



# FACT SHEET ON TRADE FLOWS

A study done among the parallel importers in Europe outlines the flows of medicines parallel distributed in 2018. Hence, **the study highlights which EU countries the parallel imported medicines come from**. As the results lament, parallel trade is not a South to North nor East to West sector where low-income countries are delivering their medicines to high-income countries, creating shortages of medicines.

The data used for this study is unique as parallel importers have a legal obligation to record the country of origin of the products they import. Data collection on parallel imports by other actors are based on sales, and will thus reflect the country of last purchase, and not the country of origin – which is what is of interest.

## Largest exporters total value



France

UK

## Largest exporter per capita



Norway

51%

of all parallel exports are from the 12 highest-income EU/EEA countries



Whereas France and the UK are the largest exporters in total value, **per capita France is only the 13<sup>th</sup> largest exporter**. The same is the case for the UK which is the 17<sup>th</sup> largest exporter per capita. Countries like the Netherlands, Austria, and Belgium together with Norway export more per capita than France and the UK. In fact, Norway is the largest exporter per capita in the EU/EEA.

Germany is the largest parallel import market in the EU. **German imports primarily come from France, the UK, Austria, and the Netherlands**. At the same time, Germany is the top exporting country for a number of the large import markets.

**The study concludes that parallel imports primarily flow from high-income countries to high-income countries**. As an example, countries like the UK and the Netherlands are close to having a neutral parallel trade balance, meaning they parallel export and import almost the same value. **19 Member States have specific export restriction legislation in place to secure that parallel exports are not a cause of medicine shortages**.



**Germany is the largest exporter to**

a number of the largest parallel import markets in Europe. The percentage of German origin products:

- Sweden 13.8%
- Denmark 11.6%
- Netherlands 20.0%
- Norway 15.7%

Germany is also the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest exporter to Poland, Spain, Austria, Belgium, and Finland – all growing parallel import markets.

For more information on the study visit [www.affordablemedicines.eu](http://www.affordablemedicines.eu)

Affordable Medicines Europe represents Europe's licensed parallel distribution industry, an integral part of the European pharmaceutical market that adds value to society by introducing price competition for patented medicines and a supplementary layer of product safety. We represent 120+ companies in 23 EU/EEA Member States. These members account for approximately 80% of the total parallel import market volume in the EU/EEA.



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