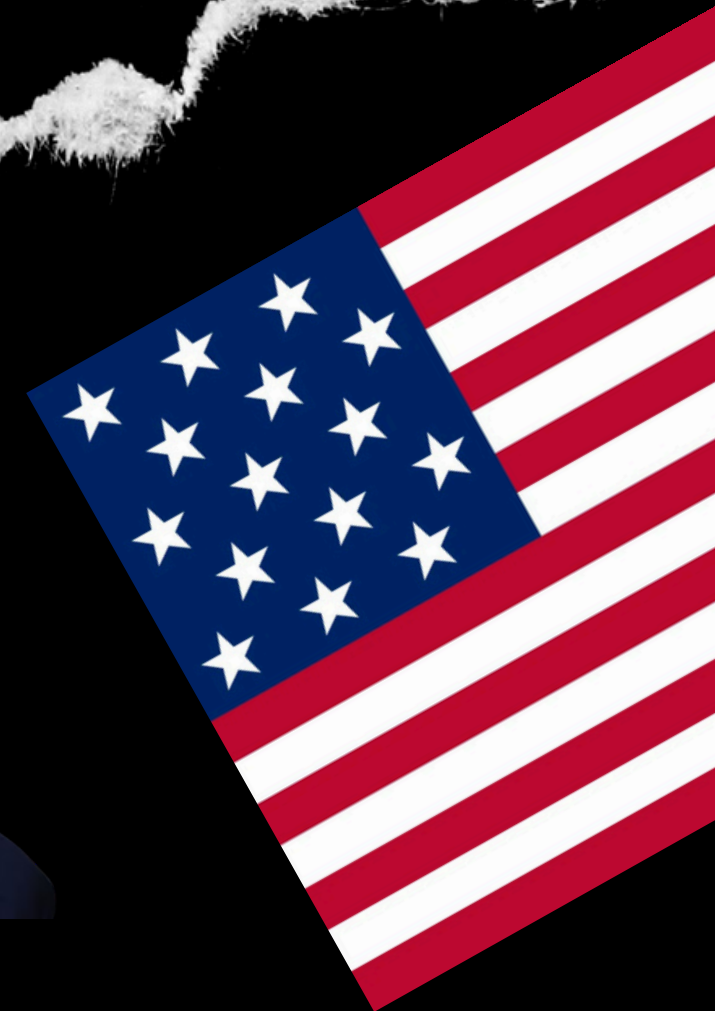




**Is the E.U.  
freeloading?**



# Where did this start?

**Pete Hegseth**

VP: I fully share your loathing of European free-loading. It's PATHETIC.

But Mike is correct, we are the only ones on the planet (on our side of the ledger) who can do this. Nobody else even close. Question is timing. I feel like now is as good a time as any, given POTUS directive to reopen shipping lanes. I think we should go; but POTUS still retains 24 hours of decision space.

8:49 AM ⓘ



## The Signal Groupchat:

**JD Vance**

@Pete Hegseth if you think we should do it let's go.

I just hate bailing Europe out again.

8:45 AM ⓘ

Let's just make sure our messaging is tight here. And if there are things we can do upfront to minimize risk to Saudi oil facilities we should do it.

8:46 AM ⓘ

JV

**Should resignations roll for this national security leak?**

**Hegseth SECDEF termination?**

**Are the democrats using this and running with it too far?**

**Is the G.O.P hypocritical with their criticism of Hillary  
and her private email server?**

**Is the E.U freeloading off of the U.S?**

**Is Trump's end of E.U assistance good or bad for the U.S?**

**Is this Europe's time to emerge as a major (unified)  
power?**