



German American  
Chambers of Commerce  
Deutsch-Amerikanische  
Handelskammern

## GERMAN AMERICAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE RESPOND TO US TARIFFS

Statement by Caroll H. Neubauer,  
Chairman of the German American Chambers of Commerce



---

As we wrap up the first quarter of this year, it's evident that many of 2017's pivotal economic developments continue to unfold on a daily basis. So far, the economies of the US and Germany are experiencing sustained growth and low unemployment. There is also a lot of corporate optimism about the positive effects of US tax reform – an improved environment for investment, wage growth, etc. That is the good news.

There is, however, now also a deep concern in both political and financial circles within the US and abroad about President Donald Trump's proposed 25% tariff on steel imports and 10% tariff on aluminum imports. Such activities, quite rightly, raise fears of initiating trade wars with ping-pong retaliation that can very negatively impact both businesses and consumers worldwide.

There's acute anxiety on both sides of the Atlantic over what these tariffs could directly mean, for example, for the vital automotive industry. We should keep in mind that German companies, especially those in the auto industry, have invested heavily in the US - over \$300 billion and supporting nearly 700,000 US jobs. The tariffs could directly and indirectly put brakes on that.

There are no winners in trade wars. That's why dedicated negotiations and a true commitment to realistic compromise are imperative. Partners talk and find solutions, they do not pull out weapons against each other. Literally all of the companies that participated in the GACCs annual German American Business Outlook (GABO) in 2017 expect growth this year for their businesses in the US. Let's hope that optimism will not diminish due to isolationist economic policies...policies that could derail the prosperity the US, Europe and many other parts of the world have worked so hard to achieve.

We at the GACCs are committed to fostering the positive economic and cultural ties between the US and Germany. That includes promoting the interests of our members to ensure that their businesses thrive in the US. Among other things, we will do so by collaborating with public and private US institutions on issues such as apprenticeship programs, by curating valuable startup programs and by fostering industry cluster collaborations and transatlantic exchanges - all of which have been so effective in providing German companies with the strategic tools they need to thrive in the US.

Caroll H. Neubauer,  
Chairman of the German American Chambers of Commerce

---

## PRESS CLIPPINGS

### BBC

<http://www.bbc.com/news/business-43372534>

*The EU's trade commissioner has said the bloc "will stand up to the bullies" over protectionism as tensions continue over US tariffs on imported steel and aluminium imposed by President Trump.*

### BBC NEWS

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-43340203>

*German Chancellor Angela Merkel has called for the European Union to be exempted from new US tariffs on steel and aluminium imports.*

*"The best option would be [for the EU] to be excluded," she told business leaders gathered in Munich.*

### BLOOMBERG

[https://news.google.com/news/story/dOH0LKS4XmuOHOmYEad\\_b8uZq8kOM?ned=us&hl=en&gl=US](https://news.google.com/news/story/dOH0LKS4XmuOHOmYEad_b8uZq8kOM?ned=us&hl=en&gl=US)

*The European Union's trade chief dismissed U.S. President Donald Trump's threat to impose tariffs on car imports, and vowed to "stand up to bullies," adding to signs that a widening trans-Atlantic rift over protectionism could escalate into an all-out trade war.*

### BUSINESS STANDARD

[https://news.google.com/news/story/dOH0LKS4XmuOHOmYEad\\_b8uZq8kOM?ned=us&hl=en&gl=US](https://news.google.com/news/story/dOH0LKS4XmuOHOmYEad_b8uZq8kOM?ned=us&hl=en&gl=US)

*Germany denounced moves by President Donald Trump to impose tariffs on US metal imports, saying Europe needed a united response to the threat and echoing criticism from China that it risked undermining the global trade system.*

### C&EN –CHEMICAL & ENGINEERING NEWS

<https://cen.acs.org/articles/96/i11/Chemical-industry-slams-Trump-steel.html>

*The Trump administration's decision to impose tariffs on imported steel and aluminum is unpopular with many industries, including the chemical sector. The U.S. industry's leading trade group, the American Chemistry Council (ACC), is condemning the measure, saying it will hurt industry competitiveness.*

