



European Equestrian Federation (EEF) • Belgicastraat 9, Box 2 • 1930 Zaventem • BELGIUM

EEF supports EHN statement on the European Commission Information gathering notice under Regulation (EU) No 654/2014 on new US tariffs on imports of various products originating in or from the EU, and possible EU measures in response

The EEF – European Equestrian Federation – is a federation of federations, a representative democracy, and is the umbrella organisation for its members, 40 national Equestrian Sport Federations, and 9 associate members.

This answer to the EU consultation has been elaborated in collaboration with the EHN. The European Horse Network (EHN) is a non-profit network of stakeholders within the European horse sector, the EEF is one EHN member. EHN represents 34 organizations involved in equine activities in Europe.

The EU is a world leader in sports horse and thoroughbred racehorse breeding. It has a significant EU export surplus compared to the import of such horses from the US and is an important EU export market of many hundreds of millions of euros annually. Export to the US plays a key role in the international visibility of European racing and sports horses.

Already the current situation has created market uncertainty and the real risk of a reduction in trade between the two partners, creating diminished market opportunities and revenue in this highly competitive and specialised sector.

Specialised auction sales houses in Europe already account for over a billion euros of horse sales annually, with many of these elite horses being exported abroad and to the US.

The proposed tariff changes also threaten to disrupt and artificially create an unlevel playing field between those auction sales houses based in the EU, most notably in Ireland and France, and non EU countries such as the neighbouring UK where the tariffs are currently set to be lower.

Our concern is also that the EU's proposed increase in tariffs on imports of horses from the US will lead to ensuing reciprocal tariff increases and a significant increase in costs and decrease in trade both ways across the Atlantic. Many thoroughbred and sports horse breeders are small farmer breeders, and this high-value product is an important part of their revenue stream. Larger commercial breeders are world leaders due to international demand for their elite horses.

Export to the US of elite horses and thoroughbred bloodstock also has critical long term strategic importance as it influences and contributes to international stallion, breeding and sporting rankings, therefore underpinning the whole EU horse breeding sector.



European Equestrian Federation (EEF) • Belgicastraat 9, Box 2 • 1930 Zaventem • BELGIUM

The current list does not seem to cover other equine industry related products (such as equipment, breeding semen...) which is important to be maintained as such, but to ensure EU awareness in these negotiation times, we ask for the same reason as above to not risk reciprocity which would be very detrimental for EU businesses.

In general, we would support an EU approach which values exemptions on selected products from additional taxations, on the basis they are "unique" and "non-competitive", because the US does have any same products of its own that will have competition from these European products. It would also be of first interest from the US to exempt those products to not affect too drastically the supply from its own US stakeholders very much dependent, nearly exclusively, on EU products.

The coming LA2028 Games might also be used in the negotiation as US sports need services, equipment, horses... from EU. If US buyers have to pay tariffs, then horses, equipment and services will be much more expensive for them than for the rest of the world and, thus, the US will have a competitive financial and sporting disadvantage.

We support the Commission's rational and constructive approach in trying to work through trade issues with the US to reach a deal avoiding protectionism and would encourage rules-based economic order to be upheld as a priority and a de-escalation of reciprocal tariff rises to avoid a damaging increase in the unlevel playing which would develop between EU members and other countries.

Some key examples of export of EU racing and sports horses to the US include:

- In 2024 imports to the US totaled 650 million euros and 8500 horses coming from EU and UK, 560 millions euros and 7100 horses from EU exclusively. (Source: Economic and Social Observatory for the Horse (OESC) – French Institute for Horse and Riding (IFCE))
- Irish thoroughbred 2022 figures to US buyers represented a 55% increase over five years, with the US the second largest market for Irish racehorse ownership behind the UK.
- In Germany, at the recent 2024 Hanoverian Studbook auction US buyers accounted for over half of the total sales revenue of 435,000 euros for licensed jumping stallions.
- Recent winners of top-tier international (Group 1) thoroughbred races in the US include Excellent Truth (IRE) - sold at the top French auction horse ARQANA for 1 600 000 euros.

The European Horse Network (EHN) is a non-profit network of stakeholders acting at a World-European-, National- or Regional-level within the European horse, pony, donkey and welfare sector. The welfare of equines is paramount for EHN.

<https://www.europeanhorsenetwork.eu/>

The European Equestrian Federation (EEF) strategic vision is to secure and sustain the "social licence" for equestrianism – united across Europe – with the horse as our partner in sport and life.



European Equestrian Federation (EEF) • Belgicastraat 9, Box 2 • 1930 Zaventem • BELGIUM

EEF main objectives are to deal with all questions relating to European Equestrianism, to promote Equestrian sport in a spirit of unity, solidarity, understanding and fair play, to safeguard the values of European Equestrianism, promote and protect ethical standards and good governance in European Equestrianism, maintain relations with all stakeholders involved in European Equestrianism, and support and safeguard its members for the overall well-being.

<https://www.euroequestrian.eu/en/Home/>

EUROPEAN EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION (EEF)

Belgicastraat 9, Box 2
1930 Zaventem
BELGIUM
+32 2 307 55 29
info@euroequestrian.eu
www.euroequestrian.eu