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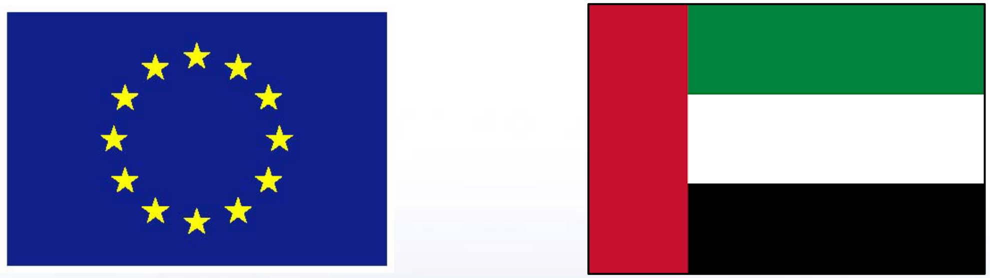
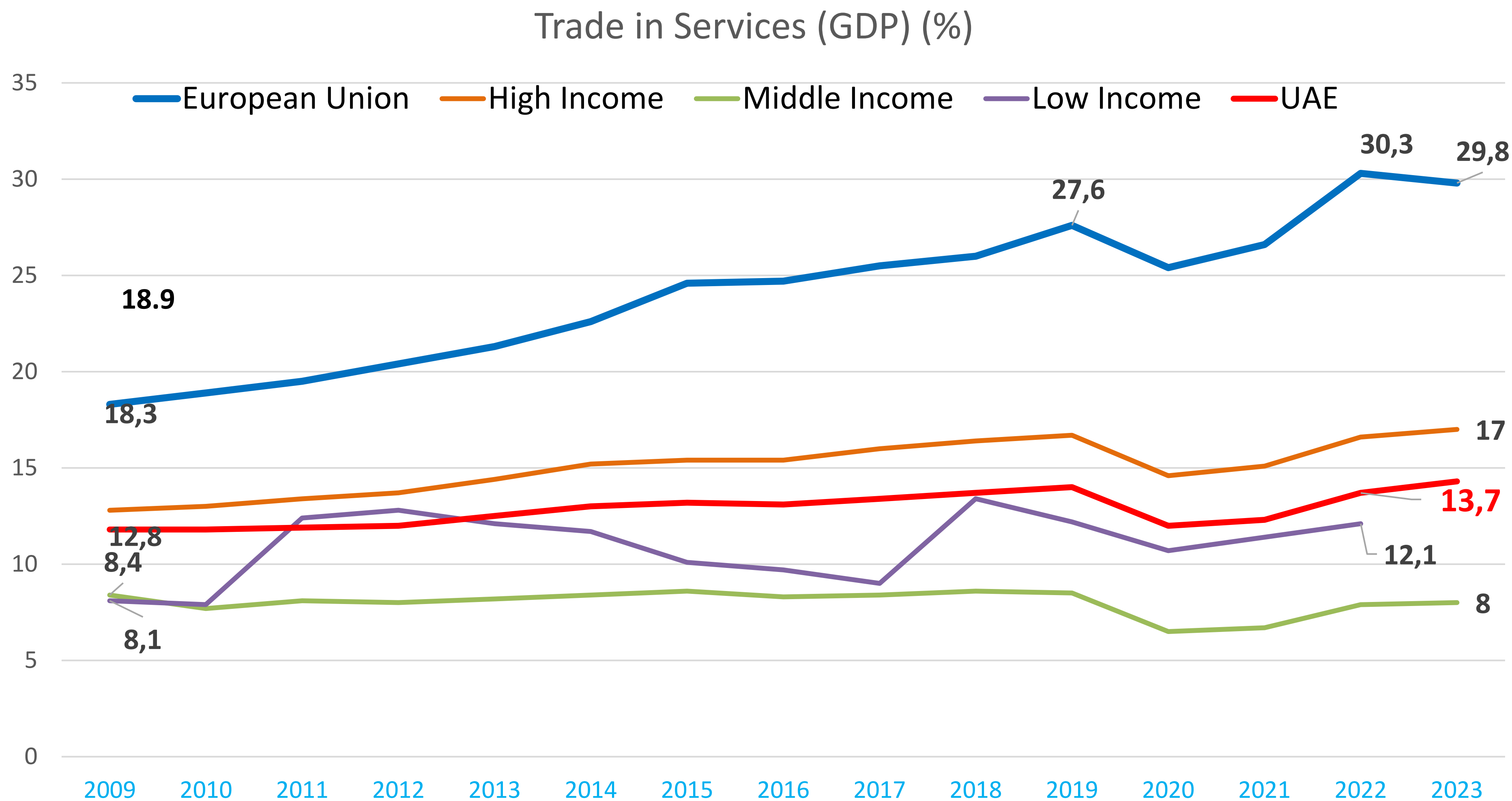


“The importance of Trade in Services between EU & United Arab Emirates (UAE)”

November 2025

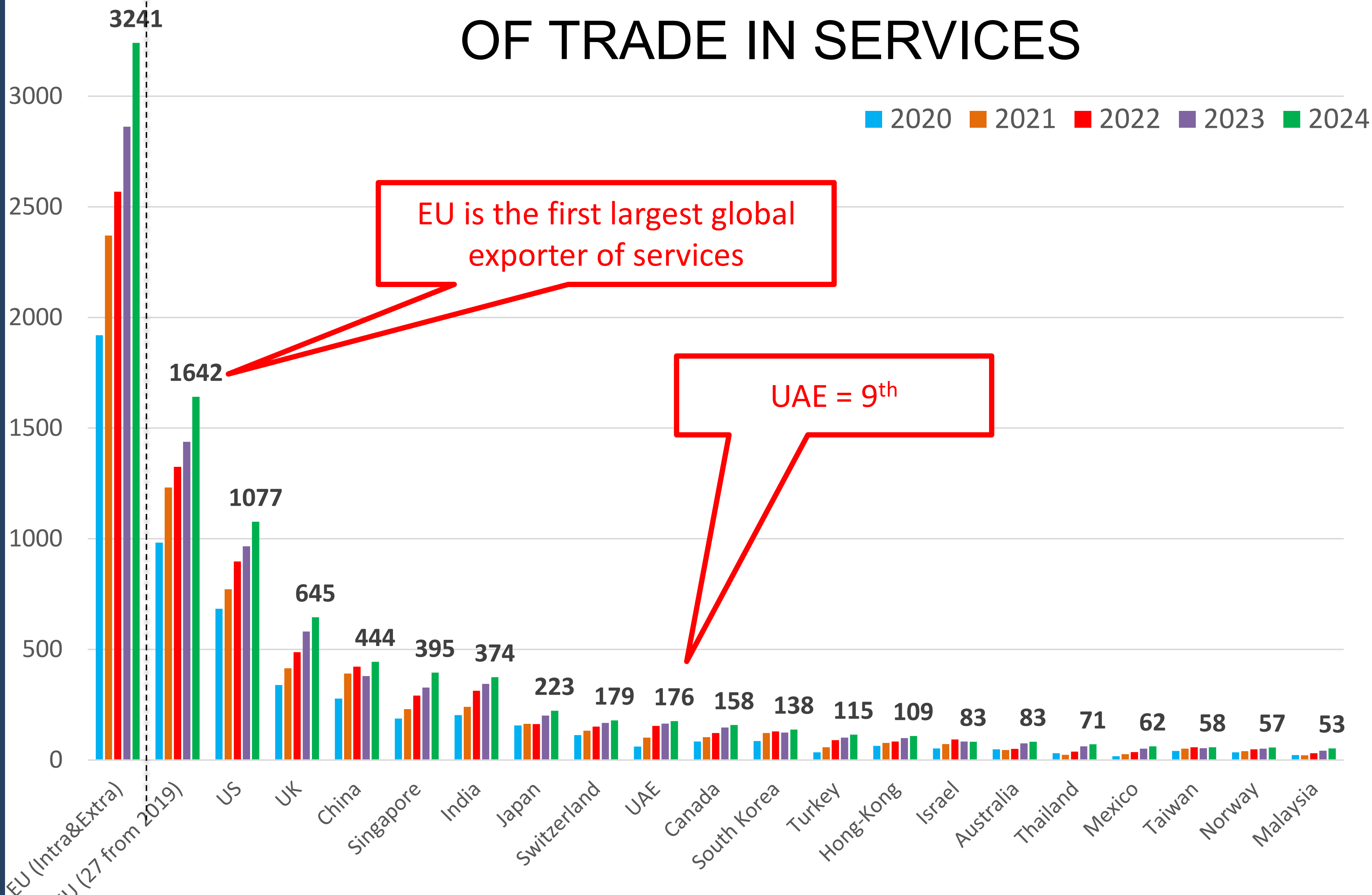
« The voice of the European Service Industries for International Trade Negotiations in Services »

