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| |  | | --- | |  | | **FRUCOM ACTIVITIES**  [**FRUCOM Sustainability Working Group Meeting – Presentations and Notes**](javascript:void(0);)  The FRUCOM Sustainability Working Group meeting took place on Wednesday 2 April.  Notes from the meeting can be downloaded here [Notes WG sustainability 02.04.2025](https://frucom.eu/component/attachments/attachments.html?task=attachment&id=2681)  Presentations can be downloaded below  **Cristina LARREA** *Director, Agriculture, Food and Sustainability Initiatives, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)*[IISDFrucomApril2025](https://frucom.eu/component/attachments/attachments.html?task=attachment&id=2682)  **Jane MAIGUA** *Exotic EPZ Limited, Kenya*[Exotic EPZ Sustainability - Opportunities Challenges](https://frucom.eu/component/attachments/attachments.html?task=attachment&id=2683)  **Julie LUDVIGSEN** *Cashew Sustainability Manager, ETG*[ETG\_FRUCOM\_Cashew](https://frucom.eu/component/attachments/attachments.html?task=attachment&id=2684)  **FRUCOM** State of play and future actions [FRUCOM Sustainability Working Group Meeting 2 April](https://frucom.eu/component/attachments/attachments.html?task=attachment&id=2685)  FRUCOM Secretariat thanks the chairs, the speakers, and members who participated in the meeting, and the Waren Verein for the contacts with Ms Ludvigsen.  [**EU-US Tariffs: FRUCOM Meeting with DG AGRI on 2 April**](javascript:void(0);)  FRUCOM and concerned members met with officers from the European Commission Directorate General for Agriculture in the unit responsible for the Americas.  Notes from this meeting can be found here [Notes FRUCOM - DG AGRI Exchange on EU-US tariffs 2 April 2025](https://frucom.eu/component/attachments/attachments.html?task=attachment&id=2679)  A restricted meeting also took place on 3 April of the EU Member States Permanent Representatives in the COREPER II configuration, to prepare for the FAC Trade meeting, followed by a further restricted meeting on 4 April to hold an exchange of views on EU-US relations.  [**FRUCOM participates in the General Assembly of the UK Nut and Dried Fruit Trade Association; UK consults in response to US Reciprocal tariffs**](javascript:void(0);)  FRUCOM was honoured to be invited and participate in the NDFTA General Assembly on 04 April in London.  Ms Lebo Mofolo, FRUCOM’s Trade and Sustainability Advisor, presented the state of play on the EU-US trade and the actions of FRUCOM and its members.  In addition to highlighting the important cooperation and collective work that has been undertaken in relation to the EU-US tariffs, FRUCOM also raised the matter of the UK Government consultation with UK businesses on a potential list of US products to be subject to countermeasures should a negotiated resolution with the US fail by 1 May.  The consultation, which is open to UK businesses, is running from 3 April 2025 to 1 May 2025 11:59pm UK time.  The Request for Input Indicative Long List of US Products includes, inter alia:  · Frozen and processed fish and seafood (under chapters 03 and 16)  · Dried and Process fruit and vegetables (under chapters 08 and 20)  · Dried prunes (CN 08132000)  · Peanut butter (CN 20081110)  · Groundnuts, prepared or preserved, in immediate packings of a net content of > 1 kg (excl. roasted, preserved with sugar and peanut butter) (CN 20081191)  · Groundnuts, roasted, in immediate packings of a net content <= 1 kg (CN 20081196)  · Groundnuts, prepared or preserved, in immediate packings of a content of <= 1 kg (excl. roasted, preserved with sugar and peanut butter) (CN 20081198)  · Roasted almonds and pistachios, in immediate packings of a net content > 1 kg (CN 20081913)  · Roasted almonds and pistachios, in immediate packings of a net content <= 1 kg (CN 20081993)  · Dried grapes (excl. currants and sultanas) (CN 08062090)  According to the UK Government, this list covers 27% of imports from the US, products selected by the UK Government because they would have a "more limited impact" on the UK economy.  The extract of the list and the FRUCOM products can be found here [UK and FRUCOM products in Request for input indicative product list](https://frucom.eu/component/attachments/attachments.html?task=attachment&id=2687)  A copy of the presentation by FRUCOM for the NDFTA General Assembly can be found here [FRUCOM Presentation 2025 EU-US Steel Aluminium NDFTA - almonds cranberries and other products](https://frucom.eu/component/attachments/attachments.html?task=attachment&id=2686)  More information: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/request-for-input-on-potential-uk-measures-in-response-to-us-tariffs>  **ALL PRODUCTS**  [**EU-US Tariffs: EU Member States to formally vote on EU Steel and Aluminium additional package on 9 April**](javascript:void(0);)  EU Member States’s ministers for foreign affairs met on 7 April in the Trade configuration, where they discussed the EU's trade relations with the US, providing guidance for the forthcoming work.  