	2,527	
2000	-32,254	-184	362	870	-2,837	-10,655	-2,240	790	-12,215	9	-7,662	-168	-1,931	1,068	495	2,044	



France and Germany are the largest exporters to OPEC members among the Member States, with 20% each of total EU exports in 2000, while Italy is the main importer from OPEC members, with a share of 24% of total EU imports in 2000.

It is interesting to compare the importance of each Member State's trade with OPEC members to that of extra-EU trade as a total as, for some of them, the difference is quite important.

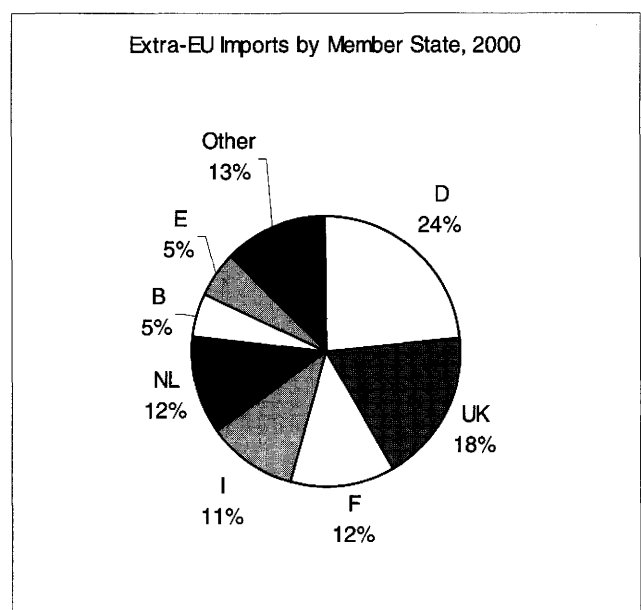
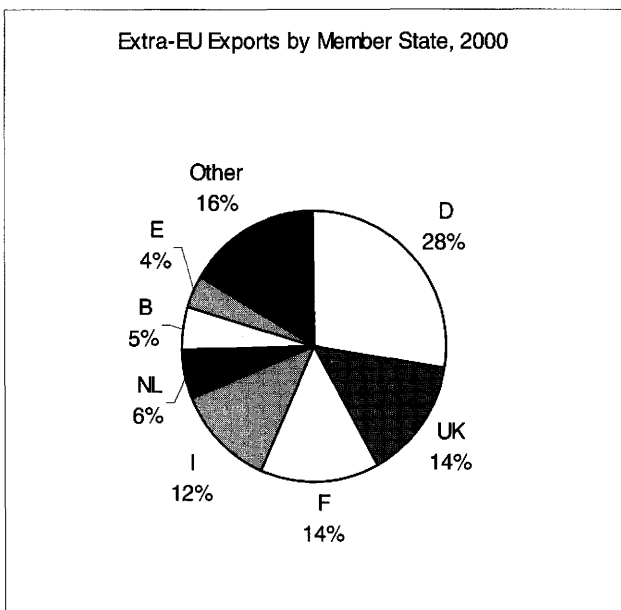
Germany is generally the most important EU trading partner, with a share of 28% of total extra-EU exports and 24% of imports; these shares go down to 20% and 12% respectively in the case of trade with OPEC members. France and Italy, on the other hand, register a relatively higher share of trade with OPEC members; in particular, Italy takes 24% of total



imports from OPEC, compared to just 11% of extra-EU imports. Spain is also a significant importer from OPEC, with a 16% share, compared to a 5% share of extra-EU imports. On the other hand, the UK's share, equal to 18% of extra-EU imports, goes down to 8% in the case of imports from OPEC members.

These shares have not varied significantly since 1995, except for a fall in Germany's imports and a corresponding rise in imports to Italy.

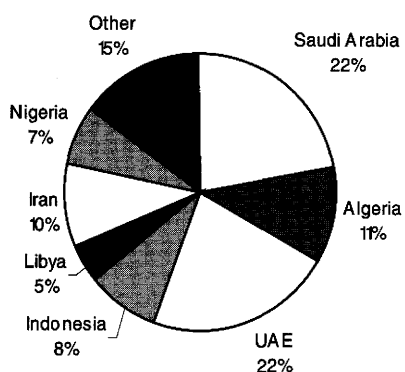
The EU had a trade deficit of over 32 bn euro with OPEC members in 2000; however, the situation among Member States is varied, with Italy, Spain and the Netherlands recording the highest deficits with OPEC, and the UK, Finland, Germany and Ireland the largest surpluses.



