

EU puts US trade deal on hold over Greenland row

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A TRADE DEAL between the US and the European Union (EU) is on hold after the European Parliament decided to freeze a ratification vote in response to President Donald Trump's escalating threats to seize Greenland.

The Parliament's trade committee postponed the vote indefinitely on Wednesday, casting doubt on whether the pact will ever get across the finish line.

The deal has been swept into the deepening crisis between the EU and US over Greenland, which has brought the trans-atlantic alliance to the brink of rupture. Trump is currently vowing to slap tariffs on several European countries until he is allowed to buy the

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BERND LANGE, CHAIR
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S
TRADE COMMITTEE

island, a Danish territory.

"By threatening the territorial integrity and sovereignty of an EU member state and by using tariffs as a coercive instrument, the US is undermining the stability and predictability of EU-US trade relations," said Bernd

Lange, chair of Parliament's trade committee, in a statement.

"We have been left with no alternative but to suspend work" on the trade deal, Lange added, "until the US decides to reengage on a path of cooperation rather than confrontation."

The tariff threat, which Trump made over the weekend, prompted EU lawmakers to reconsider their expected ratification vote on the US trade deal, which was struck with Washington last July. The agreement set a 15% tariff on most EU goods in exchange for a pledge to erase all tariffs on US industrial goods and some agricultural products. The pact was partially implemented but still needs Parliament's approval to be finalised.

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