The share of Trade in Services in the EU GDP is higher than in other high-income countries! ➔ 29.8% (13,4 % in UAE)



Source: https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/BG.GSR.NFSV.GD.ZS

TOP 20 WORLD EXPORTERS OF TRADE IN SERVICES



Total World Export of services 2023 (excl. Intra EU) = 7 088 Bio US$ - Source: WTO Trade Statistical Review & Global trade outlook 2024 – Bio US$

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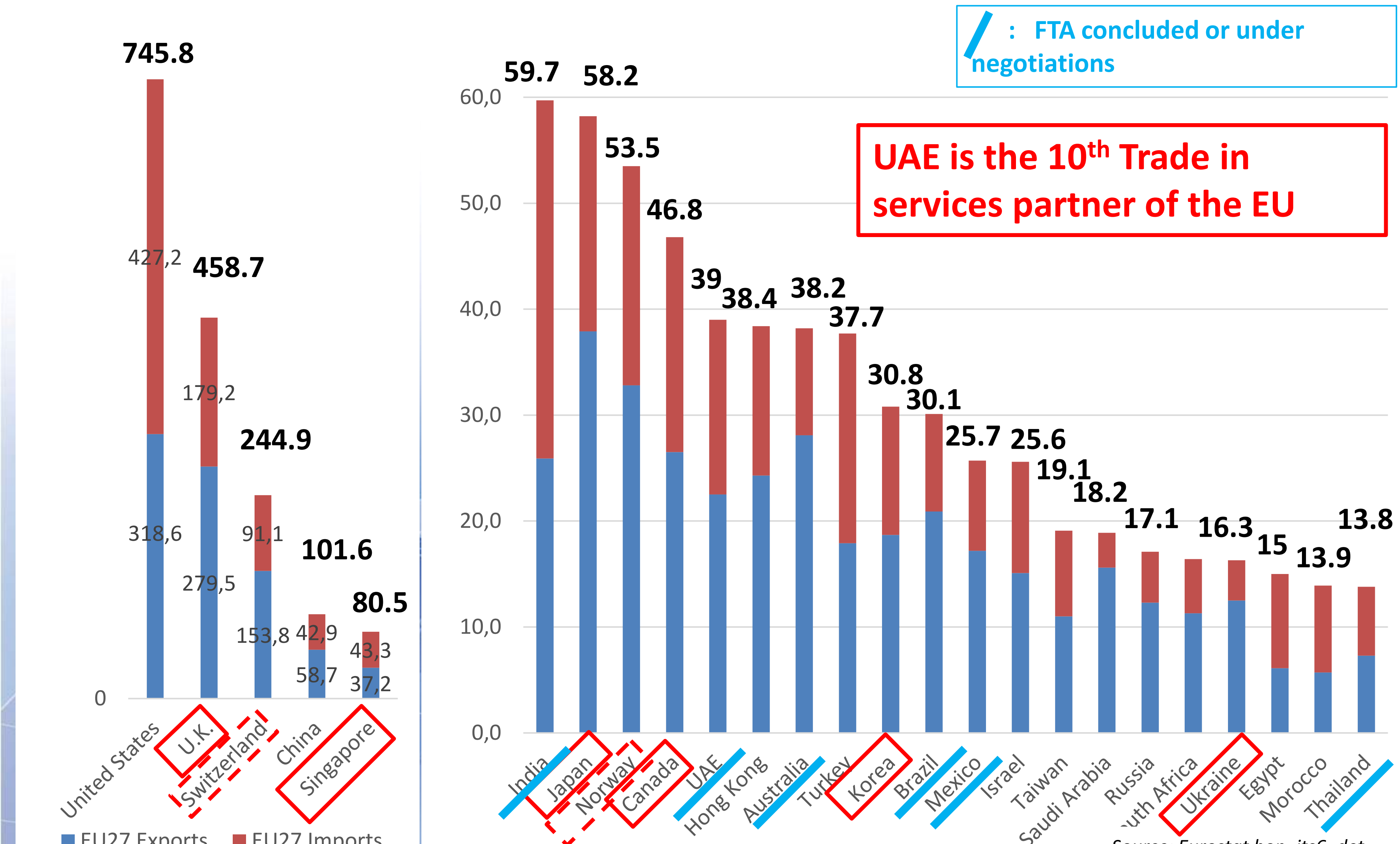
TOP 25 EU TRADING PARTNERS IN SERVICES - (EXTRA-EU27) – 2023 - €BIO



Source: Eurostat bop_its6_det.

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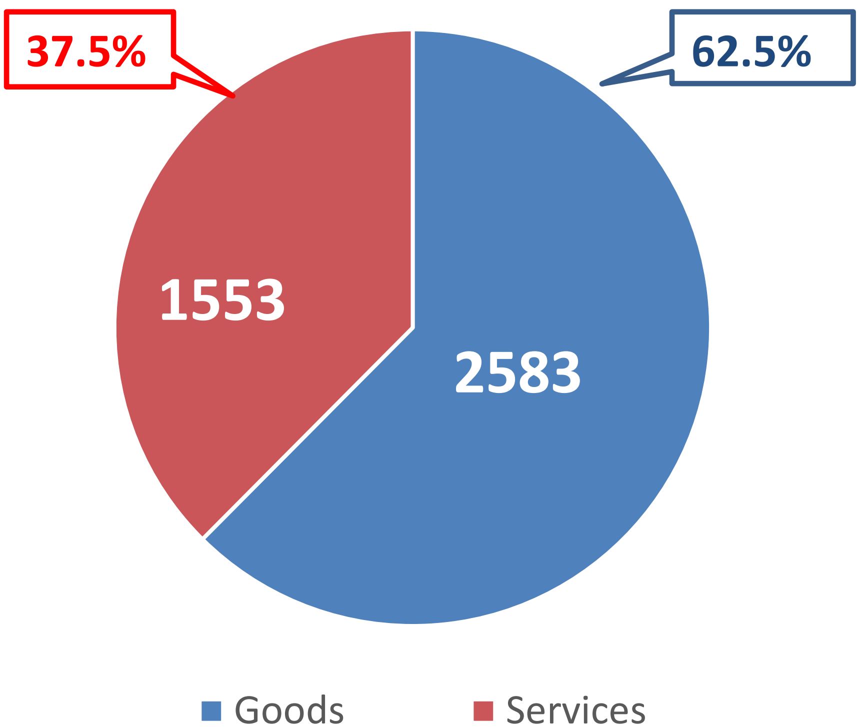
IMPORTANCE OF TRADE IN SERVICES EU27 (Extra EU)

