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Answer given by Mr Šefčovič
on behalf of the European Commission
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In line with the overall EU approach to trade and investment agreements, also in the ongoing negotiations with Southeast Asian countries (Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand), the Commission aims at reaching comprehensive deals that can bring growth opportunities for the EU economy and employment as a whole.

The EU negotiating proposals are intended to address a wide range of issues. Notably, the EU pursues the establishment of effective rules underpinning a more level playing field across the board, robust and enforceable disciplines on trade and sustainable development, including with respect to fisheries-related issues, and meaningful market access for EU operators.

As in all free trade agreement negotiations, for economically sensitive products, such as certain fisheries or agricultural products, the EU pursues carefully designed specific modalities for market access which aim at preventing any market disturbances.