



International Chamber of Shipping (China) Liaison Office

國際航運公會中國辦事處

Add: 12/F, Queen's Centre, 58 Queen's Road East, Wanchai, Hong Kong

Tel: 852 2520-0206 Fax: 852 2529-8246 Email: edward.liu@ics-shipping.org

Chinese stakeholders' responses to USTR's Final Section 301 Determination related to Chinese shipbuilding

Ministry of Commerce:

https://www.mofcom.gov.cn/xwfb/xwfyrtth/art/2025/art_d396d29a615a49c28a64ffca9054ff6d.html

Free English translation

MOFCOM Spokesperson Responds to U.S. Final Measures on China's Maritime, Logistics, and Shipbuilding Sectors

Question: On April 17, the Office of the United States Trade Representative announced the final measures under its Section 301 investigation targeting China's maritime, logistics, and shipbuilding sectors. What is the Ministry of Commerce's response?

Answer:

China has taken note that on April 17 (U.S. Eastern Time), the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) announced its final measures under the Section 301 investigation targeting China's maritime, logistics, and shipbuilding sectors.

Over the past year, China has repeatedly stated its position on this matter and has submitted non-papers outlining its views. We have urged the U.S. to base its actions on objective facts, correct its erroneous practices, and stop shifting the blame for its own industrial development challenges onto China.

At a recent U.S. hearing on this issue, the vast majority of industry representatives from around the world expressed opposition to the proposed measures. There has also been considerable domestic opposition within the United States. Nevertheless, the U.S. has chosen to ignore these voices and proceeded unilaterally with the imposition of restrictive measures. China expresses strong dissatisfaction and firm opposition to this.

These actions by the U.S. fully expose the unilateralist and protectionist nature of its policies. They represent a typical non-market approach, are clearly discriminatory, and severely infringe on the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese enterprises. They also significantly disrupt the stability of global industrial and supply chains, violate the rules of the World Trade Organization (WTO), and undermine the rules-based multilateral trading system and international economic and trade order.

China urges the United States to respect facts and multilateral trade rules, adhere to the principles of market economy and fair competition, and cease shifting blame onto others. We call on the U.S. to correct its wrongdoings as soon as possible.

China will continue to closely monitor developments and will take all necessary measures to firmly safeguard its legitimate rights and interests.

Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China

April 18, 2025

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/web/fyrbt_673021/jzhsl_673025/202504/t20250418_11596848.shtml

Free English translation

Bloomberg Reporter: The Trump administration announced last night that it will impose additional fees on ships built or operated by Chinese entities that dock at U.S. ports. What is the Foreign Ministry's response?

Spokesperson Lin Jian:

We have previously stated our position on this issue on multiple occasions. I would like to reiterate that imposing port fees or additional tariffs on cargo handling equipment is detrimental to all parties. Such measures will drive up global shipping costs, disrupt the stability of global industrial and supply chains, increase inflationary pressure in the United States, and harm the interests of American consumers and businesses. Ultimately, they will fail to revive the U.S. shipbuilding industry.

We urge the U.S. to respect facts and abide by multilateral trade rules, and to immediately cease its erroneous practices. China will take all necessary measures to firmly safeguard its legitimate rights and interests.

Hong Kong SAR Government:

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202504/18/P2025041800610.htm?fontSize=1>

HKSAR Government strongly opposes US imposition of port fees on Chinese-owned, operated, or built vessels

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government strongly opposes and expresses grave dissatisfaction towards the United States (US) authorities' imposition of port fees on vessels owned, operated, or built by Chinese companies and other relevant measures.

A spokesperson for the HKSAR Government said, "Under the unique institutional strengths of 'one country, two systems', Hong Kong, as a globally renowned international maritime centre, has long been providing a free and open, level-playing and efficient, as well as a well-regulated

business environment for shipping enterprises worldwide to operate. The US measures are blatantly discriminatory, deliberately dividing the international maritime community and undermining the spirit of solidarity and co-operation built over the years. Such actions fall short of the basic standards of international conduct."

The HKSAR Government condemns such bullying acts. Hong Kong will continue to uphold the spirit of openness and co-operation, working with global maritime partners to safeguard free trade principles and promote the healthy development of the international shipping industry. The spokesperson emphasised that only by adhering to fairness and justice, mutual benefit, and win-win co-operation can the common interests of the global maritime community be truly protected.

Ends/Friday, April 18, 2025

Issued at HKT 22:32

China Shipowners' Association:

<https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/ejxPDB1T-MT-9LYzM3F0yA>

Free English translation

Solemn Statement by the China Shipowners' Association on U.S. Restrictions Targeting China's Maritime, Logistics, and Shipbuilding Sectors

On April 17, 2025 (local time), the Office of the United States Trade Representative announced Section 301 measures targeting China's maritime, logistics, and shipbuilding sectors. These measures are significantly discriminatory, seriously violate international trade rules and the bilateral maritime agreement between China and the United States, and represent a textbook case of unilateralism and protectionism.

The China Shipowners' Association, on behalf of all Chinese shipowners, strongly opposes and firmly protests these measures. We categorically reject the U.S. accusations, which are based on erroneous facts and prejudice, and condemn the abuse of trade protectionist tools that disrupt the order of the global shipping market.

The rapid growth of China's international shipping industry is a product of global trade expansion and supply-demand dynamics. It is the result of adherence to market principles and international norms, as well as a commitment to fair competition and greater openness. China has never adopted discriminatory policies. Chinese shipowners strictly comply with international trade rules and have provided robust support for the efficient operation of global supply chains, offering stable and reliable logistics services to trading nations, including the United States.

