



## France and EU ready to face off U.S. tariff threat

*December 04, 2019*

*U.S. President Donald Trump has threatened to hike up U.S. tariffs on French products at a NATO summit that marked a new low in U.S.-French relations. France and Brussels said they stood ready to retaliate if so.*

1-1. President Donald Trump has warned the United States \_\_\_\_\_

1-2. if the two countries failed \_\_\_\_\_

2-1. Trump's threat, while he was in London \_\_\_\_\_

2-2. was prompted by French plans \_\_\_\_\_

3-1.. A U.S. government investigation \_\_\_\_\_

3-2. like Amazon, Apple, Google and Facebook — \_\_\_\_\_

UNITED STATES PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP SAYING:

"I'm not going to let people take advantage of American companies because if anyone's going to take advantage of American companies it's going to be us, it's not going to be France. And so we're taxing, as you know, we're taxing their wines, and everything else and we have a very, very big tax to put on them."

4. Both France and Brussels said Tuesday \_\_\_\_\_

EUROPEAN COMMISSION SAYING:

"European Union will act and react as one."

5. This white-knuckle handshake \_\_\_\_\_

6. They're already at odds \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7-1. If imposed -- a decision that awaits \_\_\_\_\_

7-2. the new taxes would apply to French products \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8-1. Washington has already slapped \_\_\_\_\_

8-2. backed by the World Trade Organization — \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9-1. Trump also lashed out \_\_\_\_\_

9-2. singling out Germany

9-3. and Macron for - quote - 'nasty' comments \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### [Vocabulary]

**slap**: to add something as a punishment or an extra cost

- *The company was slapped with a fine for polluting.*

**duty**: a tax that you must pay on something, especially something that you bring into one country from another country

- *The duty on imported vodka has been raised.*

**dispute**: a disagreement or argument about something important

- *He had a dispute with his wife.*
- *a territorial dispute between rival gangs*

**trade dispute**: an economic dispute in which countries disagree over each other's import restrictions

- *Trade lawyers said that this was the first step in a process that could lead to a full trade dispute between the two countries. Times, Sunday Times (2008)*

- *The solution, as in any other trade dispute, is negotiation. Times, Sunday Times (2010)*

**tense**: feeling nervous and not relaxed, usually because you are worried about what is going to happen

- *The atmosphere in the courtroom was extremely tense.*
- *There was a tense silence as everyone waited for his reaction.*
- *She sounded tense on the phone, so something's going on.*

**NATO**: North Atlantic Treaty Organization: an organization of North American and European countries that provides military support for its members

- NATO troops/air strikes
- NATO air strikes

□ **summit**: a meeting of heads of governments; a meeting or series of meetings between leaders of two or more countries = summit meeting

- *a summit meeting on AIDS*
- *The summit will be held in Madrid in June.*

□ **prompt**: to cause something to happen or be done; to move to action

- *This revelation prompted the mayor's resignation.*
- *Curiosity prompted her to ask a few questions.*

□ **digital services tax**: On March 6, 2019, the French government released a proposal for a 3 percent tax on revenues generated by some companies from certain digital services (the DST). The two houses of the French parliament passed DST bills on April 9 and May 21, 2019 and agreed on a final bill on July 4. President Emmanuel Macron signed the bill into law on July 24. The DST imposes a 3 percent levy on gross revenues generated from providing “in France,” within the meaning of the law, two categories of digital services— “digital interface” services and “targeted advertising” services. The DST applies only to companies that generate, from providing the taxable services, €750 million globally and €25 million “in France.” The DST requires that covered companies calculate revenues attributable to France (and, therefore, covered by the DST) using formulas specified in the law. The DST applies beginning January 1, 2019.

□ **tech giant**: FAAMG: Facebook, Amazon, Apple, Microsoft, Google. The big five tech companies. First of all, the big five tech companies make up as much as 13% of the value of the whole S&P500 by market capitalization. Second, those are the the leading companies that bring sociocultural evolution at a big scale and drive social change at full speed.