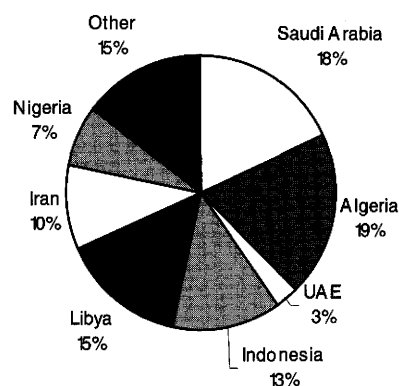
EU-OPEC trade by OPEC member

EU15 exports to OPEC											Million ECU/€	
	OPEC	Algeria	Libya	Nigeria	Venezuela	Iraq	Iran	Saudi Arabia	Kuwait	Qatar	UAE	Indonesia
1995	38,988	4,727	2,279	2,054	1,865	26	3,452	8,647	2,424	1,167	6,491	5,854
1996	41,941	4,075	2,505	2,371	1,748	33	3,869	10,380	2,195	1,096	6,668	7,000
1997	51,139	4,357	2,772	2,713	2,395	194	4,918	13,178	2,294	2,118	7,917	8,284
1998	47,085	5,268	2,743	2,804	2,996	484	4,399	12,021	2,163	1,503	8,839	3,866
1999	43,936	5,220	2,286	3,004	2,661	611	3,869	10,231	2,008	1,085	9,615	3,346
2000	53,842	6,101	2,488	3,854	3,219	1,132	5,214	11,921	2,320	1,342	11,799	4,452
												Share
1995	100.0%	12.1%	5.8%	5.3%	4.8%	0.1%	8.9%	22.2%	6.2%	3.0%	16.6%	15.0%
1996	100.0%	9.7%	6.0%	5.7%	4.2%	0.1%	9.2%	24.7%	5.2%	2.6%	15.9%	16.7%
1997	100.0%	8.5%	5.4%	5.3%	4.7%	0.4%	9.6%	25.8%	4.5%	4.1%	15.5%	16.2%
1998	100.0%	11.2%	5.8%	6.0%	6.4%	1.0%	9.3%	25.5%	4.6%	3.2%	18.8%	8.2%
1999	100.0%	11.9%	5.2%	6.8%	6.1%	1.4%	8.8%	23.3%	4.6%	2.5%	21.9%	7.6%
2000	100.0%	11.3%	4.6%	7.2%	6.0%	2.1%	9.7%	22.1%	4.3%	2.5%	21.9%	8.3%
EU15 imports from OPEC											Million ECU/€	
	OPEC	Algeria	Libya	Nigeria	Venezuela	Iraq	Iran	Saudi Arabia	Kuwait	Qatar	UAE	Indonesia
1995	38,437	4,844	5,799	3,443	1,622	1	5,441	8,847	1,367	113	851	6,109
1996	43,981	5,509	7,066	5,018	1,527	1	5,762	9,331	1,589	117	955	7,107
1997	51,292	8,361	7,618	4,544	1,757	1,386	5,189	10,913	1,480	235	1,480	8,330
1998	40,517	6,807	5,662	2,847	1,419	1,866	3,711	6,641	710	288	1,614	8,955
1999	48,370	7,776	6,857	2,795	1,756	3,681	4,743	8,456	1,474	234	1,839	8,759
2000	86,097	16,422	13,031	6,409	2,735	6,289	8,437	15,858	3,196	373	2,467	10,880
1995	100.0%	12.6%	15.1%	9.0%	4.2%	0.0%	14.2%	23.0%	3.6%	0.3%	2.2%	15.9%
1996	100.0%	12.5%	16.1%	11.4%	3.5%	0.0%	13.1%	21.2%	3.6%	0.3%	2.2%	16.2%
1997	100.0%	16.3%	14.9%	8.9%	3.4%	2.7%	10.1%	21.3%	2.9%	0.5%	2.9%	16.2%
1998	100.0%	16.8%	14.0%	7.0%	3.5%	4.6%	9.2%	16.4%	1.8%	0.7%	4.0%	22.1%
1999	100.0%	16.1%	14.2%	5.8%	3.6%	7.6%	9.8%	17.5%	3.0%	0.5%	3.8%	18.1%
2000	100.0%	19.1%	15.1%	7.4%	3.2%	7.3%	9.8%	18.4%	3.7%	0.4%	2.9%	12.6%
Trade balance											Million ECU/€	
	OPEC	Algeria	Libya	Nigeria	Venezuela	Iraq	Iran	Saudi Arabia	Kuwait	Qatar	UAE	Indonesia
1995	551	-118	-3,520	-1,389	244	25	-1,989	-200	1,057	1,055	5,640	-254
1996	-2,041	-1,434	-4,561	-2,648	221	33	-1,893	1,050	606	978	5,714	-106
1997	-153	-4,004	-4,846	-1,831	637	-1,192	-271	2,265	813	1,883	6,437	-46
1998	6,568	-1,539	-2,919	-42	1,577	-1,382	688	5,380	1,453	1,215	7,226	-5,089
1999	-4,434	-2,556	-4,571	209	905	-3,069	-874	1,774	534	851	7,775	-5,413
2000	-32,254	-10,321	-10,542	-2,554	484	-5,157	-3,222	-3,937	-876	969	9,332	-6,428

