

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004919/25
to the Commission
Carmen Crespo Díaz (PPE), Juan Ignacio Zoido Álvarez (PPE)
(11 December 2025)**

Subject: Possible fraud in tuna imported from Vietnam under the EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement (EVFTA)

In December 2024, the Commission and OLAF were made aware of suspicions that certain tuna loins imported from Vietnam were not of Vietnamese origin, and were thus unduly benefiting from the 0% preferential tariff set out in the EVFTA. This alleged fraud would mean potential losses of millions of euros in customs duties and serious harm to the competitiveness of European companies in the sector, which operate under the strictest rules.

While OLAF opened an investigation in July 2025, DG MARE has yet to take any action, and DG TRADE has not responded to the formal complaint lodged in February 2025.

In view of the above:

1. Can the Commission confirm whether it has launched — or intends to launch — a formal investigation into Vietnam's compliance with the EVFTA rules of origin for processed tuna, and whether it plans to take urgent measures to prevent tariff fraud and ensure fair competition in the EU market?
2. Given the increasing phenomenon of the redirection of exports into the EU, where they are free of tariffs, what does the Commission intend to do to prevent unfair competition and protect European producers?

Submitted: 11.12.2025

**Answer given by Mr Šefčovič on behalf of the European Commission
(17 February 2026)**

The Commission is closely monitoring the implementation of the EU-Viet Nam Free Trade Agreement ⁽¹⁾ (EVFTA), including compliance with its rules of origin.

Following a complaint submitted in 2025 to the Single Entry Point of the Commission's Directorate-General for Trade and Economic Security concerning the possible misuse of tariff preferences under the EVFTA for tuna loins imported from Viet Nam, a specialised case team was established with experts of the Single Entry Point, relevant geographical and sectoral units, and the EU Delegation in Viet Nam.

Following contacts with the complainant to clarify certain missing elements, the assessment is now being finalised, and its results will be communicated to the complainant shortly. Where appropriate, the Commission will take the necessary follow-up action in accordance with the EVFTA and applicable EU law.

The European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) has received information from a trade source and taken note that the volume of imported tuna is significant and there are many companies involved. OLAF cannot comment on possible ongoing investigations

More generally, the Commission works continuously to prevent tariff fraud. The Commission will continue to make full use of all available tools to detect possible misuse of preferential arrangements or circumvention of applicable rules of origin in order to safeguard the integrity of preferential trade arrangements.

Furthermore, the Commission will continue to firmly apply trade defence measures where warranted in order to protect the EU from unfair trade practices.

⁽¹⁾ Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. OJ L 186, 12.6.2020, pp. 3-1400; [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:22020A0612\(01\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:22020A0612(01)).