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# EU, U.S. officials continue trade talks

## Higher tariffs begin on steel, aluminum

Julia Payne and Leigh Thomas  
REUTERS

PARIS – Trade talks between the European Union and the United States are going in the right direction, the two sides’ top trade negotiators said on June 4, although the Europeans said the doubling of U.S. metals tariffs did not help with the negotiations.

The new tariffs on steel and aluminum imports kicked in on June 4, the same day President Donald Trump’s administration wants trading partners to make “best offers” to avoid other punishing import levies from taking effect in early July.

Meanwhile, in another sign of disruptions to global trade, concerns about the damage from China’s restrictions on critical mineral exports deepened, with some European auto parts plants suspending output and German carmaker BMW warning that its supplier network was affected by shortages of rare earths.

In terms of tariff talks, the 27-nation EU’s trade negotiator Maros Sefcovic said his meeting with U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer in Paris early on June 4 was constructive.

“We both concluded that we are advancing in the right direction, at pace,” Sefcovic told reporters after the meeting. Technical talks are ongoing in Washington, he said, and high-level contacts will follow.

“What makes me optimistic is I see the progress ... the discussions are now very concrete,” Sefcovic said. He stressed that he and Greer had agreed to restructure the focus of their trade talks, after having been “approaching it from different angles.”

Greer said the talks had been constructive, adding in a statement from his office that they demonstrated “a willingness by the EU to work with us to find a concrete way forward to achieve reciprocal trade.”

Late on June 3, Trump signed an executive proclamation that activates from June 4 a hike in the tariffs on imported steel and aluminum to 50% from the 25% rate introduced in March.

Separately, Trump said early on June 4 that Chinese President Xi Jinping is tough and “extremely hard to make a deal with,” exposing frictions after the White House raised expectations for a long-awaited phone call between the two leaders this week.

The increase in U.S. metals tariffs applies to all trading partners except Britain, the only country so far to strike a preliminary trade agreement with the United States during a 90-day pause on a wider array of Trump tariffs.

The increase in the levies jolted the market for both metals this week, especially for aluminum, which has seen price premiums more than double this year.

Sefcovic said he deeply regretted the doubling of the steel tariffs, stressing that the EU has the same challenge – overcapacity – as the United States on steel, and that they should work together on that.

Global forex, bond and stock markets took the latest tariffs in their stride, with many investors betting that the current levies may not last and that the president will back off from such extreme actions.

### ‘Best offer’ due date

June 4 is also when the White House expects trading partners to propose deals that might help them avoid President Donald Trump’s tariffs by June 4.

## Man arrested in CA clinic bombing probe

Natalie Neysa Alund  
USA TODAY

Authorities in New York have arrested a man who allegedly provided chemicals used in a bombing in May outside a fertility clinic in Palm Springs, California, federal officials announced June 4.

Daniel Park, 32, of Washington state, was arrested for allegedly providing or attempting to provide material support to a terrorist, U.S. Attorney Bilal A. Essayli announced during a joint news conference held by his office at the FBI’s Los Angeles field office.

The bombing suspect – who officials named the sole fatality in the explosion – was previously identified by the FBI as Guy Edward Bartkus of Southern California.

“We learned the bomber had help,” Essayli told reporters during the news conference.

U.S. Marshals arrested Park at the JFK International Airport in New York City overnight after he returned to the United States from Poland, according to information from Essayli and Ciaran McEvoy, spokesperson for the U.S. Attorney’s Office.

Park was expected to make his initial appearance on the charge in a Brooklyn court on June 4.

Officials said Park “shared his extremist ideologies” with Bartkus, and he is accused of shipping 270 pounds of ammonium nitrate in the days leading up to the attack in Southern California.

The chemical can be used as fertilizer or an explosive. Mixed with something flammable and exposed to flame, it can explode.

Timothy McVeigh used two tons of ammonium nitrate mixed with fuel oil to destroy the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, killing 168 people in 1995.

But it’s not a danger that exists in many places. That’s because the chemical, once a popular fertilizer, is rarely used now, USA TODAY reported in 2013.

Ammonium nitrate was the main suspected chemical in a Texas explosion that killed 14 people in April 2013. The explosion at West Fertilizer Co. also injured more than 200 and left at least 50 homes uninhabitable.

Officials said they do not believe Park was in Southern California on the day of the bombing, but they stressed the case remained open.



Workers process hake at a fishing company in Talcahuano, Chile, on May 20. The White House expected trading partners to propose deals that might help them avoid President Donald Trump’s tariffs by June 4. JUAN GONZALEZ/REUTERS FILE



EU trade commissioner Maros Sefcovic said he and his U.S. counterpart had agreed to restructure the focus of their trade talks. BENOIT TESSIER/REUTERS

avoid Trump’s hefty “reciprocal” tariffs on imports across the board from taking effect in five weeks.

U.S. officials have been in talks with several countries since Trump announced a pause on those tariffs on April 9, but so far only the U.K. deal has materialized, and even that pact is essentially a preliminary framework for more talks.

Also on June 4, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said that he was confident U.S. tariffs on U.K. steel would be reduced to zero within a “couple of weeks.”

Reuters reported on June 2 that Washington was asking countries to list their best proposals in such key areas as suggested tariffs and quotas for U.S. products and plans to remedy any non-tariff barriers.

In turn, the letter promises answers “within days” with an indication of a “landing zone,” including what tariff rates countries can expect after the 90-day pause ends on July 8.

