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| |  | | --- | |  | | **FRUCOM ACTIVITIES**  [**Next FRUCOM newsletter on April 28th - enjoy the Easter break!**](javascript:void(0);)  Dear FRUCOM members,  The following FRUCOM newsletter will appear on April 28th since April 21st is a public holiday in Belgium. Enjoy the Easter break!  Best regards, the FRUCOM Team  **ALL PRODUCTS**  [**EU-US tariffs: Official Journal publication of Steel and Aluminium countermeasures, application to be delayed until 14 July 2025 (concerns cranberries, peanut butter, almonds, other products)**](javascript:void(0);)  The European Union has published today, 14 April, in the Official Journal two pieces of legislation concerning its Steel and Aluminium countermeasures applying additional duties to US products. **The Steel and Aluminium countermeasures that would otherwise apply on 15 April and 16 May are suspended until 14 July 2025.**  According to the European Commission, this decision was taken because the US announced its own 90 day suspension to the higher level of Reciprocal tariffs, and in order to give time for the EU and the US to find a negotiated solution.  As part of the EU's push to find a negotiated outcome with the US, EU Trade Commissioner Maroš Šefčovič is today (14 April) in Washington DC to hold meetings with his US counterparts in order to explore the ground for a negotiated solution.  Should talks not prove satisfactory, the EU countermeasures will kick in.  In addition to these now-suspended countermeasures against US tariffs on steel and aluminium, preparatory work on further EU countermeasures continues.  Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/778 of 14 April 2025 on commercial rebalancing measures concerning certain products originating in the United States of America and amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/886, and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/786 of 14 April 2025 suspending commercial rebalancing measures concerning certain products originating in the United States imposed by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/778 and amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/2882.  Both regulations shall enter into force on the day following that of their publication in the Official Journal of the European Union.  Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/778 introduces new rebalancing measures on Steel and Aluminium, including those of almonds, which had been the subject of public consultation and voting in the past few weeks. It also consolidates under Annex I, all the original countermeasures on Steel and Aluminium which had been approved in 2018 under Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/886 (concerning peanut butter, processed cranberry products and dried cranberry products).  Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/786 modifies Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/778 by delaying the application of the measures in that regulation until 14 July 2025. Additionally, it also modifies Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/2882 which had suspended measures for Annex I (Kidney beans (0713 33 90), Peanut butter (2008 11 10), Concentrate cranberry (in codes 2009 81 11; 2009 81 19; 2009 81 31; 2009 81 59), and Annex II (Dried cranberries (20089391)) of Implementing Regulations (EU) 2018/886 to 31 March 2025, by substituting the end date of the suspension of these measures to 14 July 2025.  Products of concern to FRUCOM where duties are suspended until, or will only begin to apply after 14 July 2025:    Under Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/886   |  |  | | --- | --- | | CN 2025 | Additional duty | | 2001 90 30 Vegetables, fruit, nuts and other edible parts of plants, prepared or preserved by vinegar or acetic acid: – – Sweetcorn (Zea mays var. saccharata) | 25% | | 2004 90 10 Other vegetables prepared or preserved otherwise than by vinegar or acetic acid, frozen, other than products of heading 2006: – – Sweetcorn (Zea mays var. saccharata) | 25% | | 2005 80 00 Other vegetables prepared or preserved otherwise than by vinegar or acetic acid, not frozen, other than products of heading 2006: – Sweetcorn (Zea mays var. saccharata) . | 25% | | 2008 11 10 **Peanut butter** | 25% | | 2008 93 91 **Cranberries**(Vaccinium macrocarpon, Vaccinium oxycoccos); lingonberries (Vaccinium vitis-idaea) – Not containing added spirit: Containing added sugar, in immediate packings of a net content exceeding 1 kg | 25% | | 2008 93 93 **Cranberries**(Vaccinium macrocarpon, Vaccinium oxycoccos); lingonberries (Vaccinium vitis-idaea)– Not containing added spirit: – Containing added sugar, in immediate packings of a net content not exceeding 1 kg | 25% | | 2008 93 99 **Cranberries**(Vaccinium macrocarpon, Vaccinium oxycoccos); lingonberries (Vaccinium vitis-idaea)– Not containing added spirit, Not containing added sugar | 25% | | 2009 81 11 – – Cranberry (Vaccinium macrocarpon, Vaccinium oxycoccos) juice; lingonberry (Vaccinium vitis-idaea) juice: – – – Of a Brix value exceeding 67: – – – – Of a value not exceeding € 30 per 100 kg net weight | 25% | | 2009 81 19 – – Cranberry (Vaccinium macrocarpon, Vaccinium oxycoccos) juice; lingonberry (Vaccinium vitis-idaea) juice: – – – Of a Brix value exceeding 67: – – – – Other | 25% | | 2009 81 31 – – Cranberry (Vaccinium macrocarpon, Vaccinium oxycoccos) juice; lingonberry (Vaccinium vitis-idaea) juice: – – Of a Brix value not exceeding 67: – – – – Of a value exceeding € 30 per 100 kg net weight, containing added sugar | 25% | | 2009 81 59 – – Cranberry (Vaccinium macrocarpon, Vaccinium oxycoccos) juice; lingonberry (Vaccinium vitis-idaea) juice: – – – Of a Brix value not exceeding 67:– – – – – With an added sugar content not exceeding 30 % by weight | 25% | | 2009 81 95 – – Cranberry (Vaccinium macrocarpon, Vaccinium oxycoccos) juice; lingonberry (Vaccinium vitis-idaea) juice: – – – Of a Brix value not exceeding 67– – – – – Not containing added sugar: – – – – – – Juice of fruit of the species Vaccinium macrocarpon | 25% | | 2009 81 99 – – Cranberry (Vaccinium macrocarpon, Vaccinium oxycoccos) juice; lingonberry (Vaccinium vitis-idaea) juice: – – – Of a Brix value not exceeding 67– – – – – Not containing added sugar: – – – – – – Other | 25% |     Under Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/778   |  |  | | --- | --- | | CN 2025 | Additional duty | | 0805 10 80 Citrus fruit, fresh or dried: – Oranges: – – Other | 25% | | 0805 21 10 Citrus fruit, fresh or dried: – – – Satsumas . | 25% | | 0805 21 90 10 Citrus fruit, fresh or dried: – – – Other | 25% | | 0805 22 00 Citrus fruit, fresh or dried: – – Clementines | 25% | | 0805 29 00 Citrus fruit, fresh or dried: – – Other | 25% | | 0805 50 10 Citrus fruit, fresh or dried: – – Lemons (Citrus limon, Citrus limonum) | 25% | | 0805 50 90 Citrus fruit, fresh or dried: – – Lemons (Citrus limon, Citrus limonum) – – Limes (Citrus aurantifolia, Citrus latifolia | 25% | | 0811 20 11 frozen **berries** | 25% | | 0811 20 19 frozen **berries** | 25% | | 0811 20 31 frozen **berries** | 25% | | 0811 20 39 frozen **berries** | 25% | | 0811 20 51 frozen **berries** | 25% | | 0811 20 59 frozen **berries** | 25% | | 0811 20 90 frozen **berries** | 25% | | 1508 10 10 crude groundnut oil for technical or industrial uses | 25% | | 1508 10 90 crude groundnut oil for production of foodstuffs | 25% | | 1512 19 10 – Sunflower-seed or safflower oil and fractions thereof: – – – For technical or industrial uses other than the manufacture of foodstuffs for human consumption | 25% | | 1512 19 90 – Sunflower-seed or safflower oil and fractions thereof: – – – Other | 25% | | 1605 21 10 **shrimps and prawns**, prepared or preserved | 25% | | 1605 21 90 **shrimps and prawns**, prepared or preserved | 25% | | 2001 10 00 Vegetables, fruit, nuts and other edible parts of plants, prepared or preserved by vinegar or acetic acid: – Cucumbers and gherkins | 25% |     Products of concern to FRUCOM where duties will apply from 1 December 2025  Under Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/778   |  |  | | --- | --- | | CN 2025 | Additional duty | | 0802 11 10 fresh or dried **bitter almonds** in shell | 25% | | 0802 11 90 fresh or dried **almonds**(excl. bitter) in shell | 25% | | 0802 12 10 fresh or dried **bitter almonds** shelled | 25% | | 0802 12 90 fresh or dried **almonds**(excl. bitter) shelled | 25% |     More information:  Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/786 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2025/786/oj>  Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/778 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2025/778/oj>  EU Commission Press Release: <https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_1058>  [**Notes from the Call of the Open trade coalition - exchange of intel on EU-US tariffs**](javascript:void(0);)  FRUCOM participated in a call on 14 April, together with 43 other participants, on EU-US tariffs. The call took place before the EU published its legislation delaying by 90 days the duties on US products under the Steel and Aluminium countermeasures.  **It was recalled that the EU Focus in response to the US trade measures will be**  1. Negotiations with the US to reach an agreed outcome  2. Retaliation to US measures  3. Completion of the Single Market (removing internal barriers etc)  4. Diversification agenda (begin negotiating new FTAs – United Arab Emirates, ratification of completed FTAs – Mercosur and Mexico, better use of existing FTAs – Canada)  5. Prevent trade diversions that create problems on single market and problems on unfair competition (task force and monitoring)  It was agreed in terms of next steps to for member with close contacts with the Danish government to contact them for the Coalition, focusing on people working on trade and the Presidency. Denmark will succeed Poland as the next EU Member State to hold the rotating Presidency of the Council of the EU.  It was also agreed that the Coalition members would raise the points on helpful actions that the Commission could unilaterally undertake to assist industry, including for example, establishing a single function contact email address on EU-US tariff matters, as well as a Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) page with questions from the industry. These will be raised on 15 April during the Civil Society Dialogue meeting on EU trade policy and economic security with the European Commission DG Sabine Weyand, in which FRUCOM will participate.  A big concern of the Open trade coalition were the developments in the United States, particularly the anticipated regime for other sectors which could face higher US tariffs in the future, including for pharmaceutical products, semiconductor etc).  During the call, it was noted that U.S. Customs and Border Protection is ramping up employment at pace, with roles for customs officers, where there will be a focus on ensuring compliance for incoming goods to the US meeting the correct classification, valuation, rules of origin.  In terms of the Member States, it was highlighted during the call that the only discrepancy from the Member States presently may be in relation of which instrument or tool to use for additional countermeasures, but there has been consistency in the strategy to have a united front on the need by the EU to respond in some manner.  