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adv

Breaking news 4:39 PM

Marche, Ricci spent five hours with prosecutors. "I've answered everything, and I'm back campaigning."



Sondland: "Dear Europeans, be careful. If you don't respect the tariff agreement, Trump will strike again."
from our correspondent [Paolo Mastrolilli](#)



(reuters)

Interview with the former US ambassador to the EU: "If problems arise with products like agri-food, in a few months the president will knock on our door again with heavier tariffs."

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JULY 30, 2025, AT 1:08 AM

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NEW YORK – Gordon Sondland, US ambassador to the [European Union](#) during Donald Trump's first term, warns: " [Ursula von der Leyen](#) got the best deal possible, avoiding a trade war. Member states should hold their tongues and implement it, otherwise in a few months the president will hit them again with much heavier tariffs than 15%." As for the Italian prime minister, "Meloni has an excellent relationship with Trump, but this should not be confused with economic interests."

She must operate within the EU framework, without seeking separate agreements, because otherwise she would weaken herself and Brussels. You must understand one thing: we can be friends on a personal level, share values, fight wars together, but at the same time be enemies in business."

How do you rate the agreement?

Trump has been complaining about trade barriers for thirty years. He failed to break them down in his first term because he was preoccupied with other matters, such as the two impeachments, but now he's using the vast power of the American market to push friends and partners to reset economic relations.

Tariff talks between the US and China in Sweden conclude: "Truce to be extended, but Trump will decide."

from our correspondent [Paolo Mastrolilli](#)
July 30, 2025



Won't tariffs cause inflation in the US?

"A little, at first. Then producers and distributors will absorb them in their profit margins, and increased competition will relax the market."

The *Wall Street Journal* writes that Trump has not achieved much.

"I'm not surprised; some say he can't do anything right. But it's nonsense: it will close the trade deficit and rebalance trade with Europe. If the agreement isn't implemented, or problems arise with products like agri-food, within a few months he'll be knocking on your door again with much heavier tariffs. He follows an incremental logic: he starts with what he can achieve immediately and then expands. This agreement is just the beginning, if it doesn't satisfy him."

Governments' shield on tariffs and imports: "Let's save EU steel."

by [Raffaele Lorusso](#)
July 30, 2025



France and Germany criticized it as a surrender.

"The French complain about everything, even the sun because it rises in the East and sets in the West. The aim was to correct the imbalances in favor of the EU; by nature, it couldn't be balanced."

For von der Leyen, the result was to avoid a trade war.

"I know her well and I respect her. She's right; she made the best possible deal, given the circumstances. Europeans can always decide to turn to other markets, but we know they can't do without the US. So they must accept that from now on they'll play by some American rules, keep quiet, and implement the agreement."

Should Meloni seek bilateral agreements?

"Let's not confuse good relations, friendship, or shared values with trade disputes. They are very different things. We may have similar political views, fight the same wars, but be enemies in trade, argue, and then go to dinner."

Meloni said she wants to delve deeper into the details. If something goes wrong, from wine to pharmaceuticals, what should she do?

"I'm the last person who can give you advice. The EU has imposed many constraints by defining the statute. Trade agreements are negotiated in Brussels; it's not our fault. Therefore, the agreement must be implemented in detail, otherwise tariffs much higher than 15% will be imposed."

The European Union's defeat on tariffs

by **Tito Boeri**
July 30, 2025



And must Italy resign itself?

I believe Meloni should work within the EU framework, with the other members. If each country goes its own way, the Union will crumble, and the outcome will be worse. Trump and von der Leyen represented the interests of their voters. Nothing will ever be perfect, but the outcome is good enough for everyone.

Are you aiming to demolish the EU?

"No, that wasn't my mandate. When Trump says the EU was created to screw America, he's using hyperbole, but it's unacceptable that if Brussels pursues its priorities, it's exercising legitimate

interests, and if Washington does, it's a scandal."

Will the divisions that have emerged destroy the EU?

“The Union has a very bright future ahead of it, if it understands.”

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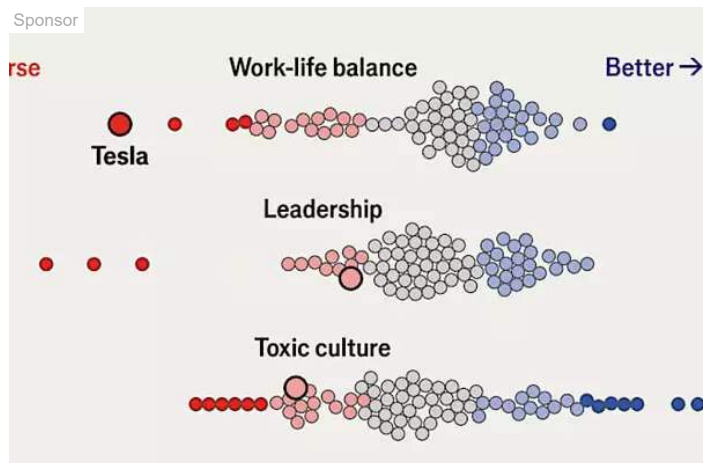


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