In his statements following this meeting, the EU Commissioner for trade, Maroš Šefčovič outlined the following outcomes:  In response to the steel and aluminium tariffs, Commission received valuable feedback from our Member States and 660 stakeholders.  After carefully reviewing all of it, the Commission has worked to table a robust list of countermeasures, while balancing the burden across the Member States.  **The Commission will be sending the final list and tariff levels to the Member States later today.**  **The vote is set for April 9, with the final list adopted on April 15. Duties on products will kick in on that day for the first set of measures, and on May 15 for the remaining ones.**  In terms of the Steel and Aluminium, the Commissioner foresees no possibility to delay measures any further.  On 8 April, between 15:00 - 18:30 CET, Members of the European Parliament’s Committee on International Trade, (INTA) will hold an in camera debate with The European Commission’s DG Trade Director-General Sabine Weyand on EU-US trade relations following the announcement of US reciprocal tariffs of 2 April. The meeting can be livestreamed here <https://multimedia.europarl.europa.eu/en/webstreaming/committee-on-international-trade-ordinary-meeting_20250408-1600-COMMITTEE-INTA>  Further to the EU's response in relation to the US tariffs on steel and aluminium, which is currently under preparation, ministers also addressed the possibility of further proportionate countermeasures if needed.  This follows the announcement on 2 April (US local time) by the United States government that President Trump will impose a 20% tariff on all imports from the EU to take effect April 9, 2025, at 12:01 a.m. EDT.  A baseline 10% tariff on all other countries (except those subject to a higher individualized reciprocal tariff because of a larger trade surprlus with the United States) will take effect April 5, 2025, at 12:01 a.m. EDT.  This excludes products already subject to other trade measures such as steel and aluminium under Section 232.  <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/04/regulating-imports-with-a-reciprocal-tariff-to-rectify-trade-practices-that-contribute-to-large-and-persistent-annual-united-states-goods-trade-deficits>  Michał Baranowski, Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology of Poland, responsible for Trade, also in the Press Briefing, added that the Council was not focusing at the moment on the “so called” reciprocal tariffs. This is in part because because the methodology used by the US administration is not yet entirely clear to the Member States as to why those levels of tariffs were chosen.  In light of the recent developments, particularly the (partial) imposition of US tariffs, the ministers took this opportunity to assess the impact of these new tariffs and explore the potential for negotiating mutually acceptable solutions, which remains the EU’s preferred approach.  More information:  <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/fac/2025/04/07/>  <https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/speech_25_1001>  [**Fourth update of EU-US Trade: FRUCOM Frequently Asked Questions document**](javascript:void(0);)  Given recent developments, FRUCOM has updated its Frequently Asked Questions documents covering a range questions pertinent to recent developments affecting EU-US trade, of relevance to FRUCOM members and products.  Should there be a pressing question that FRUCOM members would like addressed in the FAQ document, please contact Lebo Mofolo, [lmofolo@frucom.eu](mailto:lmofolo@frucom.eu) and Anna Boulova [aboulova@frucom.eu](mailto:aboulova@frucom.eu)   Contents  1. Why is the United States imposing new tariffs on trade partners?  2. Has the United States imposed new (additional) tariffs on EU products?  > Steel and Aluminium  > Reciprocal tariffs plan  3. What is the EU’s position on US tariffs?  > Reciprocal tariffs  > Steel and Aluminium  4. What is the current state of play of EU-US trade in terms of tariffs?  > Section 232 / Steel and Aluminium  > Airbus Boeing / Large Civil Aircraft  5. What legal basis can the EU use to apply tariff measures in a trade dispute?  