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Answer given by Mr Šefčovič
on behalf of the European Commission
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In April 2025, the United States (U.S.) introduced a 10% duty (the so-called U.S. ‘reciprocal’ tariffs) on most EU exports including agricultural products, with the threat of raising this duty to 30%. This situation was highly damaging for the EU’s agricultural exports to the U.S., including fruit and vegetables.

To this end, the EU and the U.S. reached a political agreement on tariffs and trade and issued a Joint Statement¹ establishing the key parameters of the transatlantic trade and investment relationship moving forward. This deal delivers confidence and predictability for European firms. The agreement also avoids the likely alternative of a harmful further tariff escalation on both sides.

Notably, the agreement secures a single, all-inclusive 15% ceiling on U.S. tariffs for EU agricultural exports, including fruits and vegetables, while preventing further escalation. The agreement already includes exemptions for certain EU exports. In addition, the EU and the U.S. agreed to consider other items for inclusion in the list of exempted products.

Regarding imports of U.S. agricultural products in the EU, the Commission’s proposals COM(2025)471² and COM(2025)472³ open market access for certain seafood and non-sensitive agricultural products, including fresh and processed fruits and vegetables. However, EU proposals do not include any market access opening for sensitive agricultural products.

Regarding the potential for the EU to adopt rebalancing tariffs vis-à-vis U.S. exports, the Commission launched two public consultations on 12 March 2025, as well as 8 May 2025. As part of this process, many EU stakeholders expressed concerns on the possibility to apply tariffs on U.S. exports⁴.

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 [https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-register/detail?ref=COM\(2025\)471&lang=en](https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-register/detail?ref=COM(2025)471&lang=en).

³ [https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-register/detail?ref=COM\(2025\)472&lang=en](https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-register/detail?ref=COM(2025)472&lang=en).

⁴ https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/consultations/information-gathering-notice-under-regulation-eu-no-6542014-new-us-tariffs-steel-and-aluminium_en.