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Eucolait response to EU-US political agreement on trade

Eucolait acknowledges the EU-US deal on trade and tariffs announced this week. While we welcome the avoidance of further escalation, we strongly regret the imposition of additional tariffs and the continued move away from rule-based international trade that this political settlement represents. This worrying trend risks causing permanent harm to the global trading system and to European trade policy alike.

The deal will however allow transatlantic trade to continue and hopefully prevent further disruption. European dairy products exported to the US are already facing significant tariffs, generally above 15%. We therefore welcome the outcome that US reciprocal tariffs applied to EU goods are capped at 15%, as confirmed by the executive order released by the White House yesterday. For our sector, this means that the pre-April 2 tariff levels remain in place in most cases, with no additional duties added. However, in instances where current tariffs fall below 15%, they will now be increased to meet this new threshold.

At present, limited information is available about the full scope of the agreement, particularly regarding concessions made by the EU. We urge greater transparency and look forward to the publication of additional details in the coming days.

Eucolait continues to advocate for a long-term, reciprocal elimination of tariffs, accompanied by regulatory alignment. We support the announced plans for closer collaboration on technical and sanitary barriers to trade and are ready to contribute constructively to this process. Continued dialogue between the EU and US is essential to ensure meaningful progress for the dairy sector.

For more information, please contact:

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Eucolait is the European Dairy Trade Association, representing the interests of the dairy trading community in Europe. Our mission is to promote free and rule-based trade in dairy products within the EU and globally.