### CHICAGO TRIBUNE

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/business/ct-biz-trump-tariff-plan-20180308-story.html>

*Trump order tariffs on steel and aluminum, despite warnings of 'unintended consequences'*

### DAILY HERALD (Illinois)

<http://www.dailyherald.com/news/20180312/steel-tariffs-could-bring-higher-construction-prices-in-illinois>

*The construction industry is warning that tariffs on steel will cause construction costs to soar. The Illinois tollway, which uses steel for projects such as the Route 390 extension, said it factored rising costs of steel into construction estimates.*

### DER SPIEGEL

<http://www.spiegel.de/spiegel/donald-trump-ein-handelskrieg-gefaehrdet-deutschlands-wohlstand-a-1197534.html>

*Der US-Präsident macht Ernst. Sein Handelskrieg brüskiert Europäer und Chinesen - und bedroht das deutsche Geschäftsmodell.*

### DETROIT FREE PRESS

<http://freep.mi.newsmemory.com/publink.php?shareid=0e8649dc8>

*Combining aluminum and steel, when measured by total volume, Texas, California, Illinois, Michigan, Louisiana, Pennsylvania, Ohio and New York each import more than \$2 billion annually, together accounting for 60% of the nation's total. "If you're a company that uses steel, your costs just went up," said Charles Ballard, an economics professor at Michigan State University. "A lot of hardware you find at Lowe's or Home Depot will go up in price if steel goes up."*

### DEUTSCHE WELLE

<http://www.dw.com/en/trump-threatens-with-tariffs-on-european-cars-as-trade-war-looms/a-42927704>

*US President Donald Trump has once more attacked the EU over trade barriers and threatened to slap a tax on imports of European cars. His comments come amid fears of a trade war over new US steel and aluminum tariffs*

## **EURONEWS**

<http://www.euronews.com/2018/03/11/eu-and-japan-want-exemption-from-us-metal-import-tariffs>

*Following talks with the US and Japan's trade representatives in Brussels, the EU's trade commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom took to social media and said in a tweet: "there was "no immediate clarity" on how they could be excluded from the measures and that discussions would continue next week."*

## **FOX NEWS**

<http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2018/03/08/trump-trade-tariffs-will-hurt-americas-economy.html>

*Steel and aluminum are essential to the American economy – and we rely heavily on imports. The U.S. is the world's largest steel importer, getting the metal from more than 110 different countries. Our largest trading partners in steel are Canada, South Korea, Mexico, and Brazil, which together supply about half our needs and which are important partners in trading beyond metals.*

## **HANDELSBLATT**

<http://www.handelsblatt.com/my/unternehmen/industrie/handelsstreit-autoindustrie-will-trumps-mercedes-zoelle-stoppen/21057788.html>

*Donald Trump droht den deutschen Autobauern mit Strafzöllen. Der Lobby-Verband VDA wehrt sich mit aller Macht gegen die Vorwürfe des US-Präsidenten.*

## **HANDELSBLATT GLOBAL**

<https://global.handelsblatt.com/politics/trump-renews-threats-mercedes-bmw-897029>

*Donald Trump again threatened to impose tariffs on German car imports, seemingly ignoring the fact that the same companies are firmly ensconced in the US.*

## **HOUSTON CHRONICLE**

<https://www.houstonchronicle.com/business/columnists/tomlinson/article/Trump-tariffs-do-little-more-than-hurt-12741941.php>

*As expected, the final version of the president's order imposing tariffs on steel and aluminum imports is full of carve-outs for our allies and exemptions for U.S. companies to import the steel they need. Lobbyists will have a field day with this piece of Swiss cheese.*

## **PBS NEWS HOUR**

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/economy/trump-tariffs-may-imperil-a-delicate-global-economic-rebound>

*Over the past year, the major regions of the world finally shed the scars of a global financial crisis and grew in unison for the first time in a decade. Worldwide growth is expected to hit 3.9 percent this year — the best pace since 2011 — and the International Monetary Fund says most countries are sharing in the prosperity.*

## **POLITICO**

<https://www.politico.com/story/2018/03/11/trump-tariffs-trade-international-405685>

