



Trump says no exemptions with metal tariffs to start in March



Donal Trump file pic

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Trump says no exemptions with metal tariffs to start in March. Leaders in Europe and Canada have said they will not let Donald Trump's plans to hit their steel and aluminium exports with tariffs go unchallenged. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said the move would trigger "firm and proportionate countermeasures" while Prime Minister Justin Trudeau also pledged to "stand up for" Canadian workers and businesses.

The comments came after the US president ordered a 25% import tax on all steel and aluminium entering the US, ending previous exemptions for allies including Canada and the EU and marking a major expansion of trade barriers.

Trump said he was "simplifying" the rules and the measures would boost domestic production. This is a big deal, the beginning of making America rich again," Trump said, signing the proclamation, which said the measures would come into force on 12 March. Our nation requires steel and aluminium to be made in America, not in foreign lands," he added. The US is the world's largest importer of steel, counting Canada, Canada alone accounted for more than 50% of aluminium imported into the US last year.

The tariffs will raise the cost of bringing the metals into the US, sparking concern among businesses in the US that rely on the imports and many world leaders because it will make it more expensive for companies to sell their products in the world's largest economy. If the tariffs come into force as outlined, they are expected to have the most significant impact on Canada.