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Answer given by Mr Šefčovič
on behalf of the European Commission
(20.1.2026)

The Commission recognises the importance of the olive oil sector for the EU, in particular for Mediterranean Member States such as Greece, Italy and Spain, which together account for a substantial share of global olive oil production and exports.

On 27 July 2025, the EU and the United States (US) reached a deal on tariffs and trade¹, later confirmed and developed by the Joint Statement² of 21 August 2025. This political agreement restores stability and predictability for EU consumers and businesses, including by defining a general tariff ceiling of 15% for most EU exports. At the same time, the US granted a number of exemptions from additional tariffs for certain strategic products, such as pharmaceuticals or aerospace. The Joint Statement also foresees a process to consider further sectors for targeted exemptions.

In this context, the Commission is consolidating a list of potential products, also on the basis of inputs received from EU stakeholders and Member States, for which it intends to seek exemptions from the US additional tariffs. The importance of olive oil has been highlighted to the Commission. A final decision on which products to propose to the US, and at what moment in time, has not yet been taken.

¹ https://commission.europa.eu/topics/trade/eu-us-trade-deal_en.

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