6. What is FRUCOM doing?  [V4 EU-US Trade FRUCOM Frequently Asked Questions 2025 07 April](https://frucom.eu/component/attachments/attachments.html?task=attachment&id=2688)  [**EU-US Trade: FRUCOM co-signs industry letter to call for removal of almonds, dried fruits and nuts from Steel and Alu. countermeasures and future trade measures against US**](javascript:void(0);)  A joint letter by European Snacks Association (ESA), the Association of Chocolate, Biscuit and Confectionery Industries of Europe (CAOBISCO), the European Federation of the trade in dried fruit, edible nuts, processed fruit & vegetables and processed fishery products (FRUCOM) and the Association of the German Confectionery Industry (BDSI) was sent to the European Commissioner Maroš Šefčovič on Friday 4 April, highlighting the need to remove almonds from the proposed EU countermeasures to the US additional Steel and Aluminium tariffs.  Additionally, the signatories also argued that, as the European Union considers further retaliatory measures given the US reciprocal tariffs measures of 2 April, our industries wish to recall the value to the European market created through imports of dried-fruits and nuts from the United States – imports which cannot be substituted with either European production or other Third Country origin. The signatories therefore strongly called on the Commission to exclude dried-fruits and nuts from any potential retaliatory actions.  The letter can be accessed here [Almond Letter Commissioner efovi](https://frucom.eu/component/attachments/attachments.html?task=attachment&id=2689)  FRUCOM will be participating in a call of the Open trade coalition - EU-US tariffs call foreseen to take place in the coming days.  [**European Parliament postpones application date for corporate sustainability reporting and due diligence directives (Omnibus I)**](javascript:void(0);)  On Thursday, 3 April, the European Parliament voted to postpone the application dates for new EU laws on due diligence and sustainability reporting requirements.  With 531 votes for, 69 against and 17 abstentions, MEPs supported the Commission proposal to  -**postpone by two years the entry into application** of the reporting requirements for large companies that have not yet started implementing the CSRD and for listed SMEs (Wave 2 and 3) under the CSRD  -**postpone, by one year, the transposition deadline (26 July 2027)** and **the first phase of the application of the sustainability due diligence requirements, covering the largest companies (to 26 July 2028)** **under the CSDDD**  **Next steps**  To speed up adoption of the measures, the Parliament agreed on Tuesday to deal with the file under its [urgent procedure](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/RULES-10-2025-01-20-RULE-170_EN.html). To enter into force, the draft law now requires formal approval by the Council, which [endorsed the same](https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2025/03/26/simplification-council-agrees-position-on-the-stop-the-clock-mechanism-to-enhance-eu-competitiveness/) text on 26 March 2025.  More information: <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20250331IPR27557/sustainability-and-due-diligence-meps-agree-to-delay-application-of-new-rules>    [**Organics: upcoming initiative on import checks**](javascript:void(0);)  The Commission published information regarding its upcoming initiative on high-risk organic and in-conversion products – import checks. Certain products from non-EU countries certified as organic are considered to be high-risk due to their involvement in major, critical or repetitive cases of non-compliance. This initiative makes it possible to include products that are the subject of suspicions of such non-compliance into the list of high-risk products that are subject to stricter import checks.  Feedback period: upcoming  Commission adoption**:** Planned for the **s**econd quarter 2025  More information: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14595-High-risk-organic-and-in-conversion-products-import-checks-amendment-_en>  [**Pesticides: EFSA conclusion on meptyldinocap MRL for grapes**](javascript:void(0);)  EFSA published its conclusion on the evaluation of the confirmatory data following the Article 12 MRL review for meptyldinocap (DE‐126) and modification of the existing maximum residue levels in table and wine grapes. To address data gaps identified in the framework of the MRL review (EFSA, 2020), a new storage stability study in high acid commodities for the parent meptyldinocap and its metabolite 2,4 DNOP and new additional residue trials on table and wine grapes were submitted by the applicant. Furthermore, the new residue trials on grapes, when combined with residue trials available for the MRL review, indicated that a higher MRL of 0.4 mg/kg (currently the MRL is 0.2) would be required to support the EU outdoor uses of meptyldinocap on table and wine grapes.  