



Statement by the Four Motors for Europe on the announcement of tariffs by the U.S. Government

Varese. 11.04.2025

Gathered at Varese on the occasion of Catalonia taking over the revolving presidency, the Four Motors for Europe strongly regret the announcement of new tariffs by the U.S. administration.

These measures are unjustified and damaging, striking at the heart of a transatlantic partnership that has long stood for shared prosperity, open markets, and democratic values. We stand united in opposing this unilateral move and reaffirm our commitment to a rules-based global trading system.

The global trade system provides for legal certainty and predictability and has all the necessary fora and mechanisms to solve issues through dialogue and negotiation. Tariffs are not the solution, but they create unnecessary trade barriers, friction and uncertainty. The result is harm to workers, businesses, and consumers on both sides of the Atlantic. History has shown that such measures only deepen divisions and weaken all the involved economies.

At a time when the world faces major challenges of many sorts, the focus should be on cooperation, not confrontation.

Trade between the United States and Europe accounts for nearly 30% of global trade in goods and services and 43% of the world's GDP. Together, the regions of the Four Motors for Europe account for more than one-tenth of the European Union's total exports to the United States of America.

As such, the Four Motors for Europe fully support and encourage a strong, joint and coordinated response from the European Union and its Member States, which seeks to avoid further escalation. On the contrary, all parties should engage constructively in dialogue and negotiation to avoid mutual damage, facilitate trade and ensure a stable and fair trade environment.

At the same time, this moment also demands concrete actions to shield our economies from unnecessary harm. The governments of the Four Motors for Europe advocate for closely observing possible trade diversions and examining appropriate mechanisms to support businesses, safeguard jobs, and mitigate negative impacts on consumers. Efforts to diversify



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trade partnerships with like-minded economies should also be pursued to strengthen economic resilience and provide greater stability in the medium term. Therefore, in addition to promoting dialogue with the United States, the Four Motors for Europe will actively promote the search for new markets and new opportunities for their economies, both by engaging with national and European institutions and by leveraging their own diplomatic tools as well as those provided by the association.

The transatlantic relationship is built on more than just trade in goods. It includes vibrant exchanges in services, investment, innovation, and people. Preserving and nurturing this relationship requires mutual respect and a shared commitment to solving global challenges together.

The Four Motors for Europe remain steadfast in their support for an open, fair and inclusive global economy. We call on our United States' partner governments, especially those with strong economic and cultural ties to Europe, to join us in advocating for a constructive and forward-looking approach. The voices of subnational leaders are vital in safeguarding the prosperity and stability that transatlantic cooperation has long delivered.

Europe will overcome this crisis by preserving and promoting its European values and continuing to defend social justice, equality, and cohesion among European regions and its citizens.