# Starmer and Trump clinch partial US-UK trade deal amid Champions League semi-final



During a high-stakes football match between Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) and Arsenal, UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer was reportedly deep in conversation with US President Donald Trump about a significant new trade deal between the two nations. The football match—a semi-final in the prestigious Champions League—ended with PSG defeating Arsenal 2-1, a background marred by the urgent nature of the discussions. Starmer's momentary diversion from the game was noted, as he received a call from Trump halfway through, effectively waving off efforts from Downing Street officials to focus on sporting events instead of pressing diplomatic negotiations. Starmer, speaking to The Independent, conveyed his belief in maintaining positive and productive relationships in politics, stating, “For me, politics is about delivery and we have struck up a good relationship.”

Trump's recent emphasis on the US-UK trade deal marks a pivotal moment, as he claims it heralds the beginning of a series of international agreements aimed at revitalising economic ties strained by tariff systems. Since the imposition of reciprocal tariffs earlier in April, which included a 10% tariff on UK goods and steeper duties on steel and cars, the new agreement seeks to allay some of these tensions. The agreement has come as a relief to British industries, particularly those in automotive and metal sectors, which have faced challenges due to Trump's trade policy.

On May 8, 2025, Trump announced a 'full and comprehensive' trade agreement on his Truth Social platform, presenting it as a major milestone in the long-standing alliance between the UK and the US. British officials confirmed they were engaged in negotiations focused on enhancing national interests and economic renewal. However, while some sectors celebrated tariff reductions, there were lingering concerns, especially about agricultural standards and protections for UK farmers. As British lawmakers raised questions about the deal's adequacy, the focus remained on delivering tangible benefits in the face of ongoing economic uncertainty.

The newly reached trade agreement, while narrower in scope than originally hoped for, offers vital relief for several key sectors. Key elements include a reduction in car tariffs from 27.5% to 10% for a quota of 100,000 vehicles and a complete removal of tariffs on UK steel. In exchange, the UK has opened its markets for US beef and ethanol under specific conditions, while maintaining strict food standards. This diplomatic manoeuvre reflects Starmer's calculated approach to mitigate the repercussions of Trump's global trade conflicts and could lay the groundwork for future agreements in areas such as digital trade.

The backdrop of this agreement also reveals the complexities inherent in US-UK negotiations. Although the recent deal has been framed as a diplomatic win for Starmer amidst domestic political challenges, critics question whether the UK has managed to secure favourable terms compared to other US trading partners. Notably, while the agreement aims to revive cross-Atlantic commerce, the majority of UK goods remain subject to Trump's tariffs, leaving gaps that opponents assert could hinder broader economic recovery.

Furthermore, the timing of this agreement coincided with Starmer’s earlier successes, including a recent trade deal with India and advancing talks for a strategic partnership with the EU. Despite these diplomatic achievements, Starmer faces scrutiny over the concessions made, particularly regarding agriculture. In the context of his government’s dwindling support following recent local elections, this trade agreement represents a crucial diplomatic achievement aimed at projecting effectiveness in international relations.

As both nations look toward future cooperation, it is evident that this trade deal serves as a foundational framework for ongoing negotiations. Britons anticipate further discussions that may expand to encompass broader economic factors, including digital services and pharmaceutical imports, whilst the US continues its quest for advantageous agreements with other countries. Thus, the growing rapport between Trump and Starmer could signal a renewed chapter in US-UK relations, but not without ongoing debate over its implications for various sectors of the UK economy.

### Reference Map

1. Articles (1), (2), (3), (4), (6), (7)
2. Articles (2), (3), (5), (6)
3. Articles (3), (5), (7)
4. Articles (4), (6)
5. Articles (6), (7)
6. Articles (5), (6)
7. Articles (5), (6)
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Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

