

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005060/25
to the Commission
Anna Maria Cisint (PFE)
(23 December 2025)**

Subject: China's tariff hike on European dairy products

On 23 December 2025, China announced provisional duties of 21.9% to 42.7% for certain dairy products such as fresh and processed cheeses, milk and cream. This move is just the latest demonstration of China's well-known commercial strategy, deployed whenever Beijing senses that an increase in the value of exports from third countries could, even hypothetically, weigh on the growth potential of any Asian market sector. In this trade war, European agri-food products of excellence may once again end up paying the highest price.

In the light of the above:

1. What swift action does the Commission plan to take to try to solve the problem of increasing Chinese tariffs on European dairy products?
2. With a view to resolving that problem, might it be wise to consider a counter-proposal?

Submitted: 23.12.2025

**Answer given by Mr Šefčovič on behalf of the European Commission
(11 February 2026)**

The Commission is aware of the importance of this matter for the dairy producers and has been actively intervening in the anti-subsidy investigation from the start in support of the industry concerned.

As early as the initiation of the Chinese investigation in September 2024, the Commission has requested consultations at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and has taken action to protect the EU dairy sector and the Common Agricultural Policy against abusive trade defence investigations.

Following the imposition of provisional measures by China, the deadline to impose definitive measures expires before the end of February 2026.

The Commission will continue to intervene as appropriate in the final stage of the investigation. Any possible further steps will be decided in light of any definitive measures if and when they are imposed in accordance with the relevant rules of the WTO Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures.

Regarding the second question, trade defence investigations are quasi-judicial procedures and need to be conducted within the relevant legal framework and each on its merits.

This is crucial for the EU to have effective trade defence instruments available to defend the Union industry from unfair trade practices. It is recalled that the EU has currently more than 200 trade defence measures in force on a variety of products, such as steel, chemical, paper, out of which more than half target imports from China.
