

The European Union is preparing counter tariffs on US products

The European Commission announced earlier today that it will be increasing duties on the import of a long list of US products. It proposes, on the one hand, to reinstate additional import duties adopted during President Trump's first term in office and, on the other hand, to increase duties applicable to other products originating in the US. A period of consultation with stakeholders will be opened for those other products.

The European Commission has [announced](#) its retaliatory tariffs to the trade barriers imposed on certain European products by President Trump's Administration. It intends to impose additional import duties on products originating in the US imported into the Union. The Commission's proposal is twofold.

1. REINSTATING ADDITIONAL DUTIES IMPOSED IN 2018 AND 2020

The Commission will reinstate the additional duties it imposed on US products in 2018 and 2020 in response to the US tariffs on European steel and aluminium. At the time, the EU imposed additional duties on US steel and aluminium products, but also on specific foodstuffs, textiles, some spirits, tobacco and motorbikes. These measures were structured in two phases, but the second phase – which involved taxing new products and increasing duties on some of the products included in the first phase – was never implemented as it was suspended in 2021. The Commission has announced that they will be back in effect on **1 April 2025**, which *a priori* means that the second phase of additional duties will finally apply.

2. IMPOSING ADDITIONAL DUTIES ON OTHER PRODUCTS

The Commission has published a list of other products for which it intends to increase import duties in the EU (full list available [here](#)). There will be a [consultation period](#) with stakeholders until 26 March 2025, 12:00 (Brussels time). This will be followed by a consultation with Member States. The Commission expects the new measures to be adopted by **mid-April**. The initial list of products, which may change after the consultation period, includes:

- An extensive list of agri-food products, including meat and dairy products; oils; fruit and vegetables; tea, coffee and spices; sugar and flour; some seafood; soft drinks, wine and spirits; and animal feed.

- Tobacco and other nicotine-containing products;
- Various plastic and rubber products and articles;
- Wood products;
- Metals and minerals, and related products;
- Chemicals and cleaning products;
- Decorative and household goods;
- Construction and agricultural machinery and equipment;
- Electronic and optical products;
- Cosmetics and perfumes;
- Textiles and leather goods;
- Footwear;
- Precious stones and jewellery.

Both measures are based on Regulation (EU) No 654/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 on the exercise of the Union's rights for the application and enforcement of international trade rules (in particular those of the World Trade Organization).

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