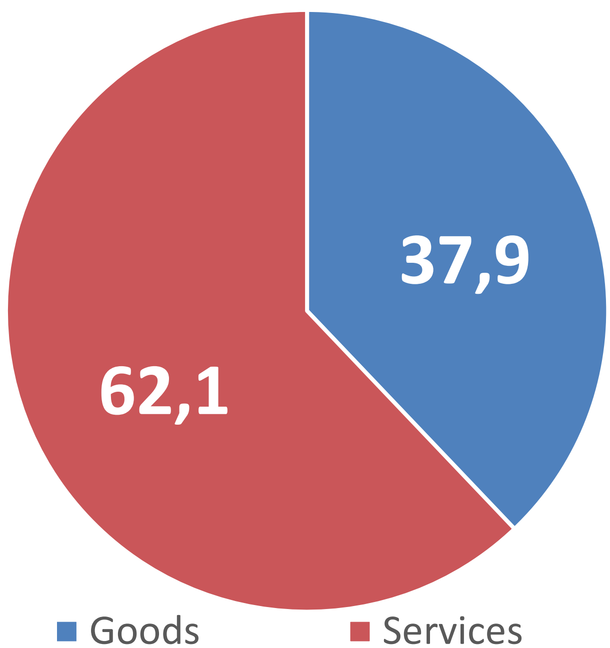
Comparison between Balance of Payment (BoP) & Trade in Value Added TiVA

EU Exports in BOP - 2024 – € Bio



Total Export Extra EU27= 4,136 $Bio

EU Exports in TiVA - 2020 - %



62.1% of EU total trade in value added terms are services trade

Source: WTO WTS2020 & OECD/WTO TiVA

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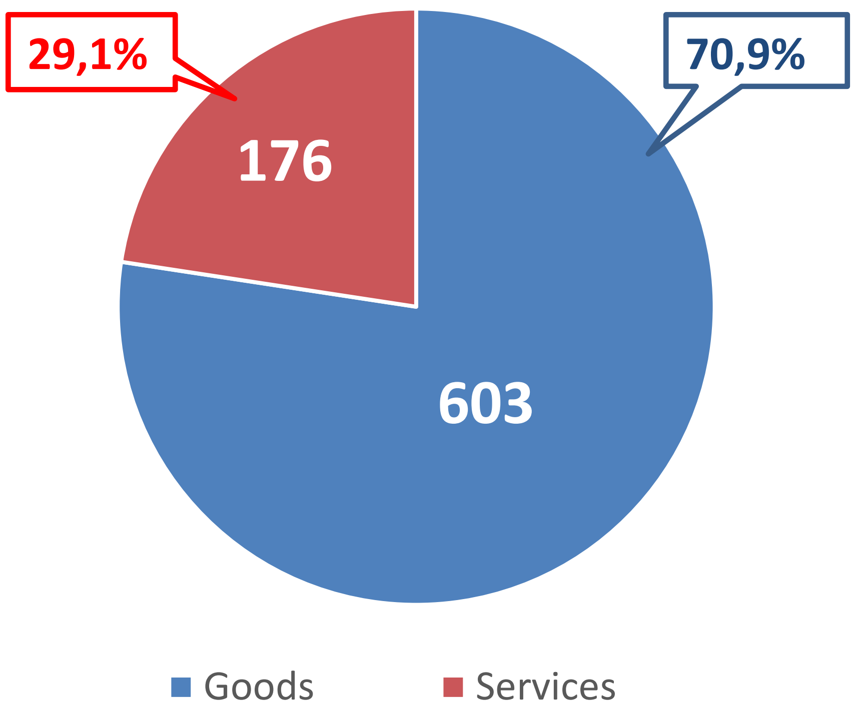
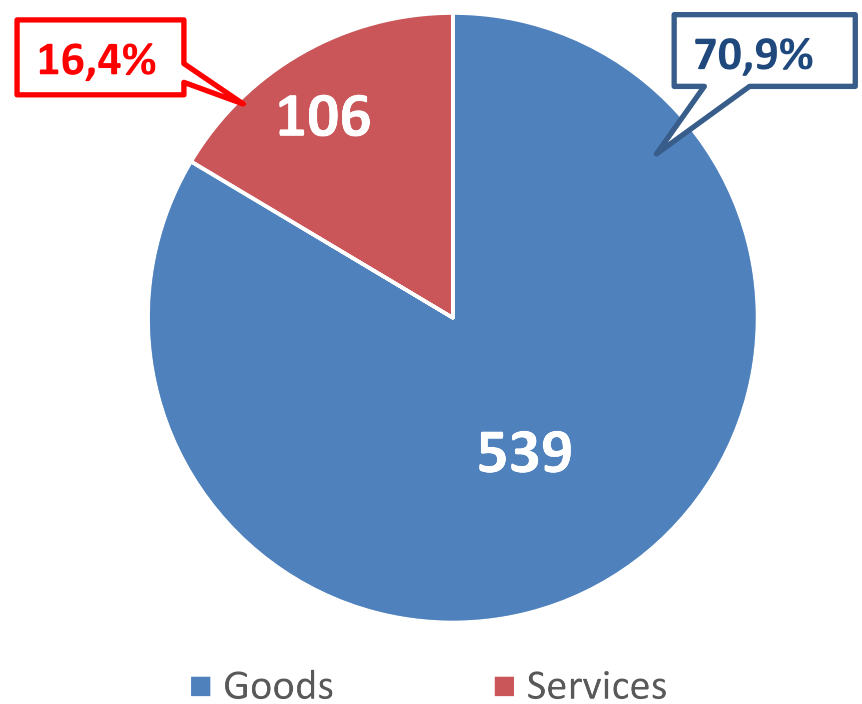
IMPORTANCE OF TRADE IN GOODS & SERVICES in UAE

