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Answer given by Mr Šefčovič
on behalf of the European Commission
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The Commission is aware of the importance of the Chinese market for EU exporters and of the severe impact the recently imposed duties have for EU producers. Since the start of each investigation, it has intervened as interested party to defend the interests of the EU producers subject to these investigations: at technical level as well as at political level where these unwarranted investigations and measures are regularly brought up with the Chinese counterpart.

While the Commission's interventions together with those of industry and individual Member States have achieved a reduction of the definitive measures on European pork and brandy compared to the provisional measures imposed, the Commission continues to explore all options to protect the interests of the EU industry, also in view of the compliance by China with its obligations as member of the World Trade Organization.

The Commission will continue to monitor the economic impact of the Chinese duties on the affected sectors in the EU. If needed, steps may be taken to respond to market disturbances through EU measures financed under the agricultural reserve.

The Commission is seeking to rebalance EU's trade and investment relations with China on the basis of transparency, predictability and reciprocity. The Commission will continue to engage constructively – for example through the upgraded Export Control Dialogue and technical talks on market access – but where engagement does not deliver, the Commission will not hesitate to defend EU industry and make use of EU autonomous instruments.