

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000483/25
to the Commission**

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(4 February 2025)

Subject: US AI chip export restrictions: a challenge to EU unity and technological sovereignty

The recent US decision to impose export restrictions on advanced AI chips has created a significant challenge for the EU's single market and technological sovereignty. By categorising Member States into different tiers, with some countries facing caps on AI chip imports, the United States has effectively fragmented the EU's unified approach to AI development. This decision is particularly concerning given the US's status as a strategic partner and the EU's reliance on US-made AI chips. It is crucial to engage with the new US administration to seek a unified treatment of the EU as a bloc.

How will the Commission address this challenge and what concrete steps will it take to:

1. mitigate the potential negative impacts on EU countries facing export caps, ensuring solidarity with, and support for, those Member States whose access to these critical technologies has been restricted?
2. accelerate the development of the EU's domestic AI chip production capabilities to reduce dependence on external suppliers?
3. create the legal conditions for a unified EU export control regime in the framework of the review of the Dual Use Export Control Regulation ⁽¹⁾ in order to deny third country actors the possibility to divide the Member States?

Submitted: 4.2.2025

Answer given by Mr Šefčovič on behalf of the European Commission
(8 April 2025)

The decision by the United-States (US) to impose export restrictions on advanced Artificial Intelligence (AI) chips and the categorisation of Member States into different tiers goes against the core principles of the EU's single market and technological sovereignty.

While a detailed assessment of the impact of those measures on the EU is ongoing, the Executive Vice-President for Tech Sovereignty, Security and Democracy and the Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security already voiced their concerns to the US administration in a Joint Statement ⁽¹⁾.

Europe aims to be among the global leaders in AI and is taking concrete steps in this direction. The Chips Joint Undertaking ⁽²⁾ has launched research and innovation calls on AI chips. The EU's AI factories initiative and the European High Performance Computing Joint Undertaking ⁽³⁾ play a key role in this respect.

To accelerate the development of the EU's domestic AI capabilities, the Commission has recently announced the new InvestAI initiative, which aims to mobilise EUR 200 billion for AI investments. In parallel, it is crucial to ensure the access of EU operators to the leading AI chips and models.

The Commission has also pointed, in its White Paper on Export Controls ⁽⁴⁾, to *'the lack of common EU voice [which] exposes individual Member States to strong geopolitical pressures'*.

The Commission also suggested concrete responses aimed at ensuring uniform EU export controls. To this end, the Commission will soon publish a recommendation to enhance the coordination of national control lists and has also proposed to make the update of the EU list of dual-use controls more flexible and reactive to technological and geopolitical developments.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2021/821 of 20 May 2021 setting up a Union regime for the control of exports, brokering, technical assistance, transit and transfer of dual-use items, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/821/oj>.

⁽¹⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_25_255

⁽²⁾ <https://www.chips-ju.europa.eu/>

⁽³⁾ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/high-performance-computing-joint-undertaking>

⁽⁴⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52024DC0025>

The upcoming evaluation of Regulation (EU) 2021/821 ⁽⁵⁾ will further allow the EU to assess this framework in the evolving international context.

⁽⁵⁾ Regulation (EU) 2021/821 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 setting up a Union regime for the control of exports, brokering, technical assistance, transit and transfer of dual-use items (recast), OJ L 206, 11.6.2021, p. 1; <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/821/oj/eng>