



**European Economic
and Social Committee**



**EU-Ukraine Trade at a Crossroads:
A Strategic Perspective**

Date: 25 March 2025

Time: 17:30 – 19:30

Venue: *European Parliament, Rue Wiertz 60, 1047 Bruxelles, Belgium*

Agenda

17:30 – 17:50	Welcome	Niels Flemming Hansen – Member of the European Parliament Lukas Mandl – MEP (TBC)
17:50 – 18:00	Keynote	Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung MDPD Brussels
18:00 – 18:30	Debate	Svitlana Taran – Senior Research Fellow, European Policy Center Ruslan Illichov – Director General, Federation of Employers Ukraine Mykhailo Bno-Airriian – Special Trade Representative at Federation of Employers Ukraine



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Nazar Bobitski – President, Ukrainian Agribusiness Club Association (UCAB)

Marcin Nowacki – EESC Member, Employers' Group & President of European Enterprise Alliance

Peter Polajnar – Deputy Head of Unit, DG ENEST, European Commission (Tbc)

18:30 – 19:00 Q&A, Closing Remarks and Networking

Moderator: Horst Heitz – Chair of the Steering Committee, SME Connect

Contact person:

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Lilia Heitz – Director of Strategic Communications, SME Connect

About the Event

As the European Union grapples with the extension of Autonomous Trade Measures (ATMs) for Ukraine, a critical debate unfolds at the intersection of economics, politics, and security. Since 2022, these measures have provided Ukraine with an essential economic lifeline, generating an estimated €5 billion in export revenues. However, with their expiration looming in mid-2024, tensions have risen within the EU, particularly in the agricultural sector, fueling political polarization and populist sentiment.

This event will explore the broader strategic stakes at play. Beyond market concerns, the EU must leverage its economic power as a geopolitical tool to maintain stability, counter external



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threats, and sustain support for Ukraine. Join policymakers, experts, and industry leaders in a discussion on the future of EU-Ukraine trade relations, the impact on European markets, and the necessity of a unified, long-term approach to economic resilience and security.