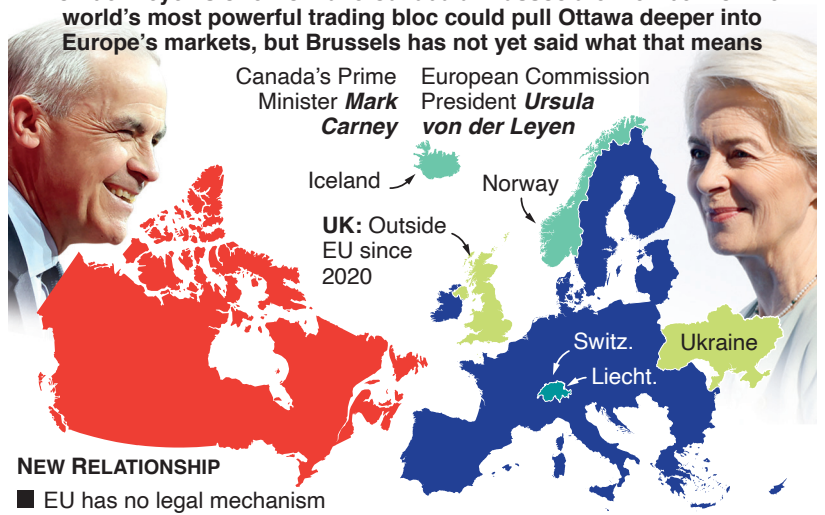
EU dangles associate status to Canada

Von der Leyen's offer to make Canada an "associate member" of the world's most powerful trading bloc could pull Ottawa deeper into Europe's markets, but Brussels has not yet said what that means



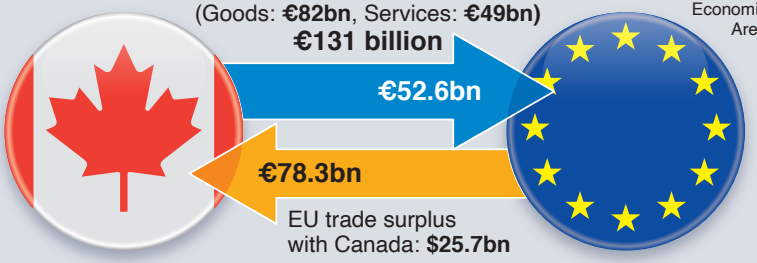
NEW RELATIONSHIP

- EU has no legal mechanism for associate membership – any proposal needs political agreement across bloc's 27 states
- **Switzerland:** Partial Single Market access through trade deals
- **Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein:** As EEA* members, full Single Market access but no vote on EU rules
- **Ukraine:** Associate member status proposed by Germany

CANADA-EU TRADE, 2025

(Goods: **€82bn**, Services: **€49bn**)

€131 billion



EU trade surplus with Canada: **$25.7bn**

*European Economic Area

- **Top traded goods:** Machinery, chemicals & pharmaceuticals, minerals, transport equipment
- Trade relations run under ***CETA (Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement)***, since 2017
- Canada is EU's 12th largest trading partner. EU is Canada's 2nd largest (8.7% of Canada's total trade)
- **EU-Canada combined:** 490 million people, almost one-fifth of global GDP, ~19% of global trade

Sources: Council of European Union, Reuters, Bloomberg Pictures: Getty Images © GRAPHIC NEWS