* <https://goachronicle.com/trump-starmer-talked-about-trade-deal-during-psg-arsenal-game-reports/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
* <https://time.com/7283842/united-states-united-kingdom-trade-deal-trump-starmer-tariffs-agreement/> - On May 8, 2025, former U.S. President Donald Trump announced a 'full and comprehensive' trade agreement between the United States and the United Kingdom via his Truth Social platform, calling it a significant milestone in the longstanding alliance between the two countries. A press conference is scheduled at the Oval Office, although it remains unclear whether trade documents will be signed today. More trade agreements with other nations are reportedly in negotiation. The agreement follows Trump's earlier implementation of a 10% tariff on the U.K. and subsequent 25% tariffs on imports such as steel and cars. These tariffs were partially paused, with the U.K. exempted from higher rates due to its trade surplus with the U.S. British industries, especially the automotive sector, hope the deal will reduce tariffs. U.K. Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer confirmed ongoing U.S. negotiations, emphasizing national interest and economic renewal. Details remain limited, but British officials mention a 'heads of terms' agreement, while lawmakers raise concerns about agricultural standards and protections for U.K. farmers. Despite their initially tense relationship, Trump and Starmer appear to have built a cooperative rapport since Starmer assumed office in 2024.
* <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/art-possible-britain-settles-quick-win-us-trade-deal-2025-05-08/> - In May 2025, the UK reached a limited but strategic trade agreement with the United States, shifting from its initial aim of a comprehensive deal to securing immediate relief for key sectors affected by U.S. tariffs. After months of negotiations with the Trump administration, Britain agreed to sectoral improvements, particularly cutting car tariffs from 27.5% to 10% on 100,000 vehicles annually, and eliminating steel tariffs. In return, the UK granted reciprocal access for U.S. beef and ethanol while upholding stringent food standards. The breakthrough was attributed to balanced trade between the countries, Britain’s non-retaliatory stance, and Prime Minister Keir Starmer’s diplomatic approach—including extending state visit invitations to President Trump. Business Minister Jonathan Reynolds emphasized the critical nature of these changes for the car industry. Peter Mandelson, UK's ambassador to Washington and a seasoned negotiator, played a central role in securing the agreement. The deal was announced on the 80th anniversary of the end of WWII in Europe, with both sides expressing a desire for continued cooperation on digital trade and further tariff reductions. While welcomed by economists and industry representatives, calls remain for broader agreements in future negotiations.
* <https://www.ft.com/content/1acf796a-4cfd-4c10-88c9-31901c353df5> - After months of negotiations, UK Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer secured a last-minute trade deal with US President Donald Trump aimed at mitigating the fallout from Trump’s global trade war. The accord was finalized in a surprise phone call on Wednesday evening while Starmer was watching a football match, with last-minute haggling over agricultural concessions. Though not the sweeping free trade agreement envisioned post-Brexit, the deal offers significant benefits, including scrapping US tariffs on UK steel and aluminium and introducing limited protection for UK carmakers and the pharmaceutical sector. Varun Chandra and Lord Peter Mandelson played key roles in the UK’s negotiating team. The UK was notably the first country to strike a trade deal with Trump since he imposed sweeping tariffs a month prior. Despite the disorderly rollout, with logistical missteps on announcement day, the deal helped Starmer appear diplomatically effective amid domestic political struggles. Starmer also finalized a trade agreement with India earlier in the week, and a new partnership with the EU is expected soon. While the deal may not fully restore pre-Trump conditions, Starmer emphasized progress over perfection, claiming it improved relations from the previous day.
* <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/us-britain-expected-announce-tariff-deal-thursday-2025-05-08/> - On May 8, 2025, U.S. President Donald Trump and UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer announced a limited bilateral trade deal aimed at boosting transatlantic commerce despite maintaining a 10% U.S. tariff on British exports. The agreement slightly expands agricultural trade access, lowers U.S. tariffs on British vehicle imports from 27.5% to 10% for up to 100,000 cars, and removes U.S. tariffs on UK steel and British tariffs on U.S. ethanol and beef for specific quotas. However, many of Trump's steep tariffs—imposed to address a $1.2 trillion U.S. goods trade deficit—remain intact. The deal does not cover digital services taxes or fully resolve pharmaceutical import tariffs. Trump emphasized this agreement is not a template for negotiations with other countries that have large U.S. trade surpluses, signaling potentially harsher terms for others. The British-American Business group welcomed the breakthrough but expressed disappointment over lingering tariffs. U.S. officials also announced upcoming trade talks with China, hoping to ease tariffs as high as 145%. While the immediate economic impact appears modest, both sides anticipate this deal will form the basis for deeper trade engagement and support long-term economic growth.
* <https://www.ft.com/content/43194672-0c7a-4d54-b3ff-38a23628a981> - UK Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer, facing domestic political challenges after poor local election results, secured a significant diplomatic win by reaching a trade agreement with US President Donald Trump. The deal, narrow in scope, aims to reduce damaging 25% US tariffs on UK car and steel exports, shielding major British sectors. Details of the concessions Starmer offered remain under scrutiny, and critics question whether the UK achieved terms comparable to other US partners. The agreement follows Starmer's recent trade deal with India and precedes an expected UK-EU strategic partnership. Despite opposition concerns, particularly over food and agricultural standards, Starmer has resisted major concessions on beef and chicken imports. The deal may involve UK tariff cuts, notably on cars and meat, but Downing Street has not confirmed if Parliament will vote on it. Lord Peter Mandelson played a key role in managing US relations, focusing on key industries and potential future cooperation, such as a tech partnership. The agreement marks the first international deal under Trump’s new tariff regime, offering Starmer a foreign policy boost amid falling domestic approval ratings and internal Labour dissent.
* <https://www.ft.com/content/e9d311f3-ce7d-4f72-8a46-a84b1181ff33> - The UK and US have reached their first trade agreement since President Donald Trump initiated a global trade war. Announced by Trump alongside UK Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer, the deal provides tariff relief for key UK exports, including steel and aluminum—now zero-rated—and reduced 10% levies on up to 100,000 British cars annually. However, most UK goods remain subject to a flat 10% US tariff, and the deal’s scope is limited with many details pending. In return, the UK granted improved access to US agricultural products via a lower-tariff quota system but upheld existing food standards. The UK also abolished tariffs on 1.4 billion liters of US ethanol. The two nations committed to pursuing further cooperation, including negotiations on a digital trade pact and pharmaceutical tariffs. Reaction has been mixed, with Starmer highlighting job protection, while critics including UK Conservatives labeled the deal insufficient. Legal experts expressed concerns regarding WTO compliance, as the preferential terms granted to the US may not align with multilateral rules. The agreement may serve as a template for US negotiations with countries like India and Japan. US markets responded positively, and further US-China trade talks are scheduled in Switzerland.