

Cape Town, South Africa, May 2 (Infosplusgabon) - South Africa's Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) has slammed the Trump administration's decision not to exempt it from taxes on its steel and aluminium exports to the United States.

Unlike the European Union, Mexico, South Korea, Australia, Argentina, Brazil and Canada, South Africa will join China, India and Russia in being forced to pay import duties of 10% on all aluminium imports and 25% on steel.

China has launched a dispute against the US steel and aluminium duties at the World Trade Organisation. It is uncertain whether South Africa will do the same.

The DTI said the US duties “are implemented in a way that contravenes some of the key WTO principles”.

“South Africa finds itself as collateral damage in the trade war of key global economies. South Africa is concerned by the unfairness of the measures and that it is one of the countries that are singled out as a contributor to US national security concerns when its exports of aluminium and steel products are not that significant,” it added.

South Africa is the largest producer of primary aluminium in the southern hemisphere.

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