

USA Tariffs



U.S. Tariffs – Implications for Italian Businesses

Context

On April 2, 2025, President Donald Trump issued an executive order to introduce new tariffs on imports, aiming to counter trade practices deemed unfavorable to the United States and to reduce the trade deficit. These tariffs, applied to about 60 countries including the European Union, have been temporarily suspended for 90 days, providing an opportunity for negotiation with partners that have not adopted retaliatory measures. During the suspension period, a base tariff of 10% on all imports remains in effect.

Types of Tariffs

- A **base tariff of 10%** on all imports into the U.S., effective from April 5, 2025.
- **Specific tariffs**, effective from April 9, 2025, for countries listed in Annex I, with varying rates (e.g., China 34%, EU 20%, Japan 24%).

Exclusions

Some goods are excluded, including:

- Steel, aluminum, automobiles, and components already subject to Section 232 tariffs (25%).
- Copper, pharmaceutical products, semiconductors, wood items, critical minerals, and energy products.

Implications for Italian and European Businesses

Companies must carefully assess their supply chains, customs classification, and product origin to understand the impact of the tariffs. It is advisable to plan customs strategies and leverage special regimes to reduce costs, such as re-exportation.

Reference Regulations

- EU Regulation No. 952/2013 (Union Customs Code).
- U.S. Executive Order on Reciprocal Tariffs.