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European Commissioner for Trade Maros Sefcovic said the U.S. trade deal does not include wine and spirits, adding that the door was not closed to tariff reductions for the sector and others not included in the deal. YVES HERMAN/REUTERS

## U.S., EU lock in trade deal lowering tariffs

### Auto tariff relief may be seen in weeks

Andrea Shalal and David Lawder  
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – The United States and the European Union on Aug. 21 locked in a framework trade deal reached last month that includes a 15% tariff on most EU imports, including autos, pharmaceuticals, semiconductors and lumber.

In a 3½-page joint statement, the two sides listed the commitments made, including the EU’s pledge to eliminate tariffs on all U.S. industrial goods and to provide preferential market access for a wide range of U.S. seafood and agricultural goods.

Washington will take steps to reduce the current 27.5% U.S. tariffs on cars and car parts, a huge burden for European carmakers, once Brussels introduces the legislation needed to enact promised tariff cuts on U.S. goods, it said.

President Donald Trump and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced the deal on July 27 at Trump’s luxury golf course in

Turnberry, Scotland, after an hourlong meeting that followed months of negotiations.

The two leaders met again Aug. 18 as part of negotiations aimed at ending Russia’s war in Ukraine, with both lauding their trade framework deal as an historic accomplishment. The statement said the deal could be expanded over time to cover additional areas and further improve market access.

A senior administration official, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly, said European carmakers could see relief from the current U.S. tariffs within “hopefully weeks.”

The joint statement was “a play to hold each other accountable” and ensure that both sides carried out the pledges announced last month, the official said.

The statement said U.S. tariff relief on autos and auto parts would kick in on the first day of the month in which the EU introduced the legislation, offering the prospect of retroactive relief for carmakers. It was not immediately

clear when Brussels would start the legislative process.

It reiterated the EU’s intention to procure \$750 billion in U.S. liquefied natural gas, oil and nuclear energy products, plus an additional \$40 billion of U.S.-made artificial intelligence chips.

It also repeated the intention for EU companies to invest an additional \$600 billion across U.S. strategic sectors through 2028.

The EU-U.S. trade deal does not include wine and spirits, European Union Trade Commissioner Maros Sefcovic said on Aug. 21, adding that the door was not closed to tariff reductions for the sector and others not included in the deal.

He made the comments after the European Union and the United States detailed commitments made in a deal reached last month that includes a 15% tariff on most imports from the bloc, including autos, pharmaceuticals, semiconductors and lumber.

“This one we didn’t get in. But I can tell you that there is clear commitment from the European Commission to put it on the table,” Sefcovic said, referring to wines and spirits.

## Black Moon offers good chance for stargazing

Hannah Hudnall  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The seasonal Black Moon will take to the skies this week for the first time in about 33 months, so be sure not to miss it.

Though it may not be visible to the naked eye, the Black Moon will offer an excellent opportunity for stargazing.

But when will it occur in Illinois? Here’s what we know.

### What is a Black Moon?

The Black Moon refers to the third New Moon in an astronomical season of four New Moons, according to timeanddate.com. It occurs as the moon shifts between the Earth and the sun.

### Can you see the Black Moon?

As a type of New Moon, the Black Moon lies between the Earth and the sun, with its unlit side facing us, so it won’t be visible. It also rises and sets around the same time as the sun, which means it’ll be too close to its bright glare to be seen.

You can only see the New Moon during a solar eclipse, but even then, you need protective eyewear to prevent permanent eye damage.

### When will the Black Moon occur?

The Black Moon will occur at 1:06 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 23 for those living in Illinois.

### Will skies be clear?

The weather will be mostly clear with a low around 63 degrees in central Illinois, and partly cloudy with a low around 67 in Chicago, according to the National Weather Service.

### Best spots to stargaze in Illinois

The Milky Way can best be viewed somewhere far away from bright city lights. Find a dark, safe spot out in the country where you can see more stars in the sky. State parks and campgrounds are your best bet for clear stargazing, in locations such as Campsite 26 at Apple River Canyon State Park and the Area 4 Parking Lot at Iroquois County State Wildlife Area.

A full list of the best stargazing spots in Illinois can be found on the Department of Natural Resources website.

For those in Chicago, stars will be more visible on the city lakefront, the Palos Preserves in Willow Springs and the 606 Trail at 1801 N. Ridgeway, according to a list compiled by the Adler Planetarium.

## Macomb High to host send-off for 661st Engineer Company

Abreanna Blose  
Reporter assisted by Al  
McDonough County Voice | USA TODAY NETWORK

A mobilization ceremony is planned for 10 a.m. Aug. 24 at Macomb High School. The event will honor about 155 soldiers from the 661st Engineer Con-

struction Company, according to a community announcement.

### Operation Spartan Shield

The unit, based in Macomb, will deploy to the U.S. Central Command area in support of Operation Spartan Shield.

During their deployment, the soldiers are expected to perform vertical and horizontal construction tasks.

After the ceremony, the unit will undergo additional processing and training at Fort Bliss, Texas.

The Illinois National Guard can be found on Facebook or X.

*This story was created by reporter Abreanna Blose, [ablose@gannett.com](mailto:ablose@gannett.com), with the assistance of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Journalists were involved in every step of the information gathering, review, editing and publishing process. Learn more at [cm.usatoday.com/ethical-conduct](https://cm.usatoday.com/ethical-conduct).*

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