



EU Halts Approval of US Trade Agreement

Description

The European Parliament has halted approval of a significant trade agreement with the United States, following President Donald Trump's controversial proposal to acquire Greenland. This suspension, announced in Strasbourg, France, highlights rising tensions between the US and Europe, which could disrupt economic relations crucial to both regions.

The decision to suspend the deal comes amid escalating trade disputes, largely triggered by Trump's desire to purchase Greenland. This issue has unsettled investors, rekindling fears of a trade war and prompting potential retaliatory actions against the US. Shortly after the announcement, Trump proclaimed on social media that he had established a "framework" for Greenland's future, relieving concerns about imposing new tariffs on eight NATO allies.

Previously, trade tensions had lessened after a deal was reached at Trump's Turnberry golf resort in Scotland in July, reducing US tariffs on most European goods from 30% to 15%. In exchange, Europe pledged to invest in the US and implement changes to enhance American exports. Approval from the European Parliament was still required for the agreement to take effect.

However, Bernd Lange, head of the European Parliament's International Trade Committee, indicated that the body had no choice but to pause discussions on the proposals. He stated that progress on the agreement would remain halted until the US shifted towards a cooperative approach.

The suspension raises the possibility that the EU may proceed with previously announced tariffs on approximately €93 billion worth of American goods. These tariffs, originally postponed while negotiations were ongoing, are set to be enacted on 7 February unless the situation changes. Lange emphasised that no compromise could be reached while threats from the US persisted.

In light of this, attention now turns to the US's next steps in negotiations and whether discussions can resume under less contentious circumstances.

Vocabulary List:

1. **Suspension** /sə'spɛnʃən/ (noun): The act of temporarily preventing something from continuing.
2. **Controversial** /,kɒn.trə'vɜː.ʃəl/ (adjective): Giving rise or likely to give rise to public disagreement.
3. **Retaliatory** /rɪ'tæ.l.i.ə.tɔː.r.i/ (adjective): Characterized by or expressing retaliation.
4. **Tensions** /'tɛnʃənz/ (noun): Mental or emotional strain; stress or anxiety.
5. **Cooperative** /kəʊ'ɒpərətɪv/ (adjective): Involving mutual assistance in working towards a common goal.
6. **Disrupt** /dɪs'rʌpt/ (verb): To interrupt the normal progress or activity of something.



Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. What triggered the European Parliament to halt approval of the trade agreement with the United States?
Option: Trump's desire to purchase Greenland
Option: EU's desire to impose tariffs on American goods
Option: Trade disputes with China
Option: A deal reached in Turnberry
2. Where was the suspension of the trade agreement announced?
Option: Brussels, Belgium
Option: Strasbourg, France
Option: London, UK
Option: Washington D.C., USA
3. What was the outcome of the deal reached at Trump's Turnberry golf resort?
Option: Increase in US tariffs on European goods
Option: Reduction in US tariffs on European goods
Option: Implementation of new sanctions
Option: No change in trade policies
4. Who stated that progress on the trade agreement would remain halted until the US shifted towards a cooperative approach?
Option: Donald Trump
Option: Bernd Lange
Option: Jean-Claude Juncker
Option: Angela Merkel
5. What is the potential date for enacting tariffs on American goods by the EU if the situation remains the same?
Option: 1 February
Option: 15 March
Option: 7 February
Option: 22 April



6. What may prompt the EU to proceed with imposing tariffs on American goods?

- Option: Decrease in US exports
- Option: Rising tensions with China
- Option: US not shifting towards a cooperative approach
- Option: Approval from the European Parliament

True-False

7. The suspension of the trade agreement was due to trade disputes with China.
8. Approval from the European Parliament was not required for the trade agreement to take effect.
9. Bernd Lange is the head of the European Parliament's International Trade Committee.
10. The interim chairman of Tata Group from 2014 to 2017 was Ratan Naval Tata.
11. Previously, trade tensions had escalated after a deal was reached in Trump's Doral golf resort.
12. The EU is considering imposing tariffs on American goods worth approximately €93 billion.