The U.S. assertion that Chinese companies' competitiveness derives from so-called "unfair policies" disregards the historical and factual development of the global shipbuilding and shipping industries since World War II, and entirely overlooks the efforts of China's maritime sector in technological innovation, cost control, and service quality.

The U.S.'s unilateral actions seriously undermine international trade rules and severely disrupt the global shipping market, driving up logistics costs and ultimately harming the interests of U.S. shippers, importers and exporters, and consumers around the world. The abuse of trade protectionist tools is bound to backfire. Such short-sighted policies will not resolve the structural issues of U.S. domestic industries and will instead damage the U.S. economy and consumer interests.

The China Shipowners' Association strongly urges the U.S. to halt politically motivated investigations and actions, revoke all discriminatory measures, and genuinely respect international trade rules and market principles. It must cease inflicting further harm on the normal development of the global maritime, logistics, and shipbuilding industries.

The China Shipowners' Association will continue to represent all Chinese shipowners, uphold an attitude of openness and cooperation, and actively engage in dialogue with all stakeholders, including the United States. We remain committed to aligning with the development trends of international shipping and jointly safeguarding the sustainable and prosperous development of global economic and trade systems.

China Shipowners' Association

April 18, 2025

China Association of the National Shipbuilding Industry

<https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/H4HA8rDGhnJihD45oLqZHA>

Free English translation

In response to the announcement issued by the Office of the United States Trade Representative on April 17 concerning restrictive measures against China's maritime, logistics, and shipbuilding sectors, the China Association of the National Shipbuilding Industry (CANSI) expresses its deep indignation and firm opposition.

The U.S. measures—based on false accusations and a distorted investigation—constitute an unjustified suppression of China's shipbuilding industry. This is a blatant violation of international trade rules and a serious disruption to the coordinated development of the global maritime industry. China's shipbuilding industry has always adhered to the principles of openness, fair competition, and mutual benefit. It strictly complies with international conventions, technical standards, and market-based norms. Through continuous innovation and efficient cooperation, Chinese shipbuilders have earned the trust of shipowners around the world.

The decline of the U.S. shipbuilding industry is the result of its own protectionist policies and has no connection with China. Imposing restrictions on China's shipbuilding sector will inevitably disrupt the global maritime industrial system. Such actions will not help revive U.S. shipbuilding; on the contrary, they are likely to cause a sharp rise in international shipping costs, further exacerbate domestic inflation in the United States, and harm the basic livelihood of the American people.

In the face of this baseless and arbitrary suppression, we call on all members of the global shipbuilding community to stand in solidarity. We urge our peers to work hand in hand with sincere partners, both at home and abroad, to contribute strength and stability to the sustainable and healthy development of the global maritime industry.

We further call on the international maritime community to jointly resist this short-sighted unilateral action by the U.S. and to uphold a fair and equitable market environment.

We are confident that the Chinese government will take strong countermeasures to safeguard the development interests of China's shipbuilding industry. The Chinese shipbuilding sector is fully capable and well-prepared to face any risks and challenges.

We will remain committed to the path of openness and cooperation, deepen technical collaboration and standards alignment with maritime partners worldwide, and contribute more Chinese solutions to the global transition toward green shipping.

We strongly urge the U.S. to immediately cease its erroneous actions and refrain from destabilising the global maritime industrial and supply chains for the sake of narrow self-interest.

China Association of the National Shipbuilding Industry

April 19, 2025

China Federation of Logistics & Purchasing

<http://www.chinawuliu.com.cn/lhhzq/202504/19/648902.shtml>

Statement Opposing U.S. Section 301 Measures Against China's Logistics, Maritime, and Shipbuilding Sectors

On April 17 local time, the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) announced its final measures under the Section 301 investigation targeting China's logistics, maritime, and shipbuilding sectors. These measures are clearly unilateral and protectionist in nature, posing a serious threat to the multilateral trading system and international trade rules.

The China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing (CFLP) hereby solemnly states its firm opposition to the U.S. restrictive measures imposed under the pretext of a Section 301 investigation. We urge the U.S. to respect market principles and multilateral trade rules, and to immediately correct its wrongful actions.

For a long time, logistics has served as a vital bridge in China-U.S. economic and trade exchanges and a key link in global economic integration. The U.S. actions gravely harm the interests of logistics providers, shipowners, cargo owners, importers, exporters, and consumers in both countries. They risk inflicting serious damage on China-U.S. trade relations, potentially driving up international logistics costs, destabilizing global industrial and supply chains, and threatening global economic growth.

Representing China's logistics, procurement, and supply chain sectors, the CFLP firmly opposes this protectionist approach taken by the U.S. government and fully supports all countermeasures taken by the Chinese government to safeguard national interests and the legitimate rights of Chinese enterprises.

We call on all our members and colleagues across the global logistics, procurement, and supply chain community to stand united and strengthen cooperation. Together, we must build a shared future of supply chain resilience, based on shared risk, shared benefits, and co-created value, to collectively confront the challenges posed by U.S. trade protectionism and uphold the stability and smooth operation of global supply chains.

Under the guidance of the Ministry of Commerce, the CFLP will actively reflect the voices of enterprises, facilitate communication channels domestically and internationally, and work closely with the industry to overcome current difficulties and resolutely support the high-quality development of China's economy.

China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing

April 19, 2025