

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004654/25
to the Commission
Nicolás González Casares (S&D)
(21 November 2025)**

Subject: Thailand

In its reply to the Question E-000104/2025 ⁽¹⁾, the Commission noted that it was closely monitoring the revision of Thailand's 2015 fisheries legislation, which served to a large extent to lift the yellow card for illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. It also pointed out that Thailand had been made aware that any substantive relaxation of the rules in force would not be acceptable.

However, in October 2025, the Thai Parliament adopted a series of controversial amendments to the fisheries legislation, which have been criticised by both small-scale fishers and environmental groups, who warned that the changes could weaken marine protection measures and undermine international commitments on sustainable fisheries.

In light of the above:

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: 21.11.2025

**Answer given by Mr Kadis on behalf of the European Commission
(22 January 2026)**

1. The Commission views Thailand's recent adoption of their revised Royal Ordinance on Fisheries, as potentially introducing new risks related to illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Should these risks lead to a resurgence of IUU fishing activities, the EU retains the right to consider adopting similar measures to those adopted in 2015 in the framework of EU Council Regulation No 1005/2008 ⁽¹⁾ (IUU Regulation), if deemed necessary. On social conditions, under the Forced Labour Regulation ⁽²⁾, fishery products that are proven to be made with forced labour will be banned from the internal market. The directive on corporate sustainability due diligence ⁽³⁾ will require large companies to identify and address adverse impacts on human rights, labour rights, and environmental issues within their value chains, both in Europe and globally.

2. A comprehensive free trade agreement is being negotiated with Thailand based on the joint objective of reaching a modern, high-standard deal, with sustainability at its core. The trade and sustainable development chapter has already been closed in principle and includes commitments on the sustainable management of natural resources — also with respect to fisheries and on combating IUU fishing, as well as on the effective implementation of the fundamental principles and rights at work and continued and sustained efforts to ratify relevant Conventions of the International Labour Organisation (ILO). With respect to future market access conditions, the Commission will duly consider specific sensitivities during the negotiations. Economically sensitive sectors, such as tuna, will be subject to carefully designed specific modalities for market access that aim at preventing any market disturbances.

¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2025-000104_EN.html

⁽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>.