



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR TRADE AND ECONOMIC SECURITY

Deputy Director general in charge of Directorates D and E

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Laurianne Krid, Director General, Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA)
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Barbara Stoll, Director, Clean Cities Campaign
William Todts, Executive Director, Transport & Environment
Karen Vancluysen, Secretary General, POLIS
Geert van Waeg, President, International Federation of Pedestrians
Jill Warren, CEO, European Cyclists' Federation

Dear Madams, dear Sirs,

Thank you for your letter to Commission President Von der Leyen, dated 27 March 2025, in which you urge the Commission not to offer 'equivalence' or mutual recognition of US vehicle safety and environmental standards as part of negotiations with the US.

Commissioner President Von der Leyen asked me to reply to your letter on her behalf.

The European Commission deeply regrets the US decision to impose tariffs on EU exports to the US. The US 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.

Specifically relating to the automotive sector, the US has imposed import tariffs of 25% on cars, car parts and other commercial vehicles.

As President Von der Leyen confirmed on 10 April, the European Union remains committed to constructive negotiations with the United States, with the goal of achieving frictionless and mutually beneficial trade. As also discussed with automotive industry representatives on 8 April, this could include opportunities for the EU and the US to work together to reduce non-tariff barriers to the benefit of both sides.

However, let me assure you that neither EU safety and environmental performance standards nor citizens' EU Treaty guaranteed rights and values are up for negotiation. What

can be part of the discussions is the administrative easing of conformity assessment procedures (such as partial recognition of test results in areas where safety and emission requirements are identical). The Commission will also consider launching a regulatory dialogue with the US with a view to minimise non-tariff barriers for new technologies in particular.

Including for that purpose, the Commission, and in particular Commissioner Šefčovič is in regular contact with US counterparts on trade and investment related matters.

We thank you for highlighting your concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Leopoldo RUBINACCI