Investment Bridge Americas Europe

DWF's Latin American Group Newsletter – July 2026

Industry News & Events

DWF Latam Day

We were delighted to host the first-ever DWF LATAM Day at our London office this week, bringing together a fantastic group of over 100 business professionals with a shared interest and experience in Latin America. The event featured four engaging panel sessions followed by a vibrant networking reception, creating a valuable platform to connect, exchange insights and explore cross-border opportunities. It was a great success, with strong participation from key LATAM and British stakeholders and excellent discussions on both inbound and outbound work across the region.

A big thank you to everyone who attended, especially those coming from Argentina, Chile, Mexico, Portugal, Spain, Central America, and Brazil, all of whom contributed to making the day such a meaningful and impactful event.

Dr. Claudio Rodríguez-Galán, Co-Head of DWF Latam Group, said: "This event was a complete success for several reasons. It reflects the energy, commitment, and support of colleagues across DWF and beyond. It also highlights the significant opportunities that the Latin American region presents for global firms, both in terms of inbound and outbound business."

UK – Comprehensive Trans-Pacific Partnership

United Kingdom joined the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), with its provisions becoming active between the UK and Mexico on 22 June 2026 after Mexico completed ratification.

This development creates a second and more modern framework for trade between the two countries, sitting alongside the existing UK–Mexico Trade Continuity Agreement.

It allows UK businesses to trade under CPTPP rules for the first time, often benefiting from lower tariffs, broader market access, and more advanced provisions covering services, digital trade, and investment.

The importance of this change lies in its economic and strategic impact. First, it directly reduces the cost of trade by cutting or eliminating tariffs on a wide range of goods, including agricultural and manufactured exports, thereby improving exporters' competitiveness and potentially lowering prices for consumers. Second, it significantly modernises the trading relationship by including rules on digital trade, cross-border data flows, and financial services—areas that were either limited or absent in the earlier agreement.

More broadly, the agreement strengthens integration into global supply chains. CPTPP allows "rules of origin" to be shared across member countries, meaning UK and Mexican firms can source components from across the Pacific bloc (Australia, Chile, Peru, New Zealand, Mexico, Singapore, Vietnam, Japan) and still qualify for preferential tariffs, making production networks more flexible and efficient.

Strategically, the agreement is important because it deepens the UK's presence in a major global trade bloc representing a tenth of world economic output and provides improved access to Mexico, a key gateway to North American and Latin American markets.

The 2026 change matters because it expands, modernises, and globalises UK–Mexico trade, giving businesses more options, lower costs, and better access to a wider economic network beyond a simple bilateral relationship.

Mexico – EU Treaty

The European Union and Mexico entered a new phase in their economic relationship in 2026 with the signing of the Modernised Global Agreement (MGA), a long-awaited upgrade of the original EU–Mexico deal dating from 2000. Signed on 22 May 2026, the agreement reflects more than two decades of change in global trade, updating the framework to include not only goods, but also services, digital trade, investment, and regulatory cooperation. At its core, the new agreement significantly deepens market integration between the two economies. It removes tariffs on the vast majority of trade—reaching close to full liberalisation across goods—and reduces regulatory and administrative barriers that previously limited access, especially for smaller companies. It is designed to make it easier for European firms to export, invest, and compete in Mexico, while also opening European markets further to Mexican products.

What makes this agreement particularly relevant for European businesses is not just the tariff reductions, but the breadth of what is now covered. Unlike the earlier deal, which focused mainly on industrial goods, the modernised version extends into services, public procurement, and digital trade, offering European companies access to sectors such as finance, telecommunications, transport, and technology under clearer and more predictable rules. This is especially important as global trade increasingly shifts toward services and data-driven business models rather than purely physical goods.

Another important feature is the opening of Mexican public procurement markets. European firms will be able to bid for a wider range of government contracts, including at sub-national levels, under transparent and non-discriminatory conditions. This creates opportunities in infrastructure, energy, health, and digital transformation projects, areas where European companies are often highly competitive.

For exporters, the agricultural and food sector stands out as a major beneficiary. The agreement removes around 95% of tariffs on EU agri-food exports and protects hundreds of European geographical indications, meaning regional products such as cheeses, wines, and speciality foods gain both improved access and stronger brand protection in the Mexican market. This has clear implications not only for large exporters but also for regional and SME producers across Europe.

Beyond direct trade benefits, the agreement reflects a broader strategic shift. Mexico is one of the EU's largest partners in Latin America, with bilateral trade already approaching €90 billion annually and tens of thousands of European firms active in the country. By modernising the agreement, the EU aims to strengthen its presence in the region, diversify supply chains, and reduce dependence on more volatile or geopolitically sensitive markets.

Latest relevant Latam news

Brazil

Brazil is at the centre of regional legal change, with its major tax reform moving into implementation. New regulations on consumption taxes (IBS and CBS) are reshaping pricing, contracts, and compliance requirements for businesses, with a transition phase where old and new systems coexist.

The country also continues to attract large-scale investment in infrastructure and energy, including rail projects, water systems, mining, renewables, and emerging sectors such as battery storage and rare earths, reinforcing its role as the region's main investment hub.

Mexico

Mexico has strengthened its global trade positioning through two major agreements: the EU–Mexico Modernised Global Agreement (signed May 2026) and the activation of CPTPP provisions with the UK (June 2026).

These developments expand market access across Europe and the Asia-Pacific, while supporting nearshoring trends and reinforcing Mexico's role as a manufacturing and export platform linked to North American supply chains. Continued investment flows are concentrated in manufacturing, logistics, and critical minerals, aligned with global supply-chain diversification.

Argentina

Argentina is showing early signs of macroeconomic stabilisation, with inflation easing and modest growth returning following a period of severe volatility. Ongoing reforms are aimed at restoring fiscal balance and improving investor confidence, though the environment remains fragile and dependent on continued policy execution.

Colombia

Colombia held Presidential elections on 21 June 2026. Abelardo de la Espriella (right wing) won the presidential runoff narrowly defeating left-wing candidate Iván Cepeda with about 49.7% of the vote versus 48.7%. In simple terms, this election marks a political shift to the right after Petro's left-leaning government, with potential implications for economic policy, business regulation, and foreign relations.

The most significant development for businesses is the government's fiscal situation, with a large deficit driving proposals for new tax reforms that could increase the burden on companies and create uncertainty around future regulation. At the same time, political tensions and debates over economic policy are affecting confidence and predictability.

Despite these challenges, Colombia retains medium-term potential, particularly as a nearshoring destination thanks to its workforce and location. However, in the short term, companies face a more complex environment shaped by fiscal risk, high financing costs, and an evolving regulatory framework.

Peru

Peru faced renewed political and regulatory shift (also to the right) following the June 2026 presidential election of Keiko Fujimori, with economic impact still to be seen. The country remains strategically important for mining and critical resources, particularly copper, which continues to anchor long-term investment interest.

LATAM Investment Matrix

DWF Latam Group has launched the LATAM Investment Matrix, offering a 360º perspective of doing business and investing in Latin American countries. This is a tailor-made solution developed under clients' industry, sector, country and even regional interests and concerns. The solution is based on DWF's global Legal Services, Legal Operations and Business Services seamless offer. LATAM Matrix

DWF Latam Group

See the LATAM Group's complete information at: LATAM Group | DWF