



2019/2537(RSP)

30.1.2019

DRAFT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Commission

pursuant to Rule 123(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on the recommendations for opening of trade negotiations between the EU and
the US
(2019/2537(RSP))

Bernd Lange

on behalf of the Committee on International Trade

European Parliament resolution on the recommendations for opening of trade negotiations between the EU and the US (2019/2537(RSP))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its resolution of 8 July 2015 containing the European Parliament’s recommendations to the European Commission on the negotiations for the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)¹,
- having regard to its resolution of 7 May 2018 on the Annual report on the implementation of the Common Commercial Policy (2017/2070(INI))²,
- having regard to its resolution of 26 June 2018 on climate diplomacy (2017/2272(INI))³,
- having regard to its resolution of 10 July 2018 on the state of EU-US relations (2017/2271(INI))⁴,
- having regard to the Joint US-EU Statement of 25 July 2018 following President Juncker's visit to the White House⁵,
- having regard to the “Summary of Specific Negotiating Objectives for the Initiation of US-EU Negotiations” published in January 2019 by the Office of the United States Trade Representative /Executive office of the President,
- having regard to the Commission’s Recommendation for a Council Decision authorising the opening of negotiations of an agreement with the United States of America on the elimination of tariffs for industrial goods published on 18 January 2019 together with the directives for such negotiations (Annex)⁶,
- having regard to the Commission’s Recommendation for a Council Decision authorising the opening of negotiations of an agreement with the United States of America on conformity assessment published on 18 January 2019 together with the directives for such negotiations (Annex)⁷,
- having regard to the motion for a resolution of the Committee on International Trade,
- having regard to Rule 123(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the partnership between the EU and the US is essential for the global economy;
- B. whereas the EU-US trade relationship, which constitutes the largest economic

¹ Texts adopted: P8_TA(2015)0252.

² Texts adopted: P8_TA(2018)0230.

³ Texts adopted: P8_TA(2018)0280.

⁴ Texts adopted: P8_TA(2018)0342.

⁵ http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-18-4687_en.htm

⁶ http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2019/january/tradoc_157630.pdf

⁷ http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2019/january/tradoc_157629.pdf

relationship in the world, faces extraordinary challenges under the presidency of Donald Trump;

- C. whereas the EU remains fully committed to multilateralism and a rules-based international order, enshrined in the WTO, as it benefits both the US and the EU;
 - D. whereas during the 90-day statutory period for consultations, the US side was unable to conduct any scoping discussions with the EU;
 - E. whereas the formal impact assessment process that usually accompanies the start of negotiations of any trade agreement has been waived;
 - F. whereas the EU challenges the imposition of US antidumping and countervailing duties on Spanish olives and requested consultations with the US at the WTO given that such measures are unjustified, unwarranted and against WTO rules;
 - G. whereas the US tariffs on imports of steel and aluminium, based on Section 232 and affecting i.a. the EU, are still in place and whereas the Trump Administration initiated a similar investigation into the imports of motor vehicles and automotive parts which could lead to increased tariffs on imports of these goods from the EU;
 - H. whereas EU and the US draft negotiating objectives differ in their scope and as regards the sectors covered and it is not clear to which extent the negotiations will cover the automobile sector;
 - I. whereas the exclusion of the automobile sector from the negotiations is only in the economic and political interest of the US;
 - J. whereas the EU regrets re-imposition of US sanctions due to its withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA);
1. Takes note of the Joint US-EU Statement of 25 July 2018 to relaunch EU-US trade talks; Regrets, however, that the European Parliament was not informed, prior to the visit, about the content and objectives of the Statement;
 2. Supports the line of the European Commission not to negotiate with the US under threat; Is, therefore, surprised that the Commission recommends to open trade negotiations with the US, while tariffs on steel and aluminium are still in place and the US started a similar investigation on motor vehicles and automotive parts;
 3. Notes that until today there is no commitment from the US to lift the tariffs on steel and aluminium and the investigation into US imports of motor vehicles and automotive parts is still ongoing;
 4. Takes the view that a limited agreement with the US on the elimination of tariffs for industrial goods is not compatible with the Commission's comprehensive Trade for All strategy and risks being incompatible with GATT Article XXIV if the automobile sector is excluded;
 5. Notes that the US Specific Negotiating Objectives for the Initiation of US-EU Negotiations seek to secure comprehensive market access for US agricultural goods in the EU by reducing or eliminating tariffs as well as reducing burdens associated with

differences in regulations and standards; Underlines that agriculture is not covered by the Joint Statement; Notes that the Commission's draft negotiating mandate strictly focuses on the removal of tariffs on industrial goods while excluding agricultural products;

6. Notes that one of the objectives of the above mentioned Joint Statement is the ambition to work closely together with like-minded partners to reform the WTO; Regrets the US blocking of nominations of new WTO Appellate Body Members, which harms the functioning of the WTO dispute settlement system;
7. Deeply regrets the withdrawal of the US from the 'Paris Agreement'; Recalls that the European Parliament stressed in its resolution on climate diplomacy that the EU should make the ratification and implementation of the 'Paris Agreement' a pre-condition to conclude any trade agreement;
8. Believes that negotiations of a trade agreement with the US under the above mentioned conditions will not be successful in producing an outcome that would be in the interest of European citizens and therefore calls on the Council not to endorse the recommendations for authorising the opening of negotiations of an agreement with the US on the elimination of tariffs for industrial goods and on conformity assessment in their current form;
9. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the EEAS, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the US President, the US Senate and House of Representatives.