Meptyldinocap has been detected in FRUCOM products, including dried grapes.  More information: <https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.2903/j.efsa.2025.9309>  [**Pesticides: US comments on EU MRLs for neonics**](javascript:void(0);)  The US notified the EU of its submission regarding EU import tolerances for certain pesticides to achieve environmental outcomes in third countries – specific trade concern 534. US remains disappointed with the EU's lack of substantive engagement with Members relating to Commission Regulation 2023/334, which reduced MRLs for the neonicotinoid insecticides clothianidin and thiamethoxam for environmental reasons associated with agricultural production in third countries. Clothianidin and thiamethoxam are critically important to produce crops that are exported to the EU from the US and other WTO Members. The US urges the EU to consider the MRLs for these substances.  More information: <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=Q:/G/SPS/GEN2305.pdf&Open=True>  A similar submission was made regarding thiacloprid.  Link: <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=Q>:/G/SPS/GEN2306.pdf&Open=True  [**Pesticides: US coments on EU's ED criterias**](javascript:void(0);)  The US notified the EU on its submission regarding EU legislation on endocrine disruptors – specific trade concern 382. The US urges the Commission to provide scientific justification for its MRL reductions – justification that is based on specific health risks to consumers, not merely hazard identification. Additionally, the US notes that the EU's hazard-based cut-off criteria, including endocrine disrupting properties, are not a part of Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 governing the establishment of pesticide MRLs.  More information: <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=Q:/G/SPS/GEN2311.pdf&Open=True>  [**Pesticides: US statement regarding EU MRLs, including dithiocarbamates**](javascript:void(0);)  The US notified the WTO of its submission regarding the specific trade concern 448: EU MRLs for alpha-cypermethrin, buprofezin, chlorothalonil, chlorpyrifos, chlorpyrifos-methyl, cypermethrin, diflubenzuron, ethoxysulfuron, glufosinate, imazalil, ioxynil, iprodione, mancozeb, molinate, picoxystrobin and tepraloxydim. The US reiterates ther request that the EU align with Codex MRLs rather than lowering MRLs to LOQ or LOD when EFSA is unable to finalize a full risk assessment. Concerning G/SPS/N/EU/788 on MRL reductions for dithiocarbamates, including mancozeb, the United States requests that the EU reconsider the proposed mancozeb MRL reductions for agricultural, including walnuts. The United States further requests that the mancozeb MRL for walnuts be maintained at the current EU level and a 36-month transition period be granted to allow for additional information to be considered and an import tolerance application to be assessed. The US continues to ask that the EU consider more flexible approaches to the enforcement of changes to MRLs. Specifically, it requested that the EU extend the transition periods for MRLs that the EU has established without completing a risk assessment that identifies specific risks to consumers.  More information: <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=Q:/G/SPS/GEN2304.pdf&Open=True>  [**Contaminants: Environment Agency mycotoxin briefing**](javascript:void(0);)  The European Environment Agency published a briefing regarding mycotoxin exposure in a changing European climate. A Horizon 2020 project ([HBM4EU](http://www.hbm4eu.eu/)) measured concentrations of chemicals in our bodies. It showed that 14% of the adult population in Europe is exposed to levels of the mycotoxin deoxynivalenol (DON) that may harm health. The exposure of mycotoxins is via 2 different routes: occupational exposure and food. DON and ZEN are concerning for human health and environmental safety. ZEN is a potential endocrine disruptor as it mimics estrogen, causing reproductive issues in humans and animals. OTA, considered a post-harvest mycotoxin, has been linked to kidney damage and cancer, especially in populations exposed to it via drinking water. Post-harvest is what follows crop production after harvest and it involves cooling, cleaning, sorting and packing steps to prevent deterioration.  