

# **MAC Calls on Mainland China to Stop Economic Coercion**

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On September 18, mainland China announced that starting from September 25, 2024, it will suspend import tariffs exemptions on 34 agricultural products from Taiwan. These products include fresh fruits, vegetables, and aquatic products. The Mainland Affairs Council (MAC) noted with disappointment that once again the interests of farmers and fishermen on both sides of the Taiwan Strait have been harmed by the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) economic coercion of Taiwan. These actions would only cause resentment from the farmers, fishermen, and general public of Taiwan and are no help to the long-term development of cross-Strait relations.

Based on political excuses, Beijing uses economic measures as political manipulations to pressure and intimidate Taiwan, which is no help to maintaining the cross-Strait relations. Judging from their series of recent actions, it is clear that the CCP uses trade as a weapon and views all preferential agreements as tools for coercion. This is why the government has repeatedly reminded Taiwanese citizens that we cannot rely on the "good will" of the CCP. Reality has shown that any "good will" on the part of the CCP is politically motivated and can be withdrawn at any time.

In recent years, the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) has been actively assisting domestic farmers with transforming and upgrading their products. The MOA safeguards the rights and interests of farmers in Taiwan by continuing to develop a variety of overseas markets and reducing Taiwan's dependence on mainland China as the sole market for agricultural products.

Mainland China violated World Trade Organization (WTO) regulations when it made a unilateral judgment that Taiwan's trade measures constitute a trade barrier and hence used retaliatory measures against Taiwan. Both sides of the Taiwan Strait are members of the WTO. When trade disagreements or other issues arise, both sides should act responsibly such as making use of the WTO and pre-existing agreements, replacing confrontation with dialogue, and pursuing pragmatic communication to reach a resolution.