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Answer given by Mr Šefčovič
on behalf of the European Commission
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The EU recently adopted countermeasures against the United States (U.S.) tariffs on steel and aluminium¹ but suspended those for 90 days² to allow sufficient space and time for negotiations towards a mutually satisfactory solution. Should these negotiations not be successful, the adopted countermeasures can automatically enter into force. The EU also continues preparatory work for possible further proportionate countermeasures in response to other additional U.S. import tariffs.

The EU also has at its disposal internal measures to address impacts on EU agricultural producers from situations of market disturbance, including for Greek fruit producers and processing industry.

More broadly, the Commission will continue to work on diversifying trade with other partners than the U.S.

Regarding possible trade diversion from China caused by the U.S. tariffs, the Commission is monitoring imports closely to ensure that it detects in good time any potential increase in imports due to trade diversion. An Import Surveillance Task Force is set up for this purpose. Should there be any noticeable increase in Chinese imports, the EU will be ready to respond appropriately.

Under the EU-Türkiye trade regime for agricultural products, Türkiye's liberalisation of agricultural trade towards the EU remains indeed more limited than the EU's liberalisation towards Türkiye. A key objective of modernising the Customs Union with Türkiye would be to achieve mutually enhanced market access for trade in agricultural products. However, progress on this modernisation has been stalled when the Council ceased work on it in 2018.

¹ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/778 of 14 April 2025 on commercial rebalancing measures concerning certain products originating in the United States of America and amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/886, OJ L, 2025/778, 14.4.2025, http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2025/778/oj.

² Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/786 of 14 April 2025 suspending commercial rebalancing measures concerning certain products originating in the United States imposed by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/778 and amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/2882, OJ L, 2025/786, 14.4.2025, http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2025/786/oj.