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Answer given by Mr Šefčovič
on behalf of the European Commission
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On 27 July 2025, the Presidents of the Commission and the United States (US) reached a political agreement on tariffs and trade.

The Joint Statement of 21 August 2025¹ sets the framework for EU-US trade relations, including the new tariff treatment for most EU exports. Since 7 August 2025, most exports face a 15% tariff, unless a higher most-favoured-nation rate applies.

This tariff treatment safeguards EU exporters' competitiveness on the US market, particularly in agriculture, where tariffs are generally higher. Still, the Commission is aware that some EU agri-food exports will face higher tariffs compared to same time last year. Importantly, the Joint Statement also provides a pathway for further carve-outs, and the Commission will actively push for products of key EU interest, such as wines and spirits, as well as other sectors.

The Commission has tabled two legislative proposals to improve market access for certain non-sensitive US agri-food products. These limited liberalisations are not expected to trigger import surges because of limited volumes concerned and the competitiveness of relevant EU agri-food products. But they will reduce costs for specific products of EU interest.

The Commission will monitor the impact of EU-US deal on the agri-food sector and will continue to engage with the US to ensure balanced implementation. If needed, steps may be taken to address market disturbances and stabilise markets through the Unity Safety Net (former agricultural reserve), which will be reinforced under the proposal for the new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) (from EUR 450 million per year in the current period to EUR 900 million in the new MFF).

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.