

Trump repeats threat of retaliation against countries supporting IMO's net-zero drive

US President calls the proposal a global carbon tax, saying it will drive up costs for Americans



President Donald Trump with US commerce secretary Howard Lutnick. Photo: Howard Lutnick/LinkedIn

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US President Donald Trump has once again slammed the International Maritime Organization's net-zero framework, calling it a "global carbon tax on Americans levied by an unaccountable UN organisation".

The comments were made via the Department of Energy's website.

The IMO proposal is expected to be finalised in October.

Rising costs are Trump's main bugbear. Under the framework, he said "ships will have to pay fees for failing to meet unattainable fuel standards and emissions targets".



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"These fees will drive up energy, transportation and leisure cruise costs. Even small vessels would incur millions of dollars in fees, directly driving up costs for American consumers."

He also threatened retaliatory measures against those who support the framework.

The threats from Trump are not new.

In April, TradeWinds reported that as member states of the IMO met to discuss climate targets, the US delegation was suddenly pulled out of the meeting.

[A tersely worded letter from the US administration was sent to member states and shared confidentially with TradeWinds.](#)

The administration wrote: "A plain reading of these [decarbonisation] measures is that they are foremost an effort to redistribute wealth under the guise of environmental protection.

"Accordingly, we must be clear that the US rejects any and all efforts to impose economic measures against its ships based on GHG [greenhouse gas] emissions or fuel choice.

"Should such a blatantly unfair measure go forward, our government will consider reciprocal measures to offset any fees charged to US ships and compensate the American people for any other economic harm from any adopted GHG emissions measures."

At the time, IMO secretary general Arsenio Dominguez said that the objectives of the climate talks would not be thwarted by any individual member state.

In his latest comments, Trump confirmed his intention to retaliate.

He said: “Our fellow IMO members should be on notice that we will look for their support against this action and not hesitate to retaliate or explore remedies for our citizens should this endeavour fail.

“The Trump administration unequivocally rejects this proposal before the IMO and will not tolerate any action that increases costs for our citizens, energy providers, shipping companies and their customers, or tourists.”

Trump also said the fuel standards conveniently benefit China by “requiring the use of expensive fuels unavailable at the global scale”.

The statement was released by secretary of state Marco Rubio, commerce secretary Howard Lutnick, energy secretary Chris Wright and transport secretary Sean Duffy on the Energy Department’s website.

The quartet also tweeted their support for Trump’s rejection of the IMO framework on X.



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Duffy said: “We’re not going to let a woke climate agenda hurt our economy, disrupt supply chains and benefit our foreign adversaries. America, we’ve got your back!”

Wright called climate change “far from the greatest threat facing humanity — that distinction belongs to global energy poverty”, and Lutnick said America would set the terms for how its products would reach the market.

The net-zero framework approved by the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) during its 83rd session in April mandates new fuel standards for vessels and has a

global emissions pricing mechanism.

The World Shipping Council has pledged its commitment to the framework and expects IMO member states to adopt the measures when they convene in the MEPC session on 14-17 October.

The WSC declined to comment when contacted by TradeWinds.

The US is one of the IMO's 176 member states and, as with all member states, is expected to adopt the rules into national legislation once they are ratified and in force.

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