Participations in the call also noted that the US administration is in fact concerned as much by non-tariff barriers and market access for agricultural products as it is about the tariff rate faced by its goods in other countries. Therefore, the so called “Zero for Zero” proposal of the Commission is not seen as sufficiently attractive for the US to remove its reciprocal measures, as Zero-for-Zero deals only with tariffs and not the non-tariff measures that supposedly preoccupy the US administration.  In terms of what these measures may be, the 2025 National Trade Estimate Report on Foreign Trade Barriers of the President of the United States on the Trade Agreements Program was published on 31 Mar 2025, outlining these non-tariff trade barriers in relevant countries. <https://ustr.gov/sites/default/files/files/Press/Reports/2025NTE.pdf>  [**European Union Council endorsement of Omnibus I "Stop the Clock" directive**](javascript:void(0);)  Member States on 14 April endorsed the Commission's proposal to delay the application date of upcoming sustainability reporting and due diligence requirements.  The measure adopted will postpone to 2028 the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive requirements for large companies that have not yet started reporting, as well as listed SMEs. It will also postpone to 2028 the application of the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive for the first set of companies concerned.  The proposal was initiated by the Commission and fast-tracked by the European Parliament two weeks ago. It is the first element of the Simplification [Omnibus on sustainability](https://commission.europa.eu/publications/omnibus-i_en) to be adopted.  Following the adoption, the legislative act will be published in the EU’s Official Journal and enter into force on the day following that of this publication. Member states must transpose this directive into their national legislation by 31 December 2025.  More information: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2025/04/14/simplification-council-gives-final-green-light-on-the-stop-the-clock-mechanism-to-boost-eu-competitiveness-and-provide-legal-certainty-to-businesses/>  [**European Commission Civil Society Dialogue Meeting on trade relations with India**](javascript:void(0);)  The European Commission’s DG TRADE held a Civil Society Dialogue meeting on trade relations with India on 10 April. Christoph Kiener, Head of Unit and Chief Negotiator for India, Directorate-General for Trade, European Commission led the discussion on the part of DG TRADE.  Rounds 8 and 9 of negotiations took place respectively in June and September 2024.  Round 10 was held in March in Brussels. The objective for the Commission was to change gears, managing good progress on services and investment, market access offer for goods had already been exchanged. Challenges remain sanitary and phytosanitary measures, technical barriers to trade, rules of origin.  DG TRADE acknowledged that recent actions and announcements by the United States of America have brought urgency to the EU and India negotiations. However, EU sustainability measures, including unilateral measures (EDUR, CBAM) generated concern on Indian side.  The next encounter with the India will take place in the week of 12th May in New Delhi, with the following rounds likely to take place in June or at the latest early July, but certainly before the before the summer break. DG TRADE expects that the frequency and the intensity of the contacts with India is going to increase quite significantly because of the political instruction to conclude the negotiations by the end of the year.  [**Pesticides: EU draft maximum levels on benfluralin and benthiavalicarb**](javascript:void(0);)  The EU has published a WTO notification regarding proposed draft MRLs for benfluralin and benthiavalicarb. The proposal intends to set all MRLs to the LOD.  For both substances, all MRLs for FRUCOM products have been lowered to 0.01 mg/kg. The proposed transition period is 6 months from the date of entry into force.  Please submit your comments by **23 May, end of day (Brussels time)**.  These products have a small number of data points in the FRUCOM database.  All associated documents are available at: <https://epingalert.org/en/Search/Index?countryIds=U918&viewData=%20G%2FSPS%2FN%2FEU%2F843>  [**Contaminants: Proposed changes to analytical performance criteria (several substances)**](javascript:void(0);)  FRUCOM has received information on the foreseen changes to the analytical performance criteria as an amendment to Commission Regulation (EC) No 333/2007 of 28 March 2007 laying down the methods of sampling and analysis for the control of the levels of trace elements and processing contaminants in foodstuffs.  The proposed changes are related to Acrylamide, PAH, Perchlorate, 3-MCPD and 3-MCPD fatty acid esters and glycidyl fatty acid esters.  Please find the document as an attachment: [criteria methods of analysis](https://frucom.eu/component/attachments/attachments.html?task=attachment&id=2695)  The referenced Regulation is available at: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2007/333/2024-04-30>  [**RASFF NOTIFICATION: 2025/15 (07/04/2025 - 13/04/2025)**](javascript:void(0);)  Please find below a FRUCOM report compiling RASFF notifications of week 2025/15 (07/04/2025 - 13/04/2025).  Information provided in the report is based on RASFF notifications published on the DG SANTE’s online database  [FRUCOMRASFF2025\_Week15](https://frucom.eu/component/attachments/attachments.html?task=attachment&id=2691) | |  | |