

**Question for written answer E-004142/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Hilde Vautmans (Renew)

Subject: Abolition of import duties on sodium hydroxide from the United States

Since 1 July 2026, a 0 % customs duty has been applied to sodium hydroxide originating in the United States, compared with the previously applicable rate of 5.5 %. This rate had already been in force for decades as the European Union's common customs tariff.

Sodium hydroxide is a key raw material for the European chemical industry. Furthermore, its production is energy-intensive, and European producers are already facing considerable pressure from international competition.

1. What has the Commission's assessment been of the impact of the reduction in the customs duty from 5.5 % to 0 % on the competitive position of European producers?
2. What were the specific reasons for including sodium hydroxide in the tariff elimination scheme, given that the 5.5 % tariff had been in place for many years and European producers are already facing considerable pressure from international competition, and has the Commission looked into any alternatives?
3. How will the Commission monitor the impact of this tariff elimination on European producers?

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