

Statement of President Christoph Leitl in response to latest decisions of US President Donald Trump: **“Europe is not the ‘jumping jack’ of the US”**

Christoph Leitl, President of EUROCHAMBRES, made the following declaration:

“EUROCHAMBRES deeply regrets the recent announcements by US President Trump that affect EU-US business relations.

It is absurd to even think that the EU could be a threat to the US. Europe has been the most important friend and ally of the United States and will not accept to be blackmailed by US President Trump. A mutual relation of six decades –based in common values, multilateralism and respect– should not be harmed by our current disagreements. We need to stand on unity and solidarity, bringing growth to our economies and businesses, and well being to citizens on both sides of the Atlantic.

The EU is determined to protect international, rules-based free trade. Closing doors to competition is a populist quick fix that will cut European and global industry and cut the edge of development and innovation in the long run. Invest in new technologies and human skills is a responsible bet for the future, much more than offering unfeasible tax subsidies and tariffs in exchange of some votes.

Europe is the largest trading actor in the world and should not be a ‘jumping jack’ of the US nor of nobody else. As representative of 20 million businesses across Europe, EUROCHAMBRES will continue supporting the EU’s future trading relations with our commercial partners on all parts of the world.

Finally, EUROCHAMBRES supports the clear position of the European Union, and expects that European leaders will contribute to protect European companies from the negative consequences of unfair trade.”, concluded Mr Leitl.

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