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Answer given by Mr Šefčovič
on behalf of the European Commission
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The Commission recognises the importance of life sciences supply chain as a key pillar for Europe's health resilience, crisis preparedness and global competitiveness.

Life science sector is also of key importance within the EU-US trade and economic relations, due to deeply interlinked supply chains, integrated research and development activities, and significant transatlantic trade and investment flows. In this context, the Commission shares the view that tariffs or other trade-restrictive measures in pharmaceutical and medical devices sectors have negative economic and trade impacts and undermine access to such essential goods for vulnerable citizens. Consequently, in its engagement with the US, the Commission consistently seeks a zero-for-zero tariff outcome for health-related goods.

As a result of the EU-US Joint Statement of 21 August 2025¹, the EU committed to eliminate all tariffs for such products and the US committed to tariff exemptions for generic medicines and their ingredients and chemical precursors, as well as a tariff cap of 15% for other pharmaceutical products.

The Joint Statement provides an opening for the inclusion of additional products from the EU excluded from US tariffs. The Commission keeps working towards expanding the scope of tariff exclusion, including in the pharmaceutical and medical device sector, covering both upstream and downstream products. In this context, the Commission is in close contact with Member States as well as industry.

¹ Joint Statement on a United States-European Union framework on an agreement on reciprocal, fair and balanced trade - Trade and Economic Security; https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/news/joint-statement-united-states-european-union-framework-agreement-reciprocal-fair-and-balanced-trade-2025-08-21_en.