

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000587/25
to the Commission
Piotr Müller (ECR)
(9 February 2025)**

Subject: The Commission's strategy in response to US trade policy

Donald Trump has announced the introduction of tariffs on European goods that could significantly affect the EU's economy, particularly in sectors such as agriculture and the automotive and engineering industries. In view of these announcements, the matter of the Commission's strategy to protect the interests of EU companies and maintain competitiveness in international markets takes on crucial importance.

1. What diplomatic and trade steps does the Commission intend to take to negotiate with the current US administration in order to avoid an escalation of tensions and a potential trade war?
2. Does the Commission have a concrete action plan at its disposal in the event that the Trump administration imposes tariffs, and if so, what measures are envisaged to mitigate the adverse effects on the EU economy?
3. Given that the US benefits from significantly cheaper energy and a lack of climate policy constraints, how does the Commission intend to support the competitiveness of EU companies, which already face higher operating costs due to stringent environmental rules, and is the adoption of measures to reduce this competitive imbalance under consideration?

Submitted: 9.2.2025

**Answer given by Mr Šefčovič on behalf of the European Commission
(3 June 2025)**

The Commission wants to preserve and expand the EU-United States (US) trade partnership for the benefit of the respective people and businesses.

The Commission regrets US announcements on the possible imposition of tariffs on goods imported from the EU. As the EU and US economies are so closely intertwined, it should also be in the US' interest to avoid tariff hikes.

The Commission's priority is to avoid disruptions to EU-US trade and to seek negotiated solutions. Therefore, the Commission decided to delay the imposition of EU countermeasures to allow for negotiations.

At the same time, the Commission is ready to ensure that the EU will react firmly, swiftly and proportionately to any unjustified tariffs or trade measures if no mutually beneficial solution is otherwise attainable.

The Commission recognises the challenges EU industries and agriculture face in terms of competitiveness. To address those, the recently presented Competitiveness Compass ⁽¹⁾ and Clean Industrial Deal ⁽²⁾ provide a strategic framework to enhance industrial resilience while ensuring that decarbonisation drives growth.

The aim is to lower energy prices with the measures proposed in the Affordable Energy Action Plan ⁽³⁾, to secure critical raw materials, increase access to capital markets, and to introduce regulatory simplification, which is being done through the Omnibus Simplification Package ⁽⁴⁾.

The Commission remains committed to evaluating further measures to mitigate competitive imbalances while reinforcing Europe's economic and industrial leadership.

Conversely, the new Vision for Agriculture and Food ⁽⁵⁾ identifies a fairer global level playing field as a key element of the EU's agri-food economic diplomacy while keeping in line with World Trade Organisation rules.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52025DC0030>.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025DC0085>.

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM:2025:79:FIN>.

⁽⁴⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/publications/omnibus-i_en.

⁽⁵⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52025DC0075>.