

Fact sheet on Boeing and Airbus WTO disputes – May 2019

Boeing dispute

- In 2004, the EU launched a dispute at the World Trade Organization (WTO) challenging US federal, state and local subsidies to Boeing.
- The WTO's Dispute Settlement Body adopted a report on 11 April 2019 which confirms that the US has not taken appropriate action to comply with WTO rules on subsidies.
- Following this report, the EU has prepared a list of products on which it is considering imposing additional tariffs against the US in retaliation for the US compliance failures in the Boeing WTO dispute.
- The list of products on which the European Commission is considering applying additional tariffs can be found [here](#). The EU cannot apply tariffs immediately and will wait for the outcome of arbitration proceedings (taking around a year) before imposing tariffs. This is consistent with the established rules of the World Trade Organization governing retaliation following a WTO dispute.
- The EU is running a public consultation to assess the impacts of the proposed additional tariffs and business stakeholders are invited to share their views by 31 May 2019. To respond to the consultation, go to the [Commission website](#).

Airbus dispute

- A parallel WTO dispute was launched by the US against the EU in 2004 challenging support provided to Airbus by France, Germany, Spain and the UK.
- In April this year, the US published a list of products on which the US is considering imposing additional tariffs against the EU as a result of the Airbus dispute. The preliminary list of products can be found [here](#).
- Together with its European partners, the UK has complied fully with WTO rulings regarding its support to Airbus. The Department for International Trade will continue to work closely with the EU to challenge the US's right to impose any tariffs on the UK and its partners.

UK position

- A negotiated settlement to the Airbus and Boeing disputes remains the UK's preferred outcome. Both the EU and the US have said that their preference is for a negotiated solution to the disputes. The Department for International Trade will continue to work closely with the European Commission and EU Member States to help to bring an end to the disputes and avoid the imposition of retaliatory tariffs.

Responding to the EU consultation

- We encourage stakeholders to feed in comments directly to the European Commission on the products proposed by the EU for additional tariffs. The UK will also make representations to the Commission through its own response as a Member State and we would welcome your views. To share your consultation response with the Department for International Trade or to ask a question, please email: trade.disputes@trade.gov.uk.