

CITHA- European Confederation of International Trading Houses Associations
Am Weidendamm 1A
10117 Berlin
Germany

Phone + 49 30 72 62 57 93
Fax +49 30 72 62 57 94

info@citha.eu
www.citha.eu

Jan Krückemeyer
President
info@citha.eu

Gregor Wolf
Secretary General
wolf@citha.eu

PRESS RELEASE

Together for International Trade

Sofia, 21.10.2022 - Today the Annual Conference of the Confederation of International Trading Houses Associations (CITHA) took place for the first time in Sofia by the invitation of the Bulgarian Export Association. The focus lies on strengthening and promote trade between Bulgaria and other European countries such as Germany, Italy, Spain, Austria, United Kingdom and Switzerland.

International trade is under massive pressure due to numerous crises. Disrupted supply chains, geopolitical crises such as the Russian war against Ukraine, massively rising energy costs and, last but not least, the enormous inflation in the EU are putting a strain on international trade worldwide. At the same time, we are seeing the major economic regions of Asia and North America drifting apart. Europe has still to find its geopolitical role.

"Against this background, cooperation in the EU is more important than ever. Together we must do everything we can to prevent further erosion of the international trade order. This is the time when we need to re-energise relations with our traditional foreign trade partners. It is therefore a great pleasure for us, as the umbrella organisation of European foreign trade associations, to meet with BEXA here in Sofia today to discuss how we too can expand trade between our countries." said Jan Krückemeyer, President of the Confederation of International Trading House Associations, said.

About CITHA

The organisation was founded in 1956 as a small group of international trading companies in Scandinavia with the aim of meeting once a year to exchange information on their activities and to represent common interests. In 1971, the so-called "Stockholm Club", which was soon joined by German and Dutch international companies, was given its statutes and a new name: CITHA was formally constituted as an international umbrella organisation for national trade associations. Today CITHA has 10 members with Austria, Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom. In 2005, by decree of the Ministry of Justice, CITHA became an NGO registered in Brussels and recognised by important international institutions such as the World Bank, IMF, UNCTAD, OECD, WTO and EU Commission.

Facts on trade with Bulgaria

The most important sectors of Bulgaria's economy in 2020 were wholesale and retail trade, transport, accommodation and food services (21.4%), industry (20.4%) and public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities (16.7%).

Intra-EU trade accounts for 66% of Bulgaria's exports (Germany 16%, Romania 9% and Italy 7%), while outside the EU 6% go to Turkey and 3% to China.

In terms of imports, 61% come from EU Member States (Germany 12%, Italy and Romania 7%), while outside the EU 7% come from Turkey and 6% from Russia.