

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003442/25
to the Commission
Daniel Buda (PPE)
(5 September 2025)**

Subject: New EU-USA framework agreement on trade

The EU and the USA have signed a framework agreement on trade designed to ease trade tensions. The USA has cut its automobile tariffs to 15%, but has called on the EU to scrap taxes on US manufactured goods. Exemptions have been negotiated for aviation products and certain generic medicines, as has a cap on tariffs on wood and semiconductor products. On the other hand, taxes will still apply to wines, spirits and metals (aluminium and steel) and the EU has committed to wholesale imports of energy and digital chips from the USA, and to make arms purchases. Digital and environmental regulation has been put on the back-burner.

1. How does the Commission intend to safeguard the competitiveness of the European sectors adversely affected by this new trade agreement with the US, and in particular the wines and spirits, and aluminium and steel industries?
2. What concrete compensatory measures does the Commission have in mind for these industries?

Submitted: 5.9.2025

**Answer given by Mr Šefčovič on behalf of the European Commission
(20 October 2025)**

On 27 July 2025, the President of the Commission and the President of the United States (US) reached a political agreement on tariffs and trade, later confirmed by the Joint Statement ⁽¹⁾ of 21 August 2025.

In line with the deal, the majority of EU exports are subject to an all-inclusive 15% tariff rate, except where the most favoured nation (MFN) tariff is higher, in which case the MFN tariff prevails. Certain strategic sectors have been excluded from this new tariff regime, such as aircraft or generic pharmaceuticals.

The Commission will now use the implementation of the EU-US deal to find a solution to the 50% tariffs on steel and aluminium and related derivatives, including through tariff rate quotas. The Commission will also work with the US to expand the list of products and sectors excluded from the 15% tariff ceiling, such as wine and spirits.

The political agreement safeguards competitive access to the US market. The Commission therefore does not foresee as such setting up a compensatory measures.

That said, in case of specific circumstances, such as serious injury to the domestic industry of the EU, the Commission legislative proposals ⁽²⁾ that implement the EU commitments to improve market access for US products made in the Joint Statement provide for the possibility to suspend the concessions, in whole or in part. The Commission will continue to monitor the implementation of the EU-US deal.

⁽¹⁾ https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/news/joint-statement-united-states-european-union-framework-agreement-reciprocal-fair-and-balanced-trade-2025-08-21_en.
⁽²⁾ COM(2025)471 final and COM(2025)472 final.