UAE Global Exports in BOP - 2024 – Bio US$ - % -



Total Export UAE = 779 $Bio

UAE Global Imports – 2024 Bio US$ - % -



Total Export UAE = 645 $Bio

Source: WTO Global Trade Outlook 2025

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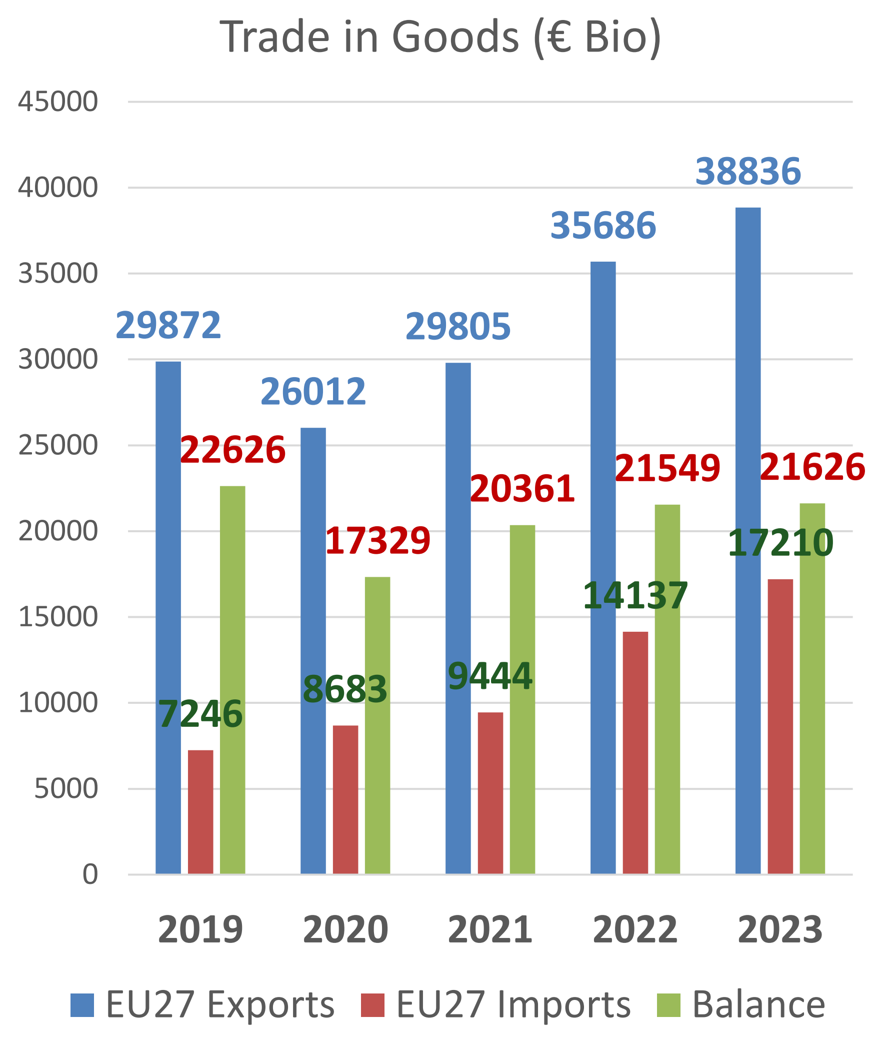
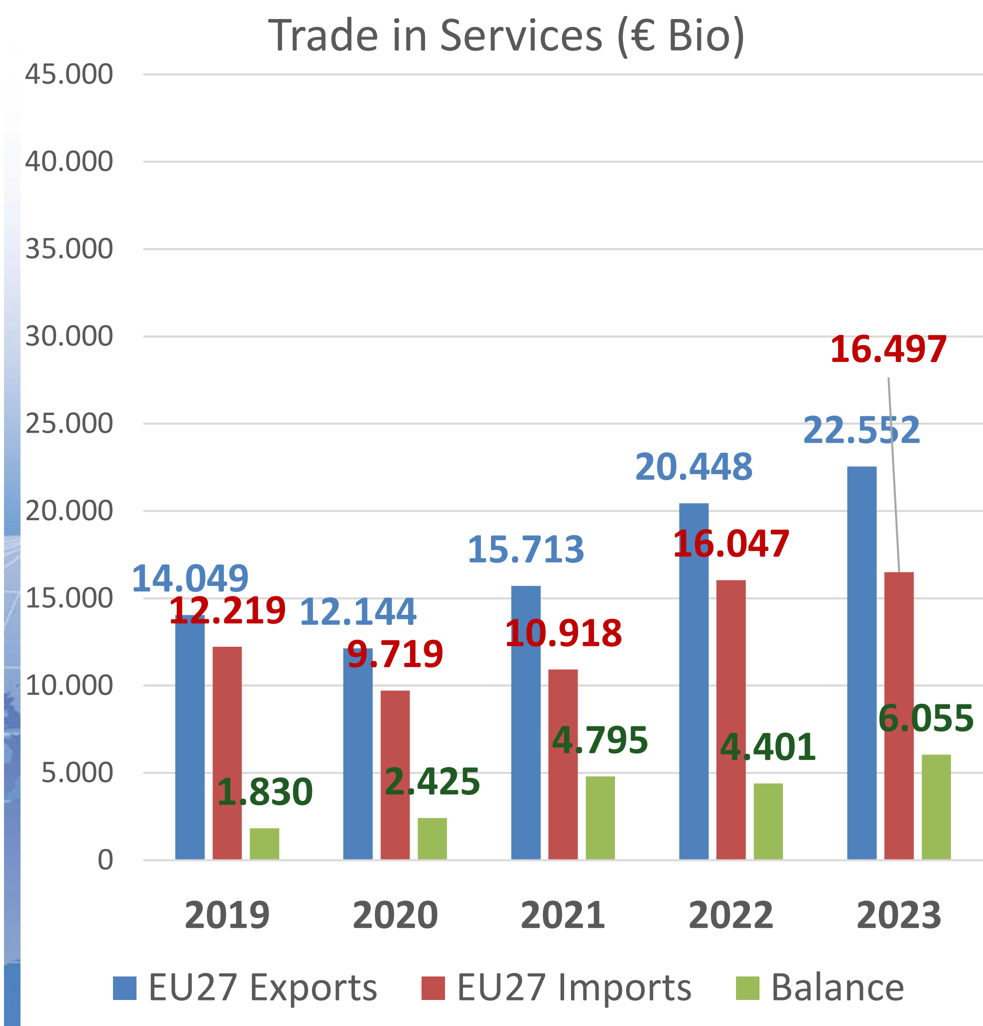
EU-UAE Trade

(Imports and exports of goods & services)





Source: Eurostat – ext_lt_maineu + *[bop_fdi6_pos].*

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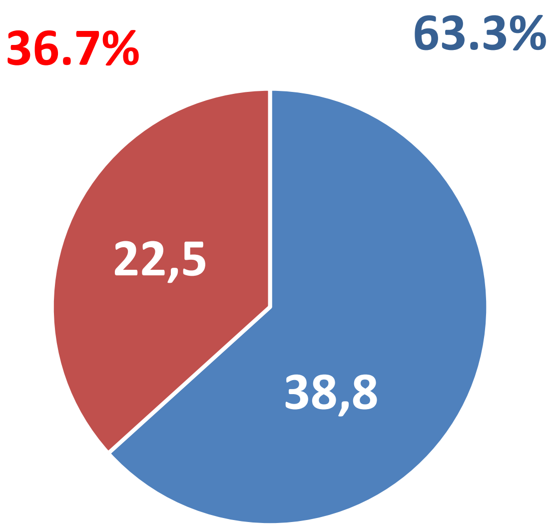
IMPORTANCE OF TRADE IN SERVICES IN THE EU-UAE TRADE RELATIONSHIP

Services represents 39.2 % of the total trade between EU & UAE
(43.1% of UAE exports to EU = Services)

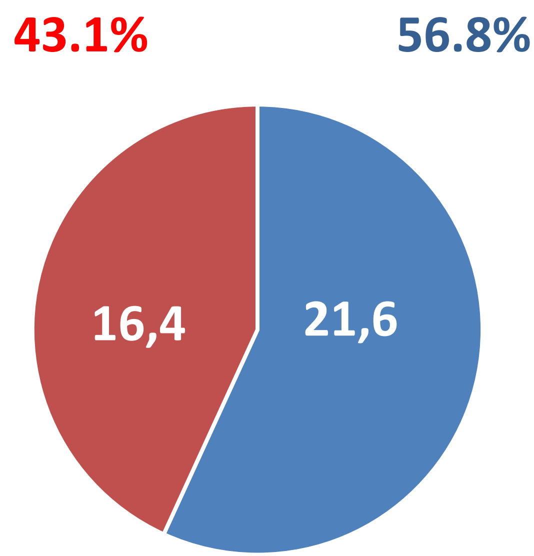
EU Exports to UAE - 2023 - €Bio



Total EU exports: 61.3 Bio€

Source: Eurostat –[bop_fdi6_pos].

