

Beat: Politics

## PRESIDENT MACRON ANSWERS USPA ABOUT DISAGREEMENTS WITH TRUMP ABOUT CUSTOM TAXES

### ON FRENCH PRODUCTS

Paris, Washington DC, 05.12.2019, 18:19 Time

**USPA NEWS** - The US trade representative on Monday proposed taxes on few iconic French products including wine and cheese, in response to France's 3% tax on tech companies, also called GAFA Tax (Google, Amazon, Facebook, Apple) that was signed into law in July, during G7 in Biarritz, France. The day after, in reaction to this « unfair ” decision, announced by US President Trump, the Economy Finance minister Bruno Lemaire, said about these tariffs that it is « unacceptable and not worthy of an ally ». During NATO's Summit, 70th anniversary, gathering the leaders from the 29 countries, Presidents Trump and Macron, have exchanged bereft about the Tax issue, at a Joint press conference, held in London. President Trump said, "They're starting to tax other people's products, therefore we're going to tax them "" that's just taking place right now, in technology and we're doing their wines and everything else" .

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IF AMERICAN CUSTOMS TAXES TARGET FRENCH PRODUCTS EUROPE WOULD REACT AS SOON-----

QUESTION USPA : Mr President, as you have quoted several times, having "raised the ambiguities" during this NATO summit, you have also raised ambiguities with, one of the largest and most historic allies of France which is the USA and / or did you flatten the discussion with President Trump about the disagreements on the customs tax barriers between France and the USA?

ANSWER PRESIDENT MACRON -----

On the relationship and the exchanges with the President of the USA, we evoked a lot of subjects, you ask me about the economic topics, so we have always been clear and there has never been any ambiguity, on the part of the France and Europe and we think it's just having the Digital Tax, this is also a topic of consensus including within the OECD on relevance because you have companies of the digital economy that are competing with companies in the real economy and a tax differential that nothing justifies. On average, this differential is 14 points, it must be covered by an ad hoc tax system that corresponds to the reality of flows and the relative savings of the digital world. Our preference and our decision is to have an international tax based on the work of the OECD, as we have done to combat tax evasion. We had started work and worked, the American agreement was obtained in Biarritz (G7) on this point. And to say that the day this tax would be implemented French tax would be deductible from International Tax.-----

I see that there is a change in the United States, which I do not understand, I do not know what it was, I regret it nevertheless France has set up as we said, several months ago , a digital tax at the national level. As other countries have done or are doing, Italy the United Kingdom, Spain and other countries. And we did it on the basis of the EU proposals. The committee expressed itself very clearly yesterday to say "that it would support the French position and, if tariffs were to be applied, they would be considered as being applied to the whole of the EU, and would imply a response from this one (UE). And I think we will continue to advance on this subject of the Digital Tax, which is indispensable. -----

President Trump, as you saw yesterday, who said that calcifications and progress would be achieved in the coming weeks, and I welcome that. There are two types of progress, or we happen to have a Franco-American bilateral agreement such as procedure, which allows us to remove any ambiguity and avoid escalation, I wish it very deeply.-----

Either we arrive at a more international agreement and we will be able to re-engage a new dynamic within the OECD, which is another option that seems to me quite relevant too.-----

I do not have the answer on this, it is in the hands of our American friends, but we will continue to clarify and explain and progress on this matter." President Macron answered

**Article online:**

<https://www.uspa24.com/bericht-16216/president-macron-answers-uspa-about-disagreements-with-trump-about-custom-taxes.html>

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