



International Market Access

U.S. Tariffs: The Swiss Economy Needs Legal Certainty

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At a glance

- In a statement, the Federal Council intends to implement further elements of the Joint Statement agreed upon with the United States. In return, the Federal Council expects the U.S. to comply with these provisions.
- The declaration is a further step toward stabilizing bilateral trade relations.
- For the Swiss export sector, it remains crucial that the Joint Statement be adhered to and that a maximum tariff rate of 15 percent be achieved.

As part of the economic and scientific mission to the United States, Swiss President Guy Parmelin presented a statement to U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer. In it the Federal Council reaffirms its commitment to implementing further elements of the Joint Statement concluded with U.S. authorities last November. Specifically, this concerns the simplified recognition of U.S. standards in the areas of conformity assessment bodies, medical devices, and passenger cars, as well as public procurement. In return, the Federal Council expects the U.S. to comply with the points set forth in the Joint Statement.

Another step forward, but concrete results and legal certainty are needed

From *economiesuisse*'s perspective, the Federal Council's statement represents another step toward stabilizing bilateral relations between Switzerland and the United States. However, it remains essential that talks with the U.S. administration now proceed swiftly. The goal must be to remove existing trade barriers and sustainably improve the operating environment for Swiss companies. For the Swiss export sector, it remains crucial that the Joint Statement be upheld and that a maximum tariff rate of 15 percent be achieved. It is encouraging that negotiations on a binding trade agreement are continuing.

Section 301 – Investigations Remain a Source of Uncertainty

Substantial uncertainties continue to surround the Swiss export sector. These stem in particular from the ongoing investigations by the U.S. administration under Section 301. Allegations have been raised regarding insufficient measures regarding imports from forced labor as well as industrial overcapacity. These proceedings will continue until July 23 and carry the risk of additional trade policy measures.

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