

Notes – DG TRADE + FRUCOM: EU-US tariffs call 25.03.2025 (dried fruits and nuts, processed fish/seafood sectors)

Participants:

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- List will be reviewed, over 200 submissions foreseen
- Decision to postpone until mid-April the 2018 list tariffs to match the date when the new list enters into effect in order to give time to assess input and to talk with member states and stakeholders and the USA
- Message to the US is that EU-US trade is high, EU-US investment is high, EU-US are very interlinked, and the tariffs hurt everyone. Tariffs are not the preferred tool by the EU and the EU would prefer a negotiated outcome.
- US complains about the balance of trade, EU standards, regulations, but no concrete points for discussion, the EU is trying to get the US to formulate their grievances.
- DG TRADE Commissioner is in the US with Director General, and Head of Unit
- The EU will have to act if the US applies tariffs, even though it is aware this is not welcome by EU industry.
- DG TRADE recognises that a letter on cranberries has been sent to the Commissioner for Trade.
- In the next weeks submissions from stakeholders will be reviewed (submissions on the consultation and from member states etc)
- Products were selected on the basis of : Products where there can be the maximum pain on the US with the minimum pain for the EU; Products coming from areas that are constituents of the US President / Republican party, with the hope they will lobby for the administration to go to the negotiation table; Products where the EU has a high dependency on the US but where there are alternatives
- On the voting or support for US President Trump, DG TRADE position is that the Commission is *not* looking at the politics of products at *state* level, but at a “more granular level.”
- The EU cannot add products under the current dispute of Steel Aluminium, only remove them of the current list.
- However, the EU will be one of the key targets of the reciprocal tariffs, and so an additional list in the future is possible in response to the reciprocal tariffs plan.
- DG TRADE emphasised that figures on jobs, no alternative supply, contracts are all very welcome.

- **Goods in transit** exception will likely be copied from the approach used in 2018 (where customs procedure started before the entry into force)
- Level of proposed duty is not yet determined; possible the EU will have to play with the tariff value because the EU exports less to the US than the other way round
- When the internal review is complete, the Commission will send the file to the Member States, and countermeasures will be in place as of mid-April, with duty only collected around mid-May based on the regulation on safeguards.
- Role of DG AGRI and European Parliament's INTA (international trade) Committee is to be consulted, though as the procedure is Comitology (MS decide), this means Parliament will be informed and consulted but has no vote.
- Question on duty suspension for cranberries will have to be double checked (FRUCOM subsequently called DG TAXUD who will cc DG TRADE in reply, DG TAXUD explains the general approach with the enforcement regulation and the duty suspension is that the duty suspension remains for the *erga omnes duty* but does not affect any specific duties of goods from specific origins under the enforcement regulation).
- Comitology procedure will also be used for the delay of the 2018 tariffs.
- DG TRADE strongly encourages US stakeholders and US affiliated members of FRUCOM to speak to US lawmakers and administration to push for the US to work through negotiations rather than tariffs to address trade balance and other concerns of the US administration.

Goods in Transit

“ Goods in transit exception will likely be copied from the approach used in 2018 (i.e. if the customs procedure has started before the entry into force of the relevant regulation)”

In 2018, Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/724 of 16 May 2018 on certain commercial policy measures concerning certain products originating in the United States of America, mentions:

- (20) Products for which an import licence with an exemption from or a reduction of duty has been issued prior to the date entry into force of this regulation should not be subject to these additional customs duties.
- (21) Products for which the importers can prove that they have been exported from the United States to the Union prior to the date of application of the additional customs duties should not be subject to the additional customs duties.

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2018/724/oj