
VON DER LEYEN RESPONDS TO DRAGHI AND DEFENDS THE EU-US TARIFF AGREEMENT

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By Gabriele Barbati & Andreas Rogal

Ursula von der Leyen has reiterated that the agreement on tariffs between the EU and the US was a 'conscious decision' that avoided a trade war.

The president of the European Commission intervened with an article on Sunday in several European newspapers, including the Italian *Il Sole 24 Ore* and the German *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, which indirectly provides a response to the criticism of the EU's "absence" on duties and wars made by former ECB chief and Italian PM Mario Draghi on Friday.

"Much has been written about this agreement, considerations that deserve a direct response," von der Leyen argued in the Italian newspaper, "imagine for a moment if the two largest economies in the democratic world had failed to reach an agreement and had started a trade war. This would have been celebrated only in Moscow and Beijing".

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