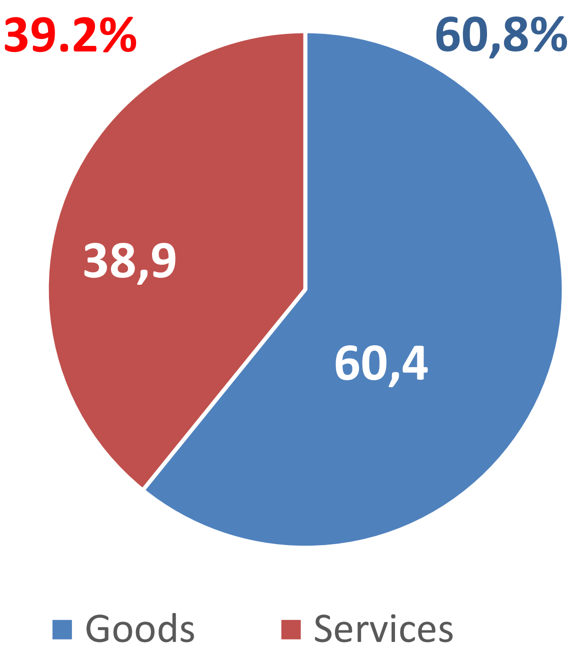
UAE Exports to EU - 2023 - €Bio



The Exports to EU is much higher (43%) than to the RoW (29%).

Total UAE exports: 38 Bio€

EU & UAE Total volume of trade – 2023 – €Bio -



Total exports: 99.3 Bio€

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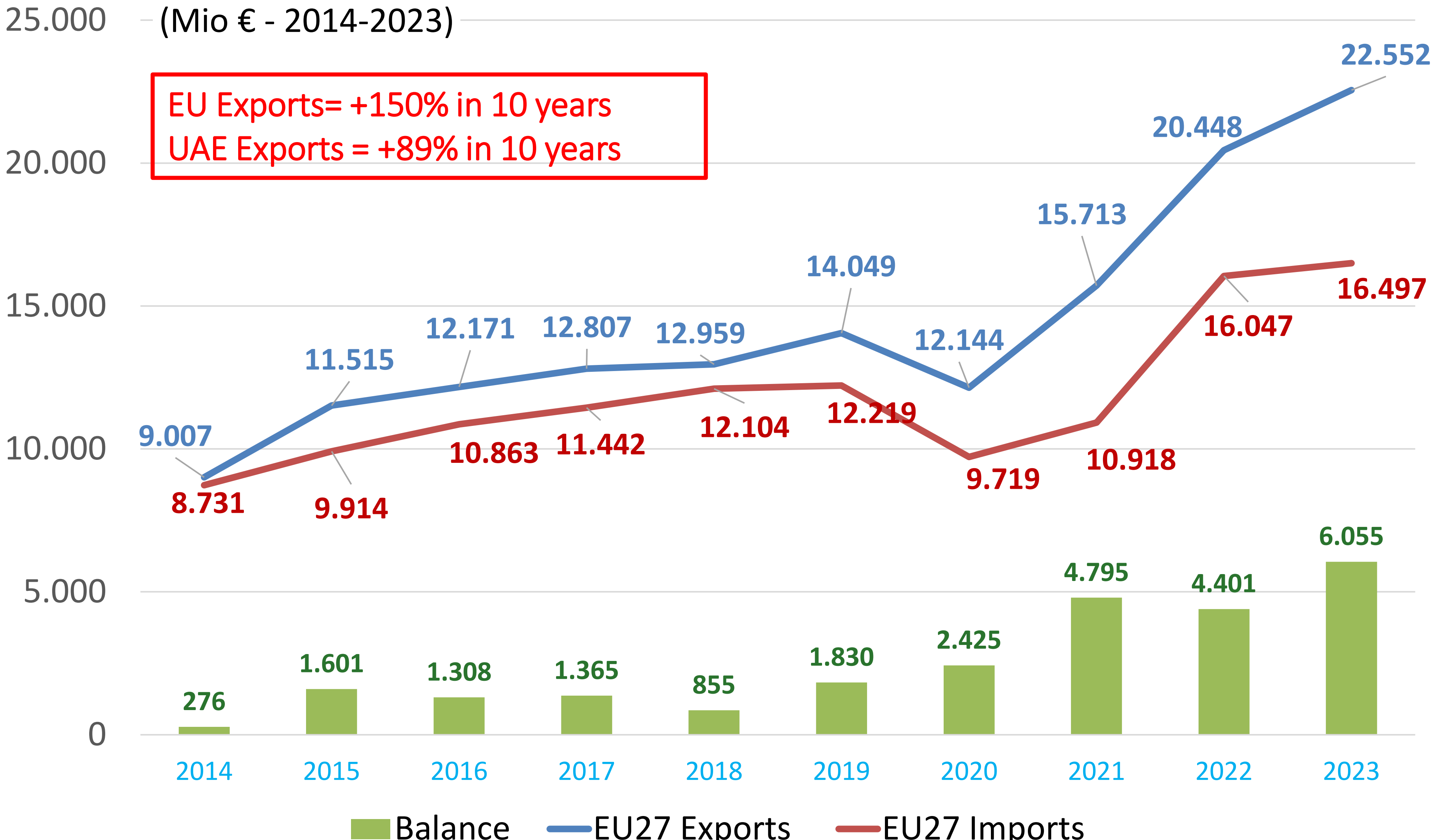
EU Trade in Services with United Arab Emirates



Source: Eurostat bop_its6_det.

