

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001319/25
to the Commission
Nikolas Farantouris (The Left)
(31 March 2025)**

Subject: Possible imposition of increased tariffs by the US on European wines and other alcoholic drinks

Amid the escalating trade dispute between the US and the EU, there is a significant risk of new tariffs of 200% being imposed on European wines and other alcoholic drinks by the US ⁽¹⁾. Given that the EU wine sector represents 60% of global wine production and 60% of the global value of wine exports ⁽²⁾, and that the US is the largest export destination for European wines and spirits, this possibility has caused great disquiet and amplified producers' concerns about the future of the sector, as the imposition of tariffs by the US could have far-reaching consequences for the EU and its wine- and spirits-producing Member States. However, the Commission's recent proposal to support the wine sector ⁽³⁾ does not include specific measures to address the consequences that the possible US tariffs would entail. In view of Commissioner Maroš Šefčovič's negotiations with the US, the Commission is asked:

1. What stage have the negotiations with the US reached and what is the latest information on the possible imposition of US tariffs on European wines and other spirits?
2. Does the Commission intend to take measures to prevent and address the negative consequences that the possible imposition of tariffs will have on European producers?

Submitted: 31.3.2025

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

The Commission regrets the decisions of the United States (US) to impose tariffs on exports of EU goods, notably steel and aluminium, cars and car parts, and other products subject to a universal tariff of 10%, which hurt businesses and consumers. The universal tariffs regrettably also target EU exports of wine and spirits.

The priority remains to avoid disruptions to EU-US trade and to seek negotiated solutions with the US. The Commission stated its readiness to negotiate a zero for zero tariff agreement on industrial products with the goal of achieving frictionless and mutually beneficial trade.

In light of the decision by the US to delay by 90 days and partially suspend its universal tariffs, the EU has decided to put its countermeasures on hold for the same length of time.

This gesture of goodwill will give time for negotiations to proceed. If, however, the talks are not satisfactory, the EU countermeasures will come into force on 14 July 2025. In addition, on 8 May 2025, the Commission launched a stakeholder consultation on further EU rebalancing measures ⁽¹⁾ against the US, including possible rebalancing measures on imports of wine and spirits from the US.

At the same time, the Commission continues to focus on diversifying its trade partnerships, engaging with other countries that share the commitment to a free and open exchange of goods, services, and ideas. The Commission is also stepping up its effort to lift barriers in the EU single market.

¹ <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/mar/13/donald-trump-threatens-tariff-on-eu-wine-and-champagne>

² https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/el/ip_25_900

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM:2025:137:FIN>

⁽¹⁾ https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/consultations/information-gathering-notice-under-regulation-eu-no-6542014-new-us-tariffs-imports-originating-or-eu_en.