



Trump makes a veiled threat towards the WTO

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Entitled the *United States Fair and Reciprocal Tariff Act*, the bill would abandon two fundamental WTO rules, according to the outlet, which reported it had obtained a draft copy.

Moscow warned in May that it would retaliate against American products to the tune of almost US\$540 million, an amount it said was equivalent to the damage likely to be caused to its domestic industry by the USA moves. Time to switch tactics, ' Scaramucci tweeted.

The draft bill would reportedly give the president the power to ignore the global trade rules set by the World Trade Organization, according to a draft copy obtained by AXIOS. Trump has *already* attacked individual countries, raising 25% steel and 10% aluminum tariffs on Canada, Mexico, the European Union, and China. In 2017, acronym bill titles to emerge from the Capitol included the GROW Act, the EGO act (on oil paintings), and the CARE Act, according to just one count. "Principals have not even met to review any text of legislation on reciprocal trade".

China, Canada, Switzerland, Norway, Turkey, Costa Rica, Hong Kong, Venezuela, Singapore, Brazil, South Korea, Mexico, Qatar, Thailand and India all echoed the same concerns and said they doubted the US tariffs were in line with WTO rules. Weeks after introducing tariffs on steel and aluminium, he placed tariffs on a variety of goods from China, the European Union, India and several South American allies.

Russian Federation has joined five other countries and the European Union to become the latest country to take action through the World Trade Organization against the United States over the Trump administration's steel and aluminum duties.

The US has "a big disadvantage with the WTO".

White House spokeswoman Lindsay Walters told *Axios* that the bill was still far from becoming a reality.

Axios reported on Sunday that Trump, who has made fighting unfair trade rules a pillar of his presidency, has ordered that legislation be written stipulating a WTO withdrawal.

Last week, a source familiar with Mr Trump's thinking said that he has privately expressed a desire to quit the WTO, but that it was not a serious proposal.

White House trade adviser Peter Navarro, speaking on CNN on Saturday, deflected a question over whether the administration wanted to withdraw from the worldwide treaty, saying, "That's the president's decision".

Simon Lester, associate director of the Trade Policy Center at the Cato Institute, wrote on the International Economic Law and Policy Blog that "I'm not taking this too seriously".

"Right now, he'd like to see the system get fixed, and that's what he's focused on doing", Ms Sanders said.