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ET DES FINANCES

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Joint press release from the Minister for Europe and foreign affairs and Minister for the Economy and Finance

The French government takes note of the decision announced by the American authorities concerning the renewed 1 month temporary exemption from aluminium and steel tariffs on the EU. We support the positions expressed by the European Commission.

France will continue to advocate that the EU should be granted a full, permanent and unconditional exemption. There are no reasons which can justify that the EU be subject to a unilateral increase in tariffs on steel and aluminium. France and the European Union are allies of the USA. We are not at the source of the global overcapacity in aluminium and steel and we fully respect all WTO rules.

The EU must continue to stand together united as it has done so in recent weeks.

We agree that there is a problem of overcapacity in steel and aluminium. We are ready to work with the USA and other partners to deal with those issues, and to develop fast and appropriate solutions. But we can only do so serenely when we are certain that we will be excluded from a unilateral increase in tariffs on a permanent basis.

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