



Mrs Ursula VON DER LEYEN  
President of the European Commission  
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Strasbourg, 3 October 2024

Madam President,

On 5 January 2024, China launched an anti-dumping investigation into EU wine-based and marc-based spirits, followed by a similar investigation into EU pork on 17 June, and an anti-subsidy investigation into certain EU dairy products on 21 August.

All three investigations were initiated in retaliation for the EU's anti-dumping investigation into Chinese electric vehicles (EVs). We cannot exclude that there may be more to come.

Despite the full cooperation of the spirits sector and producers affected by the anti-dumping investigation on wine-based and marc-based spirits, and despite the clear evidence provided by EU producers showing that no dumping had occurred, the Chinese Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) concluded otherwise. On 29 August, MOFCOM threatened to impose duties averaging 34.8% on EU wine-based and marc-based spirits.

Given the retaliatory nature of these investigations, it is highly unlikely that the investigations into pork and dairy products will be handled more objectively.

Our agri-food producers are, once again, caught in a power struggle unrelated to them, with an uncertain outcome that could threaten thousands of jobs in the heart of our rural regions—jobs that cannot be relocated. Moreover, those products are part of our European way of life and represent the heart of countryside that we all share. They shine through the world and are part of our cultural influence and heritage.

While duties have not yet been implemented on EU spirits, they could be imposed as soon as the EU announces tariffs on Chinese EVs, likely by early November, with the prospect of a WTO challenge offering no short-term relief.

Likewise, the WTO consultations launched for dairy and the prospect of further WTO challenges, while welcome, offer little relief for the affected sectors: EU agri-food products may be excluded for several years from the world's largest import market.

Madam President, we think that there must be another way, through diplomatic and technical dialogue, to find a negotiated solution. We urge you and your services to pursue this dialogue for as long as necessary, mobilising every tool and avenue, until a mutually acceptable solution



is reached for every sectors involved, including the immediate termination of the investigations into our agri-food products.

**We count on the European Commission to put forward proposals in this direction, for the benefit of all EU sectors involved and the countless jobs they support.**

In light of this, could you please provide us with an update on the immediate steps being taken in negotiations with China to ensure that our agri-food sectors do not bear the cost of a dispute that is wholly unrelated to them?

We greatly appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

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