

Press release

US Tariffs Hit European Instrument Makers

Brussels, Berlin, Roma, Madrid and Paris, 15th September 2025

European organisations representing instrument manufacturers and the musical instrument industry — **CSFI (France), CoMusica (Spain), DismaMusica (Italy), SOMM (Germany)**, united within the **EMIA** network, as well as **CAFIM**, the European association of musical instrument manufacturers — express their deep concern and dissatisfaction with the United States' introduction of 15% customs duties on European musical instruments.

The US market accounts for **46% of the global musical instrument market**, far ahead of the European market, which is capped at **30%** and remains sluggish. For European companies, these tariffs represent a major potential loss and a direct threat to their international competitiveness. And they directly threaten European jobs in the sector, estimated to number **between 30,000 and 35,000**.

Our companies - whether they are iconic manufacturers, innovative SMEs or artisan instrument makers - are already facing considerable challenges : difficulties in sourcing raw materials, increasing regulatory constraints, fragile domestic markets, etc. This new trade barrier further weakens their economic stability and directly threatens the **survival of thousands of skilled jobs that represent unique heritage expertise in Europe**.

Instrument making is not just an economic sector : it is at the heart of **European cultural heritage**, its artistic influence and its international appeal.

Preventing European instruments from accessing the American market not only weakens our businesses, but also deprives musicians around the world of benchmark instruments, shaped by centuries-old traditions and recognised excellence.

With this joint statement, EMIA and CAFIM are not only joining forces to raise awareness of the dramatic impact of US tariffs, but also laying the foundation for a stronger common voice of Europe's musical instrument industry. Both organisations are working intensively on establishing a future European umbrella association that will represent the sector with even greater unity and impact.

We solemnly call upon our governments and the European Union :

- **To act without delay to secure the exclusion of our sector from these customs measures**, in the same way as other cultural and emblematic European industries.
- **Strengthen the European internal market** so that it remains possible to produce and sell musical instruments in Europe, by supporting demand, ensuring a balance between online sales and sales in physical locations by craftsmen and specialist retailers, promoting local production, and encouraging musical practice at all ages.
- **Support instrument-making companies in their export activities** and ensure fair competition in an unstable international context.



Preserving the capacity to produce musical instruments in Europe means preserving an essential part of our culture, our economy and our common identity.

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Signatories:

- **EMIA – European Musical Instrument Alliance**, whose members include :
- CSFI – Chambre Syndicale de la Facture Instrumentale (France)
- CoMusica – Asociación Española de Fabricantes de Instrumentos Musicales (Spain)
- DismaMusica – Italian Association of Musical Instrument Manufacturers and Distributors (Italy)
- SOMM – Society Of Music Merchants (Germany)
- **CAFIM – Confederation of European Music Industries**, whose members include :
- BDHM - Der Bundesverband der deutschen Musikinstrumentenhersteller (Germany)
- AVHN - Association of Czech Music Industry (Czech Republic)