The major trade flows to and from the EU reflect the imbalance in gasoline/diesel demand in Europe. As a consequence, significant excess gasoline production capacity needs to be exported, whilst Europe became heavily reliant on imports from third countries/regions - especially Russia, the Middle East and the USA to meet regional demand for diesel and jet fuel.

North America was the traditional export market for gasoline surpluses in Europe, but the recent shale oil revolution and cheap energy enabled US refiners to increase their supplies for their internal market and compete on other export markets with EU refiners.