Gap-Fill

13. Europe pledged to invest in the US and implement changes to enhance American exports in exchange for a reduction in US tariffs from 30% to _____.
14. The EU may proceed with imposing tariffs on approximately €93 billion worth of American goods unless the situation changes by 7 _____.
15. Bernd Lange indicated that progress on the agreement would remain halted until the US shifted towards a cooperative approach, possibly resulting in the EU imposing tariffs on American goods worth €93 _____.
16. Rising tensions between the US and Europe, triggered by Trump's desire to purchase Greenland, led to _____.



the suspension of the trade agreement by the European _____.

18. Bernd Lange, head of the European Parliament's International Trade Committee, emphasized that no compromise could be reached while threats from the US _____.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Trump's desire to purchase Greenland 2. Strasbourg, France 3. Reduction in US tariffs on European goods 4. Bernd Lange 5. 7 February 6. US not shifting towards a cooperative approach

True-False: 7. False 8. False 9. True 10. False 11. False 12. True

Gap-Fill: 13. 15 14. February 15. billion 16. Parliament 18. persisted

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. What type of engine boosts power using a turbine?

Option: Turbocharged

Option: Intercooler

Option: Differential

Option: Suspension

2. What component is responsible for transferring power from the engine to the wheels?

Option: Auditory

Option: Transmission

Option: Negotiating

Option: Capitulate

3. Which part of a vehicle allows the wheels to rotate at different speeds?

Option: Ramifications

Option: Differential

Option: Persistent

Option: Myriad

4. What system in a vehicle absorbs shocks from the road?

Option: Escalating

Option: Indicate

Option: Suspension



Option: Retaliatory

5. Which term means significant or considerable?

- Option: Auditory
- Option: Substantial
- Option: Negotiating
- Option: Cooperative

6. Which term refers to reaching an agreement through discussion?

- Option: Consequence
- Option: Surpassed
- Option: Negotiating
- Option: Disrupt

7. What word means to point out or show?

- Option: Allure
- Option: Caution
- Option: Indicate
- Option: Tensions

8. Which term refers to the result or outcome of an action?

- Option: Interventions
- Option: Consequence
- Option: Pertinent
- Option: Exasperation

9. What term means to surrender or give in?

- Option: Capitulate
- Option: Retaliatory
- Option: Cooperative
- Option: Dubious

10. Which word describes a situation that is increasing in intensity or severity?

- Option: Persistent
- Option: Escalating
- Option: Surpassed
- Option: Controversial

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. The _____ system is responsible for processing sound.



12. Success in any field requires hard work and a _____ effort.
13. The new fashion line has an _____ that attracts many customers.
14. The country warned of _____ action if attacked.
15. There are a _____ of options to choose from when selecting a new car.
16. His explanation for being late seemed _____ to his boss.
17. It is important to focus on the most _____ information in your report.
18. The new policy sparked _____ debates among the employees.
19. Political _____ are rising between the two neighboring countries.
20. He was known for being a very _____ team player.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. The engine's ability to rotate an object around an axis is known as .
22. Accessing the system without permission is considered .
23. The decision had significant for the company's future.
24. The team all expectations by winning the championship.
25. The school implemented various to help struggling students.
26. Drivers should proceed with in slippery road conditions.
27. The success of the campaign throughout the industry.
28. The conflict showed signs of tension between the two groups.
29. The protest aimed to the normal flow of operations.
30. The team members were praised for their efforts to achieve the common goal.



Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Turbocharged 2. Transmission 3. Differential 4. Suspension 5. Substantial 6. Negotiating
7. Indicate 8. Consequence 9. Capitulate 10. Escalating

Gap-Fill: 11. Auditory 12. Persistent 13. Allure 14. Retaliatory 15. Myriad 16. Dubious 17. Pertinent
18. Controversial 19. Tensions 20. Cooperative

Matching sentence: 1. Torque 2. Unauthorised 3. Ramifications 4. Surpassed 5. Interventions 6. Caution
7. Reverberates 8. Escalating 9. Disrupt 10. Cooperative

CATEGORY

1. Business - LEVEL6

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6. suspension
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