EU-OPEC Exports by OPEC Member, 2000



EU-OPEC Imports by OPEC Member, 2000



The main EU trading partner among OPEC members is Saudi Arabia, representing 22% of the EU's exports to OPEC in 2000, and 18% of its imports. This share has noticeably fallen for imports, as Saudi Arabia represented 23% of OPEC imports to the EU in 1995.

The share of imports from Iran has also fallen, from 14% to 10% of total EU imports from OPEC; while Iraq, following the relaxing of trade embargoes, went from almost nothing in 1995 to 7% in 2000.

As far as exports are concerned, the United Arab Emirates have increased their share from 17% to 22%, whereas Indonesia's share has halved, from 15% to 8%. It should also be noted that exports to

Iraq, equal to 26 million ECU in 1995, rose to 1.1 billion euro in 2000.

In 2000 the EU had a trade deficit with 8 of the 11 OPEC countries. The largest deficits were recorded with Libya and Algeria, and the largest surplus with the United Arab Emirates.

Despite the recent rise in oil prices, OPEC still only accounts for around 7% of the EU's total external trade, while the EU plays a much more important role as a trading partner for OPEC, taking 21% of its exports and supplying 30% of its imports in 2000. For Algeria and Libya in particular the EU is the dominant trade partner.

Share of trade of OPEC members in 2000

	OPEC	Algeria	Libya	Nigeria	Venezuela	Iraq	Iran	Saudi Arabia	Kuwait	Qatar	UAE	Indonesia
Exports to:												
EU	21%	66%	85%	25%	5%	35%	26%	18%	15%	1%	5%	14%
USA	18%	12%	0%	44%	51%	41%	1%	17%	15%	3%	2%	14%
Japan	17%	0%	0%	1%	1%	4%	18%	17%	25%	45%	33%	23%
Imports from:												
EU	30%	61%	62%	44%	16%	41%	33%	33%	40%	36%	31%	12%
USA	13%	10%	0%	9%	36%	0%	0%	21%	16%	10%	6%	10%
Japan	8%	1%	3%	4%	3%	2%	4%	9%	11%	11%	7%	16%

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION – METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

Data sources: Eurostat Comext database, IMF database.

System: Special trade.

Goods classification: Third revision of the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC).

Statistical values: CIF values for imports and FOB values for exports.

OPEC: Algeria, Libya, Nigeria, Venezuela, Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Indonesia.

In this report, 1 Bn = 1000 million.

Further information:

➤ Reference publications

Title External and intra-EU trade - monthly statistics
 Catalogue No KS-AR-01-012-EN-C Price EUR 20

➤ Databases

Comext, Domain EC Special trade

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