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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Dombrovskis
on behalf of the European Commission
(4.5.2021)

The Commission is aware of the difficulties that the EU agricultural sector continues to encounter, caused inter alia by the tariffs imposed by the United States (US) in relation to the civil aircraft disputes, as well as by the pandemic. The Commission has therefore repeatedly engaged with the US to try to resolve the disputes, and on 5 March 2021 the EU and the US agreed to suspend all tariffs linked to those disputes for 4 months, effective as from 11 March 2021, and agreed to intensify talks to find a negotiated settlement¹.

With regard to the disputes on civil aircraft, the Commission remains convinced that these need to be settled through the negotiation of a balanced settlement, and will pursue every opportunity to achieve this.

As set out in the Joint Communication, “A New EU-US Agenda for Change” of 2 December 2020² and the Council Conclusions on EU-US relations of 7 December 2020³, settling trade disputes with the US remains a priority. The Commission will continue to do its utmost to try to solve the disputes and thereby achieve the permanent lifting of tariffs for the benefit not only of aircraft but for all of products, including agri-food products.

¹ EU suspension laid down in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/425 of 9 March 2021.

² JOIN(2020) 22 final - Joint Communication: A new EU-US agenda for global change.

https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/joint-communication-eu-us-agenda_en.pdf

³ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/12/07/council-conclusions-on-european-union-united-states-relations/>