
EDITION 173
March 26, 2026

When Politics Hits the Supply Chain: Why Profit Alone Isn't Enough Anymore

Geopolitical tensions are increasingly reshaping global supply chains, turning them into strategic assets rather than just cost-driven networks. Governments are intervening more in trade and supply decisions, forcing companies to prioritize resilience, compliance, and risk management over pure profitability. Businesses now need to think like “geopolitical strategists,” as relying only on supplier diversification is no longer sufficient to ensure stability in an unpredictable global environment.

Source: Supply Chain Brain

EU–US Trade Deal Back on Track - But With a ‘Kill Switch’ for Tariff Risks

The European Union has restarted progress on its trade deal with the United States, but with strong safeguards to manage ongoing tariff uncertainty. The agreement aims to remove most tariffs on industrial and agricultural goods yet includes a “multi-tiered safety net” allowing the EU to pause or suspend the deal if the U.S. imposes new tariffs. Key conditions include requiring the U.S. to fulfill its commitments first and ensuring tariff levels remain within agreed limits. The move reflects growing caution in global trade, where political decisions and tariff risks continue to disrupt supply chain stability.

Source: Supply Chain Dive

Geopolitical Shockwaves Are Rewriting Supply Chains - Adapt or Fall Behind

The article highlights how rising geopolitical tensions—such as trade wars, sanctions, and regional conflicts—are no longer occasional disruptions but constant forces reshaping global supply chains. Companies that once prioritized cost efficiency must now focus on resilience, flexibility, and political awareness. It emphasizes that supply chains are becoming more complex and regionally diversified, as businesses reduce dependence on single countries and respond to shifting trade policies.

Source: ICIS

Trade Volatility Is Breaking Chemical Supply Chains — And Driving Costs Out of Control

The article explains how ongoing trade uncertainty, tariffs, and geopolitical disruptions are severely impacting chemical supply chains, making them more

Chemical Industry at a Turning Point — Recovery in Sight, But War Disrupts Momentum

At the World Petrochemical Conference (WPC) 2026, experts highlighted that the global chemical sector is finally nearing recovery after a prolonged downturn—but

expensive and unpredictable than ever. Following major tariff announcements in 2025, global uncertainty hit record levels, forcing procurement teams to constantly reroute shipments and renegotiate contracts often at higher costs. Chemical and pharmaceutical companies are among the hardest hit. Around 50% have increased contingency budgets, while many are forced into last-minute logistics changes and expensive transport modes due to disruptions like port congestion and shifting trade routes.

Source: Xeneta

fresh geopolitical disruptions are slowing progress. The ongoing Middle East conflict has interrupted price stabilization, causing sudden spikes in commodity prices just as markets were beginning to normalize. Despite this, the industry still faces structural challenges, especially oversupply, weak demand, and high costs (including energy and sustainability investments), which initially triggered the downturn. Even if geopolitical tensions ease, oversupply is expected to persist, limiting profitability.

Source: SPGlobal

WACKER Bets Big on India - Expands Silicone Capacity to Capture Booming Personal Care Market

Wacker Chemie AG has expanded its silicone emulsions production at its Panagarh facility in India, significantly boosting capacity to meet rising demand from the cosmetics and personal care sector. The new 15,000 m² GMP-certified plant will produce high-purity silicone ingredients aligned with European EFfCI standards, ensuring quality and regulatory compliance. The expansion reflects strong and growing demand for silicone-based materials used in shampoos, skincare, and other personal care products. It also strengthens India's position as a key manufacturing hub in the global silicones supply chain.

Source: Chemical Weekly

U.S. Eyes Chemical Imports as Trade Tensions Reshape Industry Dynamics

The American Chemical Society Business Watch (March 17, 2026) highlights how policy shifts and trade dynamics are increasingly shaping the chemical industry. The U.S. government's plan to investigate chemical imports signals tighter oversight and the possibility of new trade measures amid ongoing tariff uncertainty. It also clarifies that a widely reported \$300 billion Texas refinery project was overstated, reflecting long-term value rather than actual investment. Despite growth narratives, structural gaps remain in the sector, driving a stronger push toward domestic production, especially in areas like fertilizers. Overall, policy decisions, trade actions, and supply chain resilience are emerging as key industry drivers beyond simple market demand.

Source: CEN.ACS

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