Question for written answer E-004002/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Barbara Bonte (PfE)

Subject: CEPA: a missed opportunity to reduce the trade deficit with Indonesia

After approximately ten years of negotiations, the EU and Indonesia have concluded the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). This agreement is riddled with unbalanced concessions, is anything but a strategic success and, as if that were not enough, escapes any democratic control by the parliaments of the Member States.

1. How can the Commission justify a trade agreement that abolishes customs duties on 80 % of Indonesian imports, when the EU already has a chronic trade deficit of EUR 7.7 billion with Indonesia?

2. To what extent is the 50 % reduction in export duties on nickel and cobalt sufficient to offset the economic concessions, given the very modest expected financial savings of EUR 600 million on customs duties?

3. To what extent will this agreement actually reduce the EU’s strategic dependence on cobalt from, let’s say, China?

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