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EUROMETAUX STATEMENT ON EU – US TRADE RELATIONS

Introduction

For decades, the EU and the US have been reliable trade partners and allies sharing common values of democracy and free and fair trade. The trade relations and interlinkages between supply chains of the two economies have created prosperity, lasting peace and support millions of jobs on both sides of the Atlantic. Particularly considering the intertwined metals' value chains between the two jurisdictions, the EU and the US retain a mutually beneficial relationship and should work together to address the root problem, which - in most cases - is Chinese overcapacity.

Eurometaux, the European non-ferrous metal association ([link](#)), believes that the imposition by the US government of so-called "reciprocal tariffs" targeting EU goods, especially European metals, is challenging for both sides. We were therefore pleased to take note of President Trump's decision to postpone the application of these unwarranted across-the-board tariffs for 90 days, as well as of the wish expressed by the EU to **prioritise finding a mutually beneficial and balanced solution through negotiations and therefore** not to retaliate in this period of time.

These 90 days are a crucial period, during which all should be done to move away from the rationale of unwarranted trade tariffs that are destructive for both economies and disrupt global trade. The 25% Section 232 tariff on US steel and aluminium imports increases the risk that third-country exporters — facing a closed US market — will shift exports to Europe, given the EU's relatively low import duties. This dynamic leads to further market disruptions and adds to the burden on European non-ferrous metals producers already under pressure from excessive energy costs, global overcapacity, and the cost of compliance with EU climate policies that are not mirrored elsewhere.

Key Recommendations

In view of this, we urge the EU and the US to reach a mutually beneficial agreement that would strengthen the EU-US relationship and avoid the introduction of unwarranted tariffs that would negatively affect the non-ferrous metals industry. The EU-US should enhance their cooperation in the non-ferrous metals sector by taking into account the following key recommendations:

- Existing US tariffs on European steel, aluminium and cars must be removed, in order to allow for a lasting structural solution to be found.

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- **Any further rebalancing measures that the EU would consider in the future** have to be designed in a way that does not hurt its own economic interests. This is not the time to inflict self-imposed irreversible damage to crucial value chains - including Copper (and associated co-products, e.g. Tin), Molybdenum and Precious Metals, such as Gold, Silver and Platinum Group Metals (PGMs) - under the auspices of trade retaliation. The EU should carefully consult and listen to its own industry in the context of serious sector-specific vulnerability assessments. If not, further economic harm and dependencies will be created in the EU, whilst creating no real leverage in the negotiations with the US. Additionally, **the EU must refrain from measures that complicate non-ferrous metals recycling**, such as the recent new list of potential countermeasures includes electronic and battery waste products (HS 8549). While we are implementing the Critical Raw Materials Act and preparing the Circular Economy Act—both of which are pivotal to achieving Europe's strategic autonomy—essential waste shipments (such as electronic waste and spent batteries) cannot be subjected to new taxes.
- The EU must, in the meantime, take **precautionary measures**, including trade defence measures, to safeguard its economic interests from the effects of the current US tariffs. The European Commission must pay special attention to the redirection of trade flows to its market, from China and other countries, by swiftly enforcing safeguard measures mentioned in the Steel and Metal Action Plan (for ferroalloys and aluminium).
- The EU should also carefully consult and listen to its own industry in the context of serious sector-specific vulnerability assessments. This must also cover the planned introduction of new tariffs, such as the CBAM, which is likely to produce further tension in the bilateral trade relations, while having a devastating impact on Europe's aluminium industry.
- The Commission should also give special attention to the leakage of scrap and black mass out of the EU hurting the aluminium, copper and the nascent EV batteries recycling industry.

The current situation shows once more that the **EU must invest, as a top priority, in strengthening its own industrial base** with particular attention to the non-ferrous metals industry that is essential for its clean energy, digital and defence ambitions.

As the EU works to strengthen its industrial resilience and strategic autonomy, proactive trade monitoring and the potential introduction of safeguard measures must be considered for the non-ferrous metals sector. Swift action is key to preventing long-term structural damage to the industries that are indispensable for Europe.

At a time when economic stability is most needed, we call upon the US and the EU administrations to take responsible actions to establish fair and clear conditions for a predictable international trading system.

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About Eurometaux: Eurometaux is the decisive voice of non-ferrous metals producers and recyclers in Europe. We are an umbrella association representing the interests of the combined non-ferrous metals industry towards EU policy makers. In total the industry employs directly 500,000 people and indirectly more than 3 million across over 900 production facilities, with an annual turnover of €120bn.

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