

(English version)

Question for written answer E-001455/25
to the Commission
Waldemar Buda (ECR)
(9 April 2025)

Subject: Trade liberalisation with Ukraine

The current agreement on the temporary suspension of import duties and quotas on Ukrainian exports to the EU — struck to support Ukraine's economy in the face of Russian aggression — expires on 5 June 2025. The Commission has made it clear that rather than prolonging this temporary measure, it aims to find a permanent solution for liberalisation of trade with Ukraine by revising Article 29 of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement ⁽¹⁾. However, little has been shared about the state of play and progress in negotiations with Ukraine.

Clarity on the situation is needed, also for the economic stability of Member States, particularly these bordering Ukraine.

1. What is the current state of play and how are negotiations with Ukraine on Article 29 of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement progressing?
2. With less than two months left before the current temporary measures expire and no agreement on the permanent solution in sight, what is the Commission's backup plan?
3. How will the Commission ensure the right balance and adequate protection of European industry and agriculture?

Submitted: 9.4.2025

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

The Commission is pursuing consultations with Ukraine to review the reciprocal tariff liberalisation under the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement ⁽¹⁾ in accordance with Article 29 of that Agreement.

This review will lead to a well-balanced solution that will allow for reciprocal trade between the EU and Ukraine in agricultural goods, while at the same time protecting EU farmers and addressing interests flagged by some Member States and Members of the European Parliament.

Furthermore, the Commission is proposing that the negotiated solution would also include a safeguard clause that would be triggered to prevent any adverse impacts of trade flows on the EU market, including one Member State.

The Commission is working in view of having an outcome in place in time to provide a smooth transition after the expiry of the autonomous trade measures (ATMs) Regulation ⁽²⁾. If this is not achievable the above-mentioned Association Agreement will provide a bridging solution.

The Commission does not intend to propose the prolongation of the current ATMs Regulation.

¹ Association Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and Ukraine, of the other part, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_international/2014/295/oj.

⁽¹⁾ http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_international/2014/295/oj.

⁽²⁾ <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1392/oj>.