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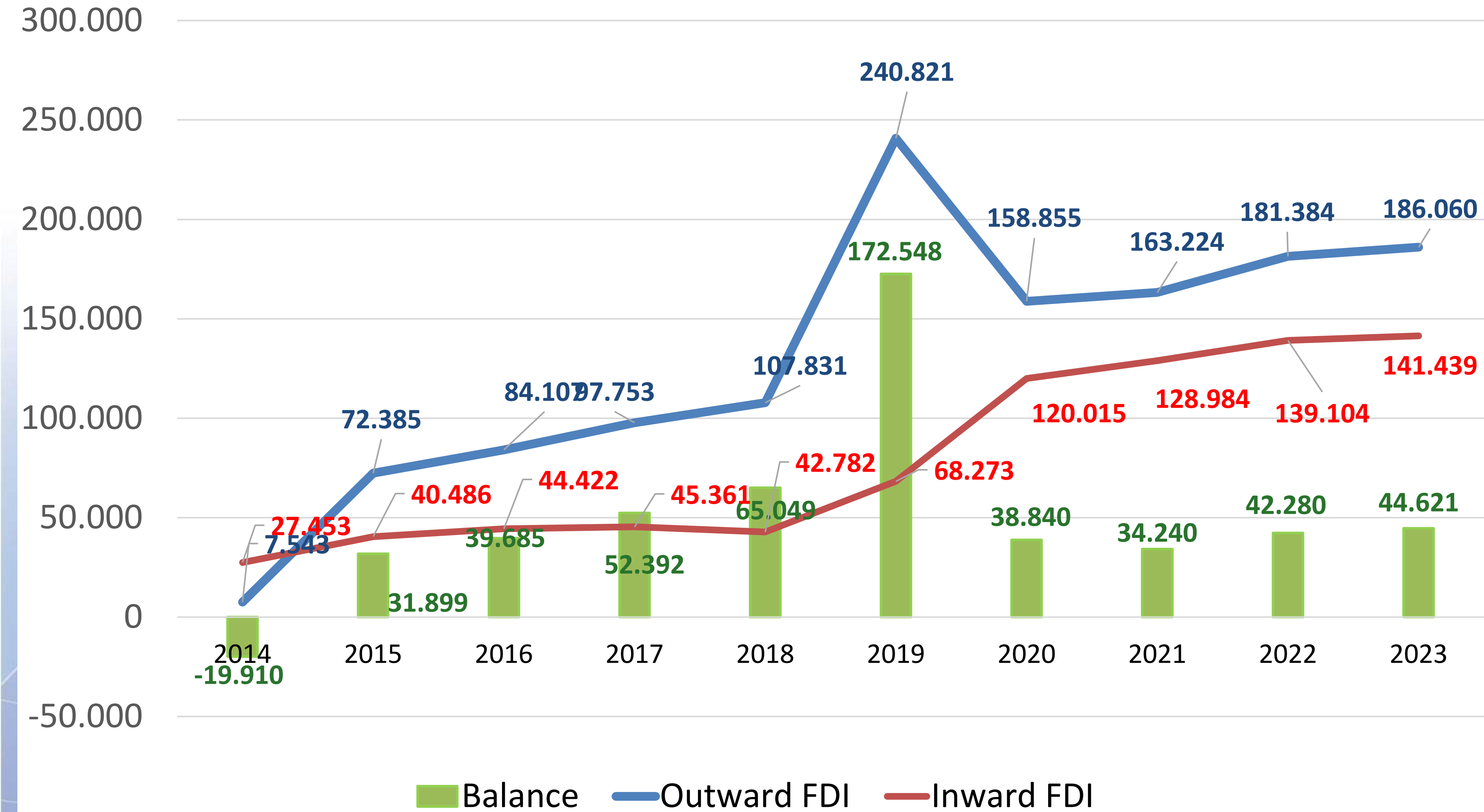
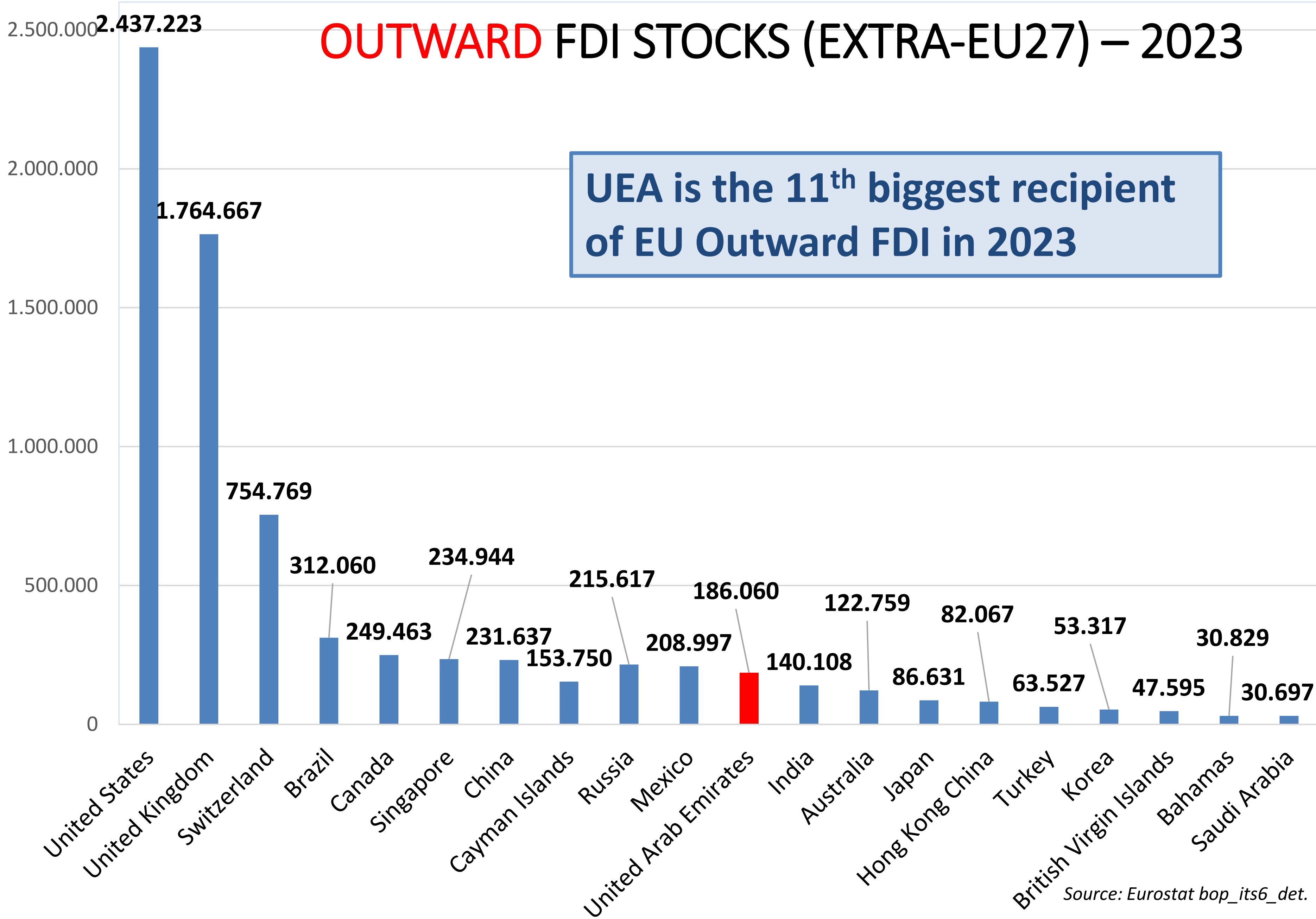
Evolution of EU27 FDI with UAE – Stocks - Mio € - 2014-2023



