

ECIPE PRESS RELEASE — NEW TRADE WORKING PAPER

The Economic Benefits of Globalization for Business and Consumers

by Fredrik Erixon, Director of ECIPE

Brussels, Belgium, 15th February 2018 - [This study](#) takes a thorough view on how Western economies have fared in the age of globalization.

Globalization has been a boon to businesses, consumers and the Western economy as a whole. Now, however, we are at risk of having a backlash against globalization and all the opportunities that increasing economic freedom has provided us with over the past decades. There is a new anxiety running through Western societies that challenges previous perceptions about freer trade as a win-win for every country. There is rather a proliferating suspicion that globalization may have been great for some countries, but not for others, and that it is affluent countries in the West that have drawn the shortest straw.

Since the crisis, globalization has stalled – and global trade has become a casualty of increasing protectionism around the world and the weak macro-economic performance of the West. Trade is not growing much anymore – and, for the West as well as the Rest, that should be a great cause of concern, not for jubilation.

Fredrik Erixon marshals a great amount of economic evidence, and combine economic research with examples from the real world that supports the age-old consensus about free trade. Its main conclusion is that the fast increase in global trade in the three decades before the financial crisis substantially improved Western economies and the living standards of their citizens. Globalization was a great force of spreading new technologies and providing new economic opportunity to labour in both developed and developing economies. Contrary to much commentary, it helped to put a higher premium on human capital and giving firms new chances to employ the staff they need to compete successfully.

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This study is also available in the following languages:

(DE) [Win-Win - Warum von der Globalisierung Unternehmen und Verbraucher profitieren](#)

(FR) [Les bienfaits économiques de la mondialisation pour les entreprises et les consommateurs](#)

(SE) [De ekonomiska vinsterna av globalisering för företag och konsumenter](#)