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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Council and Commission statements

pursuant to Rule 37(2) of the Rules of Procedure

by Pat the Cope Gallagher

on behalf of the UEN Group

on US tariffs on steel imports

European Parliament resolution on US tariffs on steel imports

The European Parliament,

1. Deplores the US decision to impose extraordinary and inappropriate tariffs of up to 30% on steel imports, namely at the start of the Doha trade round and mainly targeting imports from the EU while exempting countries such as Canada, Mexico and Brazil;
2. Points to the lengthy process of restructuring and reorganisation, involving the loss of tens of thousands of jobs, which the EU steel industry has, with its particular efforts, successfully undergone;
3. Underlines that during previous discussions the US did not deliver any proof of dumping by EU steel producers and did not react to proposals to help the US steel industry to overcome its problems, which are caused to a great extent by the structures of their health and pension systems and not by imports;
4. Emphasises that these tariffs are contrary to WTO rules as they do not meet the requirements of the WTO safeguards agreements;
5. Calls on the Commission to report back as soon as possible on the possibilities of provisional appropriate measures in order to balance this illegitimate behaviour of the US administration;
6. Considers that the Council and the Member States individually therefore have the right, as long as the US authorities unilaterally decide such measures, and as long as the WTO is unable to force the US to respect its rules, to reconsider their global commercial relations with Washington;
7. Fears that these measures do not help the search for an internationally agreed solution at OECD level to solve problems of overcapacity and state subsidies; calls on the OECD high level group on steel issues and its working groups to address these issues at their next meeting;
8. Calls on the Commission to continue bilateral talks with the US towards an amicable solution; underlines the common responsibility for free and fair trade within the multilateral trading system and points to the fact that a transatlantic trade war would not benefit either the EU or the US and would be a significant blow to the multilateral trading system;
9. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission.