

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-001508/25
to the Commission
Vicent Marzà Ibáñez (Verts/ALE)
(11 April 2025)**

Subject: Urgent response to the tariff war initiated by the US

On 2 April 2025, US President Donald Trump announced the imposition of a 20% general tariff on the EU. This poses a particular risk for industry in Valencia, the Spanish region most heavily reliant on exports to the US in relative terms.

Regulation (EU) 2023/2675 on the protection of the Union and its Member States from economic coercion by third countries 'affecting trade or investment in order to prevent or obtain the cessation, modification or adoption of a particular act by the Union' was adopted in 2023. It provides for the imposition of specific charges, the limitation of access to European public procurement or the restriction of banking or insurance access to EU markets. However, we are not aware that it has been used.

Given the foreseeable severe economic impacts:

1. Has the Commission initiated the procedure for applying the regulation?
2. Has the Spanish Government or any other Member State requested it?
3. What measures provided under the regulation does the Commission intend to implement and within what deadlines?

Submitted: 11.4.2025

**Answer given by Mr Šefčovič on behalf of the European Commission
(23 May 2025)**

The Commission regrets the decision by the United States (U.S.) to impose universal tariffs on European exports to the U.S., with the country specific rate for the EU of 20%.

These tariffs come next to those imposed on EU exports of steel and aluminium and derivatives (25%) and cars and car parts (25%).

The Commission stands ready to act, as necessary, to protect EU interests in response to these unjustified tariffs. To this end, the Commission adopted the first set of countermeasures in response to the tariffs on steel and aluminium on 14 April 2025 ⁽¹⁾.

However, in view of the U.S. decision to partially suspend the application of universal tariffs, which meant that the country specific universal tariff of 20% was put on hold for 90 days, while the 10% tariff still continues to apply, the Commission delayed the application of its countermeasures for the same period to give a chance for negotiations and to find a mutually beneficial solution ⁽²⁾.

At the same time, if these talks are unsatisfactory, it is possible for EU countermeasures to kick in again automatically on 15 July 2025.

The Commission also continues its preparatory work on possible further countermeasures relating to the other tariffs imposed by the U.S. on EU imports, keeping all options on the table.

⁽¹⁾ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/778 of 14 April 2025 on commercial rebalancing measures concerning certain products originating in the United States of America and amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/886, OJ L, 2025/778, 14.4.2025, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2025/778/oj.

⁽²⁾ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/786 of 14 April 2025 suspending commercial rebalancing measures concerning certain products originating in the United States imposed by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/778 and amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/2882, OJ L, 2025/786, 14.4.2025, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2025/786/oj.