Question for written answer E-004739/2020

to the Commission

Rule 138

Hélène Laporte (ID)

Subject: US customs duties (Boeing-Airbus dispute)

On Wednesday 12 August 2020, the United States announced its intention of maintaining the punitive tariffs being imposed on imports from Europe, including French wine, despite moves by Airbus towards the settlement of reimbursable advances and its claims to be complying with World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules.

This trade dispute, which dates back to October 2004, was triggered by the granting of public subsidies to the aircraft manufacturers in question. In October 2019, the WTO imposed its most severe penalty in the context of this dispute, authorising the US impose tariffs on goods and services imported from Europe to a value of almost USD 7.5 billion.

Since then, the US has been imposing punitive customs tariffs of 25% on certain imports from the EU. France has been hit particularly hard by these measures, the US being the largest market for its wine exports.

1. What justifications has the Commission presented to the WTO for imposing tit-for-tat customs tariffs in response to unfair US subsidies for Boeing?

2. Will the Commission consider providing special assistance for sectors affected by punitive customs tariffs, including the French wine sector, which has been hit particularly hard?