- *The Chinese market is extremely important for the tech giant.*

□ **intensify**: if something intensifies, or if you intensify it, it becomes greater, stronger, or more extreme

- *More weapons arrived in the area, and fighting intensified soon afterward.*
- *Economic conditions intensified the pressure on industry to raise prices.*

□ **fester**: to cause increasing poisoning, irritation, or bitterness ; if a problem or unpleasant feeling festers, it becomes worse because no one has dealt with it

- *His resentment festered for years.*

□ **take advantage of**: to make good use of for one's own benefit

- *The rich always seem to take advantage of the poor.*
- *We hope that you will take advantage of this offer and send us your purchase order today.*

□ **tax**: to make someone pay a tax

- *'the income will be taxed at the top rate'*
- *Husbands and wives may be taxed jointly.*
- *Husbands and wives may be taxed separately.*

- **Brussels:** the capital city of Belgium, where the headquarters of the European Union is. People often use “Brussels” for referring to the government of the European Union.
- **stand ready:** to stand prepared
  - *We stand ready to sign any reasonable agreement that you produce.*
  - *Japan continues to stand ready to further contribute at all times to international peace and security.*
- **retaliate:** to do something harmful or unpleasant to someone because they have done something harmful or unpleasant to you
  - *Many students hurled firebombs and riot police retaliated with tear gas.*
  - *They say they will retaliate by halting American imports.*
- **white-knuckle:** marked by, causing, or experiencing tense nervousness
  - *All around the world theme parks compete to build the scariest white-knuckle rollercoaster rides of all.*
  - *It's a white-knuckle thrill ride and the best sightseeing trip on earth combined.*
- **white-knuckle handshake:**
- **low:** the lowest level, value, or price
  - *The euro fell to a new low against the dollar yesterday.*
  - *Stock prices hit an all-time low.*
- **testy:** easily annoyed and impatient
  - *I tend to get testy.*
  - *I get a little testy when I am so hungry.*
- **at odds:** in conflict
  - *They are at odds over the best way to lead the committee.*
  - *Mary is always at odds with her father about how late she can stay out.*
- **impose:** to give someone something unpleasant to deal with
  - *This new tax is imposing an unfair burden on employers.*
- **await:** if something awaits you, it will happen to you • The future awaits to be seen.
- **public hearing:** an official meeting where members of the public hear the facts about a planned road, building, etc. and give their opinions about it
  - *The city planning commission will hold a public hearing on the casino design next week.*
- **the World Trade Organization:** an international organization that controls trade between countries
- **illegal:** not allowed by the law; prohibited by law or by official or accepted rules
  - *illegal drugs such as heroin and cocaine*
  - *I was charged with illegal possession of firearms.*

□ **subsidy**: an amount of money that the government or another organization pays to help to reduce the cost of a product or service • The country's industry would not survive without government subsidies.

• *The workers asked for a rent subsidy from the company.*

□ **lash out**: to criticize someone or something angrily; to attack in speech or writing

• *She lashes out like that because she's lonely.*

• *They lashed out at the council's move to stop free parking.*

□ **single out**: to choose one person from a group for special attention; to select from a group

• *We singled him out from a thousand applicants.*

• *Who would you single out as the most promising student of the year?*

□ **defense spending**: the amount of financial resources dedicated by a state to raising and maintaining an armed forces or other methods essential for defense purposes.

□ **nasty**: unpleasant or upsetting; serious or dangerous

• *My phone bill came as a nasty shock.*

• *She said some very nasty things about him.*

□ **brain death**: a state in which someone's brain has stopped working, so that they are in fact dead

[参照辞書: Merriam-Webster, Oxford English Dictionary, America Heritage of the English language, Collins English Dictionary, Macmillan Dictionary, the Free Dictionary, Wikipedia]