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European Commission warns United States over possible tariffs on wine imports amid escalating trade tensions

Brussels signals readiness to defend European wine sector and activate support measures if US imposes steep new duties

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The European Commission has issued a strong warning to the United States regarding possible new tariffs on European wine. On Tuesday, May 6, Christophe Hansen, the European Commissioner for Agriculture, stated that the EU will do everything necessary to protect its wine sector if the U.S. administration under Donald Trump follows through on threats to impose tariffs of up to 200% on European wines.

Hansen made these remarks in a written response to a question from the Spanish delegation of the Partido Popular in the European Parliament. The question urged Brussels to take firm action to defend the interests of European wine producers. In his reply, Hansen emphasized that the European Union will not hesitate to defend the legitimate interests and rights of its businesses and citizens.

The commissioner pointed out that the European Commission has exceptional measures available to address market disruptions and can implement them quickly if needed. He also referred to a package of measures introduced in March aimed at supporting the wine sector. This package includes several provisions designed to help producers cope with challenges such as declining consumption trends and changes in global markets.

According to Hansen, these measures provide greater flexibility in managing strategic tools, improve competitiveness, and strengthen the sector’s ability to adapt to shifting demand. They also facilitate the functioning of the internal market and offer longer-term support for consolidating export markets.

The warning from Brussels comes amid ongoing trade tensions between the United States and Europe. The threat of new tariffs on wine is part of a broader pattern of disputes over trade policy between Washington and Brussels. The U.S. has previously targeted European agricultural products with tariffs in response to disagreements over subsidies and other issues.

European wine producers are particularly concerned about the potential impact of steep tariffs on their exports to the U.S., which is one of their largest markets outside Europe. Industry representatives warn that such measures could cause significant financial harm, disrupt established trade relationships, and lead to job losses across wine-producing regions.

The European Commission’s statement signals its readiness to respond swiftly if new tariffs are imposed. Officials in Brussels are closely monitoring developments in Washington and are prepared to activate support mechanisms for affected producers if necessary.

The situation remains uncertain as both sides await further decisions from the U.S. administration. For now, European authorities are making it clear that they will not stand by if their wine industry comes under threat from new American trade barriers.