



ALERT: Trump Extends Tariff Exemptions

Last night, President Donald Trump extended by one month a temporary exemption from steel and aluminum tariffs for Canada, Mexico and the European Union (EU). The tariffs had been set to take effect at 12:01am Tuesday if Trump had not moved to extend the deadline.

The move gives three of the four major U.S. trade allies until June 1 to reach some sort of deal with the Trump administration to avoid duties of 25 percent on steel and 10 percent on aluminum exports sent to the United States. The White House made it clear that this will be the final extension and countries should be prepared to negotiate quotas rather than full exemptions. "In all of these negotiations, the administration is focused on quotas that will restrain imports, prevent transshipment, and protect the national security," the White House said in a statement.

In response, the EU slammed the administration's decision claiming that they are not responsible for the overcapacity of steel and aluminum. "On the contrary, the EU has over the past months engaged at all possible levels with the U.S. and other partners to find a solution to this issue," the European Commission said in a statement.

Last month, the PMANA and the Fashion Jewelry and Accessories Trade Association (FJATA) sent a joint letter to Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross and United States Trade Representative (USTR) Robert Lighthizer warning them of the EU's plan to target U.S. precious metals if tariffs were set in place. The two groups urged the White House to remove the threat of tariffs on the EU, and instead band together with our trading partners to put pressure on countries that egregiously place barriers on fair and open trade.

####