



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR TRADE AND ECONOMIC SECURITY

Directorate D – The Americas, Agriculture and Food Safety  
**USA and Canada**

**The Head of Unit**

Brussels  
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Jan KRÜCKEMEYER  
[Alexander.Hoeckle@citha.eu](mailto:Alexander.Hoeckle@citha.eu)

Dear Mr Krückemeyer,

Thank you for your position paper of March 2025, in which you share your views about the potential negative impacts of the US tariffs on transatlantic business and your suggestions for a negotiated solutions that would avoid a trade war between the EU and United States (U.S.) in the boating sector, to which I have been asked to reply.

The European Commission deeply regrets the US decision to impose additional tariffs on EU exports to the US. These U.S. tariffs are unjustified, disruptive to transatlantic trade, and harmful to businesses and consumers. Tariffs raise business costs and inflation. They have a detrimental impact on jobs and consumer purchasing power, lower business confidence and risk turbulence in financial markets.

The U.S. on 12 March imposed a 25% tariff on steel, aluminium and derivatives. It subsequently imposed a 25% tariff on cars and car parts, and on 2 April it imposed universal tariffs of on many other EU exports (the country specific tariff for the EU of 20% is currently suspended for 90 days, i.e. until 9 July, the 10% base tariff still applies). Several pending U.S. Section 232 investigations could moreover lead to further U.S. import measures.

The EU has set out a comprehensive and strategical approach in response to these additional U.S. tariffs, which builds on five pillars – striving for a negotiated solution with the US, defending the EU interests via rebalancing measures in response to the EU tariffs, monitoring closely any risks of trade diversion triggered by the US tariffs, continuing the ambitious trade diversification agenda, and working to deepen the Single Market.

Our priority remains to find a mutually beneficial, fair and balanced solution. For this purpose, the Commission is actively engaged with the U.S. To this end, the EU has suspended its countermeasures adopted in response to the US tariffs on steel and aluminium and derivatives to create space and time for the negotiations. Your suggestions are a valuable input for this process.

At the same time, the Commission continues its preparations for further EU countermeasures should no satisfactory negotiated solution be achieved. As part of this process, the Commission has launched a stakeholder consultation on the possible EU response to the US universal tariffs and the US car and car part tariffs. The consultation

(cf. [EU survey](#)) was launched on 8 May and is open until 10 June 12:00 CET. You are invited to contribute to this consultation with your views and concerns.

Rest assured that the Commission continues to do its utmost to find a negotiated solution with the US that would rather eliminate trade barriers instead of creating them.

We thank you for highlighting your concerns.

Yours Sincerely,

*[e-signed]*

Matthias JØRGENSEN