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Trump Gives E.U. a July 4 Tariff Deadline

The president warned of higher duties on European exports if the bloc does not approve a trade framework by Independence Day

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President Donald Trump said Thursday that the European Union has until July 4 to approve last year’s trade framework with the United States or face higher tariffs on its exports, a move that could raise costs for imported wine and other goods and deepen tensions between Washington and Brussels.

Trump made the warning as his administration pressed the bloc to finalize the deal reached last year, which was meant to ease trade friction and set terms for a broader economic relationship. Instead, the president said the EU had not moved quickly enough and that the United States would respond with steeper import duties if the agreement was not approved by Independence Day.

The threat comes at a sensitive moment for European exporters, including wine producers in France, Italy and Spain, who rely heavily on the American market. Higher tariffs could force importers to raise prices, squeeze distributors' margins and complicate shipping plans for the summer and fall selling seasons. For restaurants, retailers and consumers in the United States, that could mean higher prices on bottles from Europe at a time when inflation remains a concern.

The EU has long argued that tariffs hurt both sides by raising costs and disrupting supply chains. European officials have also warned that retaliatory measures can quickly spread beyond the original target, affecting agricultural products, spirits, packaged foods and industrial goods. Wine has often been caught in the middle of those disputes because it is both a major export for Europe and a visible import category in the United States.

Trump has repeatedly used tariff threats as leverage in trade negotiations, saying they are necessary to protect American workers and pressure foreign governments into concessions. His latest deadline adds urgency to talks that have already stretched over months and signals that his administration is prepared to escalate if it does not get what it wants.

The July 4 date gives negotiators a narrow window to avoid another round of trade conflict between two of the world's largest economies. If no agreement is approved by then, higher tariffs could take effect on a wide range of European goods entering the United States, with wine among the products most likely to feel the impact first.