
Trump's First Day: DEI programs halted, Tariffs on China loom



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Washington, January 21, 2025 – On his first full day in office, US President Donald Trump launched sweeping policy changes, targeting federal Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) programs and announcing potential tariffs on Chinese imports.

In a memo issued by the US Office of Personnel Management, federal agencies were directed to place DEI program staff on paid leave by 5 p.m. EST on January 22. This follows an executive order

labeling DEI initiatives as “ dangerous ” and advocating for merit-based employment systems.

DEI programs have traditionally aimed to support workplace diversity, particularly for underrepresented groups. Critics argue the move could undermine inclusivity, while supporters view it as a return to fairness in hiring practices.

On trade policy, President Trump stated plans to impose a 10% tariff on Chinese-made goods starting February 1. China responded by vowing to protect its national interests, warning that trade wars have no winners.

Additionally, President Trump defended his controversial decision to pardon individuals convicted over the January 6, 2021, Capitol riots. He also granted a full pardon to Ross Ulbricht, the operator of the dark web marketplace Silk Road.

These actions mark a decisive start to Trump’s administration, reflecting his campaign pledges to overhaul federal policies and reshape international trade relations.