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ECTA Statement on payment terms

The Chemical Industry in Europe experiences turbulent times. For decades Europe and its producers acted as an Export market for Chemical Products. This picture has totally changed and it is a matter of fact that Europe is now an import market.

This development is just a result of the circumstances Chemical Producers in Europe are facing with high energy costs, high labour costs, regulations and very strong global competition.

Among the different measures taken by the Chemical Producers in Europe to strengthen their competitiveness, we see a trend to lengthen the payment terms with their Logistic Service Providers.

Few European countries regulate the payment terms by legislation – for example French Service Providers need to be paid within 30 days.

Even if the European Parliament and the Council mention in the Directive 2011/7/UE dated 16/02/2011 that the maximum duration of the payment must not exceed 30 calendar days from the date of receipt of the goods or services.

In general Logistic/Transport companies are confronted with longer payment terms and the demand to lengthen them even further.

ECTA calls on the European Chemical Producers to treat their Logistic/Transport partners reasonably in granting capacity and flexibility of the services they require.

Enlengthening of payment terms puts an unfair burden on the large number of SMEs that are working in this chemical transport sector.