

EU-U.S. tortuous trade talks

EU governments are struggling to reach consensus on a mandate to begin trade talks with the U.S., risking a delay that would further provoke President Trump to hit the bloc with steep auto tariffs

2016

2016: Obama-era *Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)* talks stall amid fears agriculture deal with Washington would undermine EU food and health standards



2017

January 2017: U.S. President *Donald Trump* (top) takes office. TTIP talks shelved

April: *Wilbur Ross* (far right), Trump's top trade official, hosts, EU's trade commissioner, *Cecilia Malmström* (right), to discuss TTIP and reduction of \$151 billion trade deficit in goods with EU



2018

June 2018: Trump administration hits EU with tariffs of 25% on steel, 10% on aluminium, plus tariffs on Spanish olives. EU retaliates with tariffs on €2.8 billion (\$3.3bn) of U.S. goods

July: European Commission President *Jean-Claude Juncker* (right) meets Trump – they agree to hold free trade talks and suspend threat of 25% U.S. levy on EU automobiles



EU-U.S. automobile trade (2018)

EU to U.S.

€37.3bn



U.S. to EU

€5.5bn

2019

January 2019: U.S. insists talks must include agriculture

February 17: Ross sends "Section 232" national security report to White House, justifying steep tariffs on imported cars and auto parts. Trump has 90 days to decide whether to act

March 7: Malmström calls for politically sensitive agricultural products to be omitted from talks

March 14: European Parliament votes against backing launch of EU-U.S. trade talks. **Parliament can veto any deal negotiated by European Commission**