

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001185/25
to the Commission
Laurent Castillo (PPE)
(20 March 2025)**

Subject: Protecting EU patients by exempting the medical device sector from EU and US tariffs

The Commission's decision to retaliate against the United States' trade measures was both necessary and a question of principle, as American tariffs cannot be allowed to undermine the economic interests of the EU's industrial and agricultural sectors.

However, by including medical technologies and their components in its list of targeted US products, the Commission could end up harming not only the EU's medical device industry, but also the innovation and supply chains of a sector that is already having to cope with two administratively burdensome regulations.

To make matters worse, the Commission's response could discourage research investment and drive up the cost of accessing medical devices, thus undermining public health in the EU.

Exempting medical devices from tariff measures is therefore vital to ensuring that European patients can continue to access high-quality healthcare and that the EU's medical device industry can attract investors.

What measures will the Commission put in place to guarantee that EU and US tariffs do not target medical devices or affect their supply chains?

Submitted: 20.3.2025

**Answer given by Mr Šefčovič on behalf of the European Commission
(14 May 2025)**

The Commission regrets the decision of the United States (US) to impose tariffs on EU exports of steel and aluminium on 12 March 2025, as well as the universal tariffs — which also cover medical devices' exports to the US —, while welcoming the decision to pause the entry into force of these tariffs for 90 days that was taken afterwards.

The Commission sees no justification for tariffs. The Commission has emphasised to the US its wish to work together on common challenges and that the EU is not the problem — but is part of the solution.

The Commission's priority is to avoid disruptions to EU-US trade and to seek negotiated solutions. The EU has stated its clear preference to find negotiated outcomes with the US, which would be balanced and mutually beneficial.

In this sense, in light of the decision by the US to delay its country-specific universal tariffs, the EU has decided to put its countermeasures on EUR 21 billion of US exports on hold for the same length of time. Medical devices are not included in the scope of these EU countermeasures.

The EU wants to give negotiations a chance. If, however, the talks are not satisfactory, the EU countermeasures will come into force on 14 July 2025.
