

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000104/25
to the Commission
Nicolás González Casares (S&D)
(13 January 2025)**

Subject: Thailand

Last December, Thailand's House of Representatives approved a revision of its 2015 Fisheries Act which, as the European sector has pointed out, significantly lowers the standards set in the current regulations on aspects such as mesh size, fisheries transshipments on the high seas and labour controls as well as reducing penalties. It is worth remembering that the 2015 law was adopted in response, to a large extent, to the yellow card imposed by the European Commission for IUU fishing. This revision also takes place in the context of negotiations for the conclusion of a free trade agreement between the two parties.

In light of this situation:

1. What measures will the Commission take to respond to a legislative amendment that runs counter to the commitments to combat IUU fishing and to protect social conditions?
2. In particular, how will it protect the European canning industry against the deterioration of Thai legal rules in the context of the free trade agreement negotiations and given that Thailand is the world's largest supplier of tuna products?

Submitted: 13.1.2025

**Answer given by Mr Kadis on behalf of the European Commission
(3 March 2025)**

1. The Commission is closely monitoring the current revision of the 2015 fisheries legislation. On several occasions, Thailand has been made aware that any substantive relaxation of the current rules in place to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing would not be acceptable and that the EU is reserving its right to consider adopting measures as foreseen by EU Council Regulation No 1005/2008 ⁽¹⁾ (IUU Regulation), if necessary. On social conditions, the Forced Labour Regulation ⁽²⁾ will empower the EU to prohibit and remove a product from the single market if it is demonstrated to involve forced labour. The directive on corporate sustainability due diligence ⁽³⁾ will also ensure that businesses address in their value chains, inside and outside Europe, any adverse impacts of their actions as regards human rights, labour rights and environmental considerations.

2. In the negotiating rounds held so far on a Free Trade Agreement between the EU and Thailand, the treatment of individual products has not yet been discussed. Discussions will start in the coming months and will include consultations with relevant stakeholders. Economically sensitive sectors are subject to specific modalities for market access which aim at preventing any market disturbances. As the negotiations enter a more advanced stage, a Sustainability Impact Assessment will be carried out in order to provide an in-depth analysis of their potential economic, social, human rights, and environmental impacts.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2008/1005/oj/eng>

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/3015/oj/eng>

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/1760/oj>