

**Question for written answer E-002598/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
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Subject: Trade tensions: wine and spirit exports

China's decision to impose customs duties on importers of spirits, in response to EU taxes on its electric vehicles, presents a serious threat to French exports of cognac and armagnac. This comes at a time when there are already trade tensions with the United States.

To de-escalate their aviation dispute, the EU and US agreed to suspend the retaliatory tariffs imposed on each other. The US thus introduced a moratorium on additional taxes for wines and spirits that runs until 31 December 2025, while the EU has announced a suspension of taxes on US products until 31 March 2025.

In the light of the above:

1. Will the Commission align the periods of suspension of EU and US tariffs in order to create a coherent negotiating window and safeguard the interests of European spirits exporters?
2. Will it ensure that European producers have fair access to the Chinese market, while protecting vulnerable sectors from possible retaliatory measures?
3. How will it get the Member States and trade organisations involved to be able to effectively defend European producers in these strategic trade negotiations?

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