

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-000555/25
to the Commission
Petra Steger (PFE)
(6 February 2025)**

Subject: Exacerbation of industrial relocation driven by EU policy through US tariffs

On 1 February 2025, US President Donald Trump signed a decree imposing tariffs of 25% on imports from Canada and Mexico and 10% on imports from China. In exchange for border security measures and measures against Mexican drug cartels, Trump's punitive tariffs were temporarily suspended a few hours before entry into force for Canada and Mexico. However, shortly thereafter Trump let it be known that he would also 'definitively' impose import duties on EU products and do so 'pretty soon'. This would constitute an economic disaster of gigantic proportions for the Union, as our industry is already suffering from the political and bureaucratic excesses of the failed EU Green Deal and is also burdened by the high energy costs in the Union resulting from the failed EU sanctions regime. As Commission President von der Leyen has already announced a strong response to potential US tariffs, industry fears premature knee-jerk measures that could escalate the situation.

1. What measures, concessions or talks has the Commission initiated to prevent an imminent trade war with the US?
2. Is the Commission planning any other countermeasures in addition to tariffs?
3. What measures is the Commission planning to restore the Union to international competitiveness?

Submitted: 6.2.2025

**Answer given by Mr Šeřčovič on behalf of the European Commission
(28 March 2025)**

On 10 February 2025 the United States (US) announced the imposition a 25% tariff on all US imports of steel and aluminium as of 12 March 2025 and subsequently published a list of downstream products to which the tariffs will also apply ⁽¹⁾ ⁽²⁾ ⁽³⁾. On 13 February 2025, the US announced plans to impose so-called 'reciprocal tariffs' ⁽⁴⁾.

The President of the Commission and the Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security publicly stated that while the EU is ready to discuss mutually beneficial solutions, any unjustified tariffs will trigger firm and proportionate EU countermeasures. The President spoke to the Vice-President of the United States on 11 February 2025.

Moreover, the Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security also discussed this with his counterparts, including during a meeting in Washington on 19 February 2025.

The Commission will spare no effort to avert unnecessary tensions but is ready to act to safeguard its economic interests. The EU has at its disposal instruments that allow addressing unjustified measures, including with tariffs.

To promote European competitiveness, the Commission adopted its Competitiveness Compass ⁽⁵⁾, the strategic framework for the Commission's work in this mandate, and other industrial policy initiatives ⁽⁶⁾.

The Competitiveness Compass sets out an approach and a selection of flagship measures on three transformational imperatives to boost competitiveness: closing the innovation gap, a joint roadmap for decarbonisation and competitiveness, and reducing excessive dependencies and increasing security.

The 2025 Annual Single Market and Competitiveness Report ⁽⁷⁾ provide an analytical basis for the EU's industrial strategy.

⁽¹⁾ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/02/adjusting-imports-of-steel-into-the-united-states/>

⁽²⁾ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/fact-sheets/2025/02/fact-sheet-president-donald-j-trump-restores-section-232-tariffs/>

⁽³⁾ <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2025-02-18/pdf/2025-02832.pdf> and <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2025-02-18/pdf/2025-02833.pdf>

⁽⁴⁾ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/articles/2025/02/reciprocal-trade-and-tariffs/>

⁽⁵⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52025DC0030>

⁽⁶⁾ For example, the Clean Industrial Deal proposes six business drivers for a competitive yet decarbonising economy: (1) affordable energy, (2) lead markets, (3) financing, (4) circularity and access to materials, (5) global markets and international partnerships and (6) skills.

⁽⁷⁾ https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/publications/2025-annual-single-market-and-competitiveness-report_en