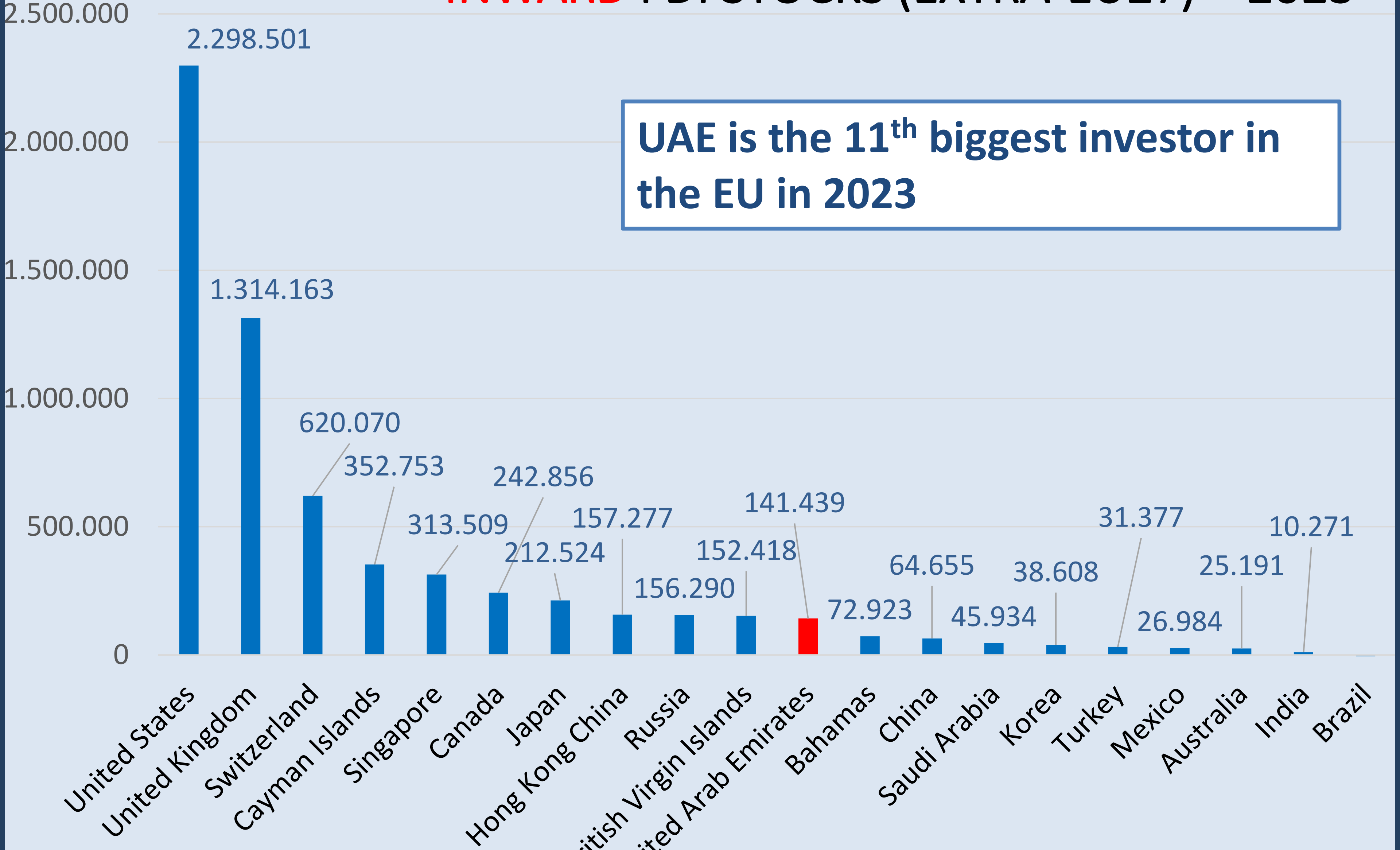
Source: Eurostat – [bop_fdi6_pos].

TOP 20 EU INVESTMENT PARTNERS - € BIO
OUTWARD FDI STOCKS (EXTRA-EU27) – 2023



Source: Eurostat bop_its6_det.

TOP 20 EU INVESTMENT PARTNERS - €BIO
INWARD FDI STOCKS (EXTRA-EU27) – 2023 -



Source: Eurostat bop_its6_det.

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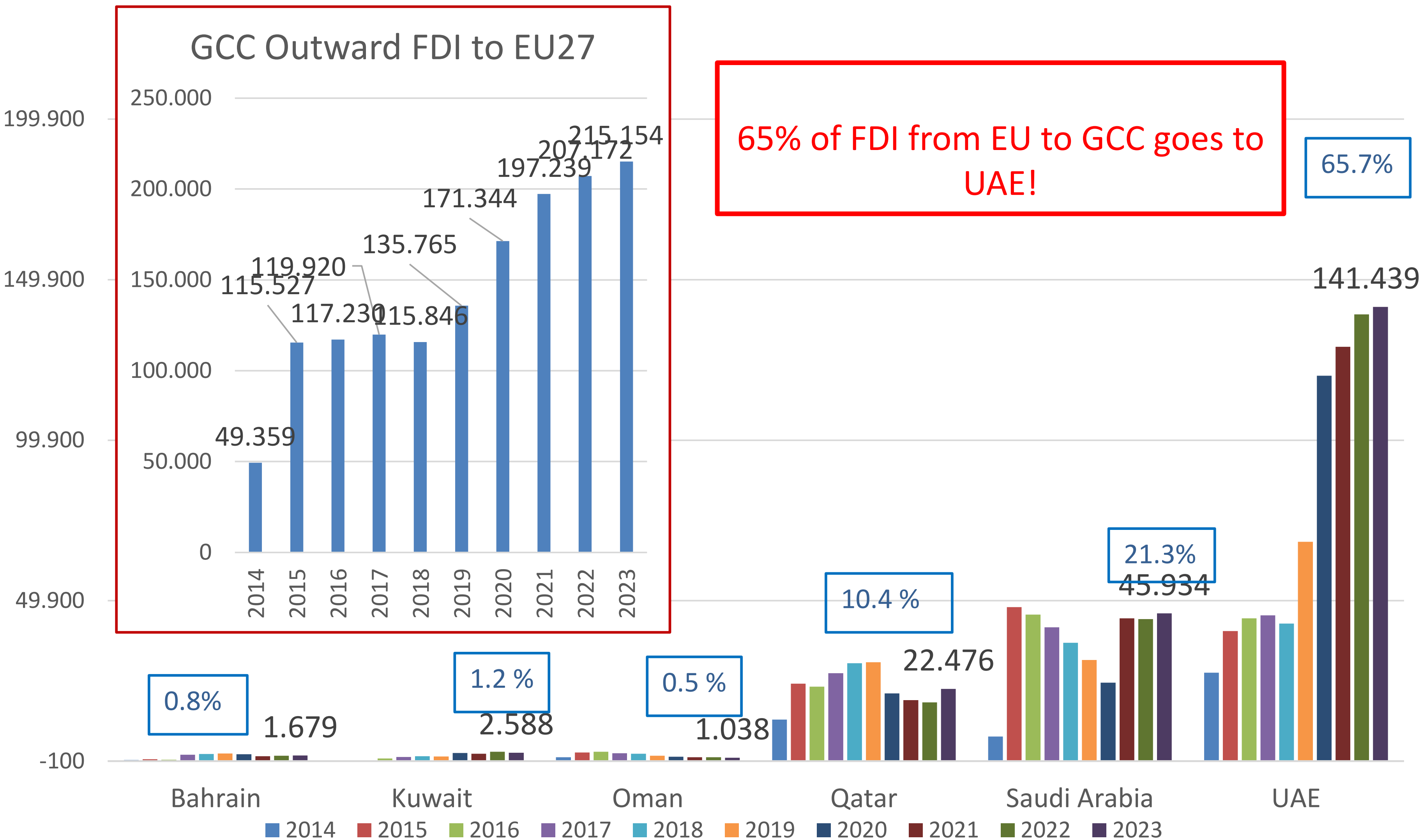
GCC Outward FDI Stocks to EU27 – Mio €



