

**Question for written answer E-003223/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Dominique Martin (ENF)

Subject: Anti-American measures: the Commission targets Harley-Davidsons, whisky and Trump voters instead of focusing on the future and European jobs

In the wake of US tariff increases on steel and aluminium imports in measures to protect jobs in the US steel industry the Commission decided, on 6 June 2018, to impose duties totalling EUR 3 billion on American products^{1,2}.

Discrimination based on political beliefs is prohibited by the European Treaties³. Nevertheless, the Commission has decided to target products produced in those American regions which voted for President Trump (the Rust Belt, Florida, the Midwest, etc.)^{4,5,6}. For example, the list of targeted products⁷ includes cranberries, whisky, cigars and cotton t-shirts.

Most of the products selected are not made in large quantities in Europe or are in sectors in decline. It is unlikely that these sectors will boost European employment. After Brexit, whisky will no longer even be a typically European product.

Why did the Commission not target products on the basis of future job prospects in Europe, for example by taxing American competitors in the sectors of the future such as companies like Google or Goldman Sachs?

¹ http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-4083_en.htm

² <http://www.lefigaro.fr/conjoncture/2018/06/06/20002-20180606ARTFIG00235-taxes-americaines-la-riposte-europeenne-est-prevue-pour-juillet.php>

³ Article 10 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union stipulates that 'in defining and implementing its policies and activities, the Union shall aim to combat discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation.'

⁴ <https://bfmbusiness.bfmtv.com/monde/barrieres-douanieres-l-europe-prete-a-punir-les-electeurs-de-trump-1386781.html>

⁵ <http://www.lefigaro.fr/flash-eco/2018/03/02/97002-20180302FILWWW00216-commerce-l-ue-elabore-une-liste-de-produits-americains-a-taxer.php>

⁶ <https://www.capital.fr/economie-politique/commerce-les-represailles-ciblent-des-etats-favorables-a-trump-1279706>

⁷ http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2018/may/tradoc_156909.pdf