

*(English version)*

**Question for written answer E-001396/26  
to the Commission  
Yannis Maniatis (S&D)  
(7 April 2026)**

*Subject:* Unfair practices by the US regarding PDO products

According to a report by the Wall Street Journal, the Trump administration is pressuring non-EU countries-even if they have a trade agreement with the European Union that guarantees the protection of European Protected Designation of Origin (PDO) products, such as Greek feta cheese and other similar products-to allow the import of American products with the same name.

Although these American products have similar names to their European counterparts, they have neither the same raw materials nor the same manufacturing method, factors that give them their special character and taste. Consequently, the use of these names would lead to a complete violation of the regime to protect them, allowing unfair competition from cheaper and lower-quality non-authentic products, leading to consumers being misled.

Bearing in mind that PDO products constitute the export 'flagship' of the European and Greek agri-food sector:

1. What is the Commission doing to address these unfair US trade practices, particularly with regard to countries with which we have concluded trade agreements?
2. Is this practice consistent with the spirit and letter of the trade agreement signed by the Commission in Turnberry, Scotland?
3. What sanctions will the Commission take against countries found to be violating-following pressure from the US-the protection regime for European PDO products?

Submitted: 7.4.2026

**Answer given by Mr Hansen on behalf of the European Commission  
(15 June 2026)**

The Commission is taking note of the fact that the United States have been negotiating so-called Agreements on Reciprocal Trade (ART) with some third countries which include elements related to geographical indications.

The Commission is closely monitoring these agreements, the possible impact that certain provisions might have, in particular with regard to third countries with which the European Union has concluded agreements that protect EU geographical indications, and assessing, on a case-by-case basis, the solutions available in full respect of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) of the World Trade Organisation and bilateral commitments.

The Commission reminds third countries the need to fully respect the commitments that they have undertaken towards the European Union with regard to the protection of EU geographical indications. The Commission stands ready to defend the EU's interests as necessary.

The European Union will not tolerate that any ART concluded by third countries with the United States reduces the level of protection that is ensured via the relevant bilateral agreement concluded between that country or countries and the European Union and will be ready to activate the specific instruments of the agreements in case of non-conformity.

The 21 August 2025 EU-US Joint Statement provides a broader framework for the bilateral trade relationship between the EU and the US, facilitating transatlantic engagement.

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