Source: Eurostat[bop_fdi6_pos]

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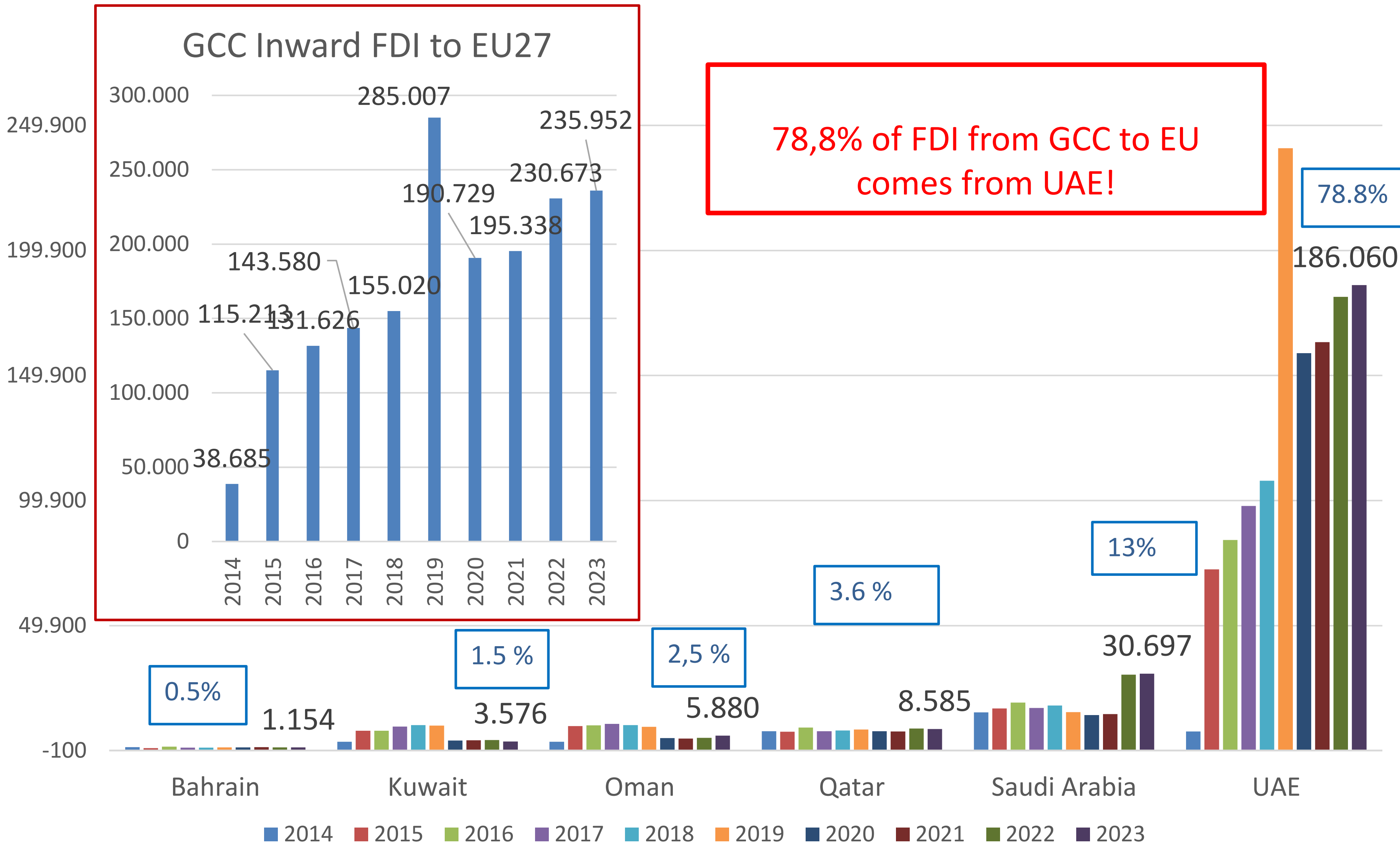
GCC Inward FDI Stocks to EU27 – Mio €



Source: Eurostat[bop_fdi6_pos]

ESF

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WTO GATS COMMITMENTS OF UAE & GCC COUNTRIES PER SECTORS

Services companies always look for **legal certainties** to secure their investments and trade. But the **Commitments by UAE** in the GATS (Services deal in the WTO) are **rather low!** (total sectors= 162)

CPC sectors	CPC Classification list WTO W/120 (1991) Sectors and Sub-sectors	Bahrain	Kuwait	Oman	Qatar	Saudi Arabia	UAE
	Date of WTO Accession	Jan-95	Jan-95	Nov-00	Jan-96	Nov-05	Jun-96
1	BUSINESS SERVICES						
						…	…
12	OTHER SERVICES NOT INCLUDED ELSEWHERE (Incl. Energy related services)						
	Sectors **not** committed (out of 12)	11	4	2	6	1	6
	Sub-sectors not committed (Out of 162)	158	110	73	123	52	122
	Sectors and sub-sectors committed	4	52	89	39	110	40

Rather bad GATS Commitments! Except Saudi Arabia (2005) and Oman (2000) who joined later the WTO!

UAE has taken only commitments in 40 services sectors.

EU has taken commitments in 150 services sub-sectors at the end of the UR in 1995

UAE & GCC SERVICES COMMITMENTS IN FTAS

When we look at the commitments that UAE & GCC countries have taken with other trading partners in various FTAs, either bilaterally or as a Region, the UAE commitments are much better, and could serve as a benchmark for the EU, but far from todays FTAs' standards

GCC SERVICES COMMITMENTS WITH EFTA COUNTRIES

CPC Sectors	Bahrain	Kuwait	Oman	Qatar	Saudi Arabia	UAE
Sectors not committed (out of 12)	1	3	1	2	1	1
Sub-sectors not committed (Out of 162)	63	96	55	90	41	50
Sectors and sub-sectors committed	99	66	107	72	121	112

GCC SERVICES COMMITMENTS WITH SINGAPORE

CPC Sectors	Bahrain	Kuwait	Oman	Qatar	Saudi Arabia	UAE
Sectors not committed (out of 12)	2	2	1	2	1	1
Sub-sectors not committed (Out of 162)	75	87	55	76	48	51
Sectors and sub-sectors committed	87	75	107	86	114	111

Digital barriers in UAE

1. **Data Localization Requirements**: The UAE has implemented data localization laws that require certain types of data to be stored within the country. This can create challenges for EU companies that rely on cross-border data flows and have data storage facilities in other jurisdictions.
2. **Data Privacy and Protection**: The UAE has its own data privacy and protection regulations, which may differ from the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).
3. **Cybersecurity Regulations**: The UAE has stringent cybersecurity laws that impose specific requirements on companies operating within its jurisdiction.
4. **Intellectual Property Rights**: Protecting intellectual property rights can be challenging in the UAE. EU companies must ensure that their digital assets and intellectual property are adequately protected under UAE law.
5. **Technical Standards and Interoperability**: Differences in technical standards and interoperability requirements between the EU and the UAE can create challenges for EU companies. Ensuring that digital products and services meet UAE standards can require additional resources and expertise.

The EU FTA Digital Trade Chapter must provide clear binding rules, allowing cross-border data flows, banning data localisation requirement, protecting source codes and ensure a ban on customs duties on electronic transmission.