At issue for most trading partners is whether they retain the current baseline rate of 10% on most exports

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Martin County Board of County Commissioners will conduct a public hearing on the following item:

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING DIVISION 4, WATERSIDE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, ARTICLE 10, SPECIAL DISTRICTS OF CHAPTER 71, FINANCE AND TAXATION, GENERAL ORDINANCES, MARTIN COUNTY CODE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 190.046, FLORIDA STATUTES; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTING PROVISIONS, SEVERABILITY, APPLICABILITY, FILING WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, EFFECTIVE DATE, AND CODIFICATION.**

**Public Hearing: Board of County Commissioners**

Date: Tuesday, June 17, 2025  
Time: 9 AM or as soon thereafter as the item may be heard

Place: Martin County Administrative Center, 2401 SE Monterey Road, Stuart, Florida 34996

All interested persons are invited to attend and be heard.

Persons with disabilities who need an accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding are entitled, at no cost, to the provision of certain assistance. This does not include transportation to and from the meeting. Please contact the Office of the ADA Coordinator at (772) 320-3131, or the Office of the County Administrator at (772) 288-5400, or in writing to 2401 SE Monterey Road, Stuart, FL, 34996, no later than three days before the hearing date. Persons using a TTY device, please call 711 Florida Relay Services.

If any person decides to appeal any decision made with respect to any matter considered at the meetings or hearings of any board, committee, agency, council, or advisory group, that person will need a record of the proceedings and, for such purpose, may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record should include the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

For further information, including copies of the original application documents or agenda item materials, please call the Growth Management Department at (772) 288-5495.

Prior to the public hearings, written comments should be sent to Paul Schilling, Growth Management Director, [pschilli@martin.fl.us](mailto:pschilli@martin.fl.us) or 2401 S.E. Monterey Road, Stuart, Florida 34996.

TR-41970944

to the United States after that date, or something possibly much higher.

A person familiar with the negotiations said the EU did not receive that letter.

### Havoc for businesses

Uncertainty around U.S. trade policy is creating havoc for businesses around the world.

On June 4, French spirits group Remy Cointreau abandoned its 2030 sales growth ambitions, saying tariffs, slow U.S. sales and high uncertainty could derail its plans for this financial year and beyond.

But its shares rose as much as 5% even after its warning, with analysts noting that tariff uncertainty was already taken into account.

Austrian specialty steelmaker Voestalpine also warned that tariffs were likely to dent its earnings.

“U.S. producers will try to find suppliers that are not affected by the tariffs. If they find one, the German supplier is probably out,” said German steel and metal processing association WSM, which represents around 5,000 companies.

“Nobody has the margins to absorb these bottomless tariffs,” said WSM Managing Director Christian Vietmeyer, adding: “The EU must therefore do everything it can to resolve this customs conflict.”

## ST. LUCIE COUNTY PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA

Thursday, June 19, 2025

The St. Lucie County Planning & Zoning Commission is scheduled to review and make recommendations regarding the following proposed Resolution:

### RESOLUTION

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY GRANTING A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO ALLOW A FARMERS' MARKET IN THE AG-1 (AGRICULTURAL-1) ZONING DISTRICT, AT 10485 ORANGE AVENUE, IN ST. LUCIE COUNTY, FL.**

**APPLICANT & PROPERTY OWNER:** Cheri G. Surloff, Trustee

**PURPOSE:** A Conditional Use Permit application to develop and operate a Farmers' Market in the AG-1 Zoning District.

**LOCATION:** 10485 Orange Avenue, Fort Pierce, FL 34951

**PROJECT:** Orange Ave. Growers' Market; CU-2409-000076

**PARCEL ID:** 2310-322-0002-000-1



The Planning and Zoning Commission **PUBLIC HEARING** on this item will be held in the Commission Chambers, Roger Poltras Annex, 3rd Floor, St. Lucie County Administration Building, 2300 Virginia Avenue, Fort Pierce, FL on **Thursday, June 19, 2025**, beginning at **6:00 pm** or as soon thereafter as possible.

All interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard. Written comments received in advance of the public hearing will also be considered. Written comments should be received by the Planning and Development Services Department - Planning Division at least 3 days prior to the hearing. The petition file is available for review at the Planning and Development Services Department - Planning Division, 2300 Virginia Ave., Fort Pierce, during regular business hours. Please call (772) 462-1562 or TDD (772)462-1428 if you have questions or require additional information.

The St. Lucie County Planning and Zoning Commission has the power to review and recommend to the Board of County Commissioners, for approval or disapproval, any applications within their area of responsibility.

The proceedings of the Planning and Zoning Commission are electronically recorded. **PURSUANT TO SECTION 286.0105, FLORIDA STATUTES**, if a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Planning and Zoning Commission with respect to any matter considered at a meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings. For such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Upon the request of any party to the proceeding, individuals testifying during a hearing will be sworn in. Any party to the proceeding will be granted an opportunity to cross-examine any individual testifying during a hearing upon request. If it becomes necessary, a public hearing may be continued to a date certain.

Anyone with a disability requiring accommodation to attend this meeting should contact the St. Lucie County Risk Manager at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting at (772)462-1546 or T.D.D. (772)462-1428.

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION/  
ST. LUCIE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
/S/Ryan Binner, Chairman  
**PUBLISH DATE: Thursday, June 5, 2025**

TR-41982029