

Christophe Hansen  
Commissioner for Agriculture and Food  
European Commission

Brussels, 23.06.2026

### **Stability in EU – US trade relations and respect of the Turnberry Agreement**

I am writing to share the concerns of European dairy exporters as regards ongoing and upcoming US tariff measures and their compatibility with last year's joint statement.

Eucolait welcomes the European Parliament's approval of the legislation implementing the tariff provisions of the EU-US framework agreement reached in August 2025 and its expected endorsement by the Council this week.

The implementation of the tariff concessions comes amid renewed uncertainty in transatlantic trade relations. On 2 June, the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) proposed an additional 10% tariff on imports from the EU following a Section 301 investigation concerning forced labour-related import controls. These measures are expected to replace the current Section 122 tariffs, which expire on 24 July, and it is not clear if they will continue to apply in addition to existing Most Favoured Nation (MFN) duties.

A central commitment made by the United States under the EU-US deal is to apply, for every tariff line, the higher of either the MFN duty or the all-inclusive tariff ceiling of 15% on imports from the European Union. This commitment must be fully respected and implemented without exception.

For the dairy sector, full compliance with the Turnberry Agreement is essential. Since the introduction of the Section 122 measures, EU dairy exports to the United States have faced an

additional 10% duty on top of existing MFN tariffs. For many dairy products, including cheese and butter, MFN duties already exceed 15%. As a result, the current tariff burden on these products is significantly above the ceiling agreed between the EU and the United States. This situation is neither acceptable, nor sustainable, as it undermines the competitiveness of European dairy exports.

While a flat additional 10% tariff may appear manageable or even preferable for sectors subject to very low MFN duties, Eurolait firmly rejects any interpretation of the agreement based on average tariff levels across sectors or products. The commitment undertaken by the United States applies to individual tariff lines and must be assessed accordingly. Any measure resulting in duties above the agreed ceiling would constitute a clear breach of the agreement and should trigger an appropriate response from the Commission.

The United States remains one of the EU's most important export destinations for EU dairy products, with exports reaching nearly € 2.5 billion in 2025. European dairy companies have invested for decades in developing long-term commercial partnerships in the US market, responding to strong demand for high-quality products such as speciality cheeses, butter and casein.

Eurolait therefore calls on the European Commission to closely monitor the implementation of the Turnberry agreement and to act swiftly should any commitments not be respected. The credibility of the agreement depends on its faithful implementation by both parties. Maintaining stability, legal certainty and predictability in transatlantic trade is essential for the continued success of the European dairy sector.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne Randles". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Anne Randles

President