Evidence suggests that certain groups may be at higher risk from exposure to mycotoxins. Young children (1 – 3 years old) and infants (under 12 months old) are especially vulnerable due to their higher food intake relative to body weight.  The main source of exposure to mycotoxins is through diet, mainly by eating contaminated food. Recent studies suggest that while approximately 25% of crops exceed EU regulatory limits for mycotoxins, contamination can occur at levels above the detectable limits in up to 60-80% of crops.  Climate change can change fungal distribution thus increasing human exposure to some mycotoxins and exacerbating their impacts on health. From a geographical perspective, the highest risk of climate-change-induced mycotoxin contamination is expected in developed countries with moderate climates. Certain mycotoxins, like AF, DON, ZEN and OTA, are expected to become more prevalent at higher temperatures in humid conditions. This is because humidity spurs the growth of fungi responsible for producing these mycotoxins.  More information: <https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/analysis/publications/mycotoxin-exposure-in-a-changing-european-climate>  [**Contaminants: AGRI committee discussion on mycotoxins**](javascript:void(0);)  The Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development held an ordinary meeting on March 27, 2025. An important item on the agenda was a discussion with the Commission regarding the European Environment Agency's briefing on mycotoxin exposure in a changing European climate.  Frans Verstraete from DG SANTE explained the significance of mycotoxins in food and feed, particularly in the context of climate change. He noted that the presence of mycotoxins is regulated at the EU level to ensure a high standard of health protection for both animals and humans. Currently, the EU has established maximum allowable levels for 11 different mycotoxins and has monitoring recommendations for several others. These limits are based on scientific assessments conducted by EFSA. The findings from EFSA and the Environmental Agency indicate that mycotoxins in food and feed could pose potential risks to human and animal health. The Commission maintains close communication with Member States and regularly invites them, along with stakeholder organizations, to provide data on the occurrence of mycotoxins in food and feed products. This data may lead to adjustments in the current allowable levels if deemed necessary.  Members of the European Parliament's AGRI committee expressed strong support for measures to address the dangers posed by mycotoxins in food. Dutch MEP Bert-Jan Ruissen, representing the ECR, emphasized the importance of prevention and the need to implement preventative measures due to climate change. Czech euro-deputy Ivan David (ESN) raised concerns about potential high levels of mycotoxins in crops imported from Ukraine, while Benoit Cassart (Renew, BE) questioned whether organic farming might be more affected than conventional farming.  DG SANTE responded by stating that the presence of mycotoxins in crops is influenced by multiple factors. He mentioned that the development of new crop varieties resistant or tolerant to the fungi that produce mycotoxins could serve as a long-term solution. He also noted that while insecticides might help minimize mycotoxin levels, they are not the sole solution. Importantly, he clarified that organic crops are not necessarily at a higher risk of mycotoxin contamination. Although organic production may provide a more favorable environment for fungal growth, this does not automatically result in increased mycotoxin production, as mycotoxins develop when fungi are exposed to specific stressors.  More information: <https://multimedia.europarl.europa.eu/en/webstreaming/committee-on-agriculture-and-rural-development-ordinary-meeting_20250327-0900-COMMITTEE-AGRI>  <https://frucom.eu/product/5291-contaminants-environment-agency-mycotoxin-briefing.html>    [**RASFF NOTIFICATION: 2025/14 (31/03/2025 - 06/04/2025)**](javascript:void(0);)  Please find below a FRUCOM report compiling RASFF notifications of week 2025/14 (31/03/2025 - 06/04/2025).  Information provided in the report is based on RASFF notifications published on the DG SANTE’s online database  [FRUCOMRASFF2025\_Week14](https://frucom.eu/component/attachments/attachments.html?task=attachment&id=2680) | |