Engage!

Why the EU should talk with the Eurasian Economic Union

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Share of selected countries and trading blocks in international trade in goods (2015), %

- EU-28: 12.4
- EEU: 1.8
- China: 12.3
- USA: 11.9
- Japan: 3.9
- South Korea: 3.0
- South Africa: 0.5
- Turkey: 1.1
- Mercosur: 1.6
- India: 2.0
- Canada: 2.6
- Rest of the world: 46.9

Source: UN Comtrade
3 reasons for economic cooperation between the EU and the EEU:

1. It provides a neutral platform for kickstarting rapprochement between the EU and Russia

2. It allows to overcome the EU-Russia divide and bring the neighbourhood closer to the EU

3. It enhances well-being of all participants and helps stop competition for the countries in-between
EEU trade with selected partners

Source: Eurasian Economic Commission
3 Steps for engagement with the EEU:

• **Short-term:** informal dialogue with the EEU
  • kickstarted by the German-French tandem
  • in consultation with the OSCE second dimension

• **Medium-term:** institutionalisation of contacts EEU - EU
  • regular talks on technical standards, trade and customs regulations
  • “package deal”: European investment for modernisation of EEU economies
  • joint conference European Commission + Eurasian Economic Commission

• **Long-term:** free trade zone EU+ EEU + countries in-between