*The decision to slap hefty tariffs on imports of steel and aluminum, which the White House made formal on Thursday, has roiled international markets, angered longtime trading partners and prompted threats from the president's own party to stop the tariffs through legislation.*

## **REUTERS**

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/us-usa-trade-germany/germany-china-warn-trump-tariff-moves-threaten-global-trade-idUKKCN1GN0BQ>

*Germany denounced moves by President Donald Trump to impose tariffs on U.S. metal imports, saying Europe needed a united response to the threat and echoing criticism from China that it risked undermining the global trade system.*

## **THE NATION**

<https://nation.com.pk/12-Mar-2018/us-asks-eu-to-remove-trade-curbs>

*President Donald Trump renewed his demand that the European Union halts its trade barriers to US products in order to spare his allies new steel and aluminum tariffs.*

*The American president made his comments after crunch talks in Brussels between EU negotiators and US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer in an effort to defuse a bitter row that many fear could turn into an all-out trade war.*

### **The WASHINGTON POST**

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/us-eu-japan-trade-chiefs-to-meet-over-steel-tariffs/2018/03/10/705d8782-2442-11e8-946c-9420060cb7bd\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.944ec36a6b54](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/us-eu-japan-trade-chiefs-to-meet-over-steel-tariffs/2018/03/10/705d8782-2442-11e8-946c-9420060cb7bd_story.html?utm_term=.944ec36a6b54)

*The European Union and Japan pressed U.S. President Donald Trump's trade envoy Saturday to exempt them, as longtime U.S. allies, from upcoming steel tariffs that have sparked fears of a new trade war. But they appeared to win no quick concessions*

### **WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL**

[http://www.journalnow.com/business/steel-tariffs-could-create-winners-and-losers-among-n-c/article\\_856262cc-6e0b-5c61-84fc-903a28099994.html](http://www.journalnow.com/business/steel-tariffs-could-create-winners-and-losers-among-n-c/article_856262cc-6e0b-5c61-84fc-903a28099994.html)

*President Donald Trump's proposed tariff on steel and aluminum imports is threatening to create a divide between steel producers and steel purchasers, with two North Carolina corporations representing the opposing sides of the debate*

## **ASSOCIATION STATEMENTS**

### **DIHK**

<https://www.dihk.de/presse/meldungen/2018-03-08-wansleben-strafoelle>

*Angesichts des jüngsten handelspolitischen Alleingangs von US-Präsident Donald Trump hält Martin Wansleben, Hauptgeschäftsführer des Deutschen Industrie- und Handelskammertages (DIHK), WTO-konforme Gegenmaßnahmen mit Augenmaß für geboten.*

### **EUROPEAN UNION**

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-18-1781\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-1781_en.htm)

*They emphasised the strong concern of both the European Union and Japan at the announced measures. As long-standing security partners of the United States, they underlined to Ambassador Lighthizer their expectation that EU and Japanese exports to the US would be exempted from the application of higher tariffs.*

### **U.S. CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE**

<https://www.uschamber.com/press-release/us-chamber-s-donohue-comments-prospects-trade-war>

*"The U.S. Chamber is very concerned about the increasing prospects of a trade war, which would put at risk the economic momentum achieved through the administration's tax and regulatory reforms.*

### **VDA (Association of Automotive Manufacturers)**

<https://www.vda.de/en/press/press-releases/20180312-VDA-President-Bernhard-Mattes-comments-on-decision-by-US-President-Trump.html>

*Following the US president's decision to impose heavy import duties on steel and aluminum from countries outside NAFTA, Europe should act with determination, but also in careful consideration of the issues. Emotions will not get us anywhere – we need an objective debate. The yardstick is provided by the principles of the World Trade Organization (WTO), which are intended to ensure free and fair trade.*

---

# Contact

Nils Schaede  
*Director, Marketing & Communications*

**German American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest, Inc.**  
321 North Clark Street, Suite 1425 | Chicago, IL 60654  
Tel.: (312) 494-2169 | Fax: (312) 644-0738  
E-Mail: [schaede@gaccmidwest.org](mailto:schaede@gaccmidwest.org) | URL: [www.gaccmidwest.org](http://www.gaccmidwest.org)



---

STAY CONNECTED

