

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001586/26
to the Commission
Nicolás González Casares (S&D)
(17 April 2026)**

Subject: Indonesia

After analysing the content of the trade agreement negotiated by the EU and Indonesia, the European fisheries sector has discovered that the European Commission has not only established tariff-free quotas for canned tuna and tuna loins, but has also eliminated tariffs on fresh fillets and, in seven years' time, on frozen fillets.

Indonesia is the world's leading country for tuna catches and ranks ninth for prepared or preserved tuna. It is also the largest exporter of tuna loins to the EU in the ASEAN region. At the same time, the country is facing allegations of illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing, as well as allegations of forced labour.

Given that, based on what it has conveyed to the sector, the Commission never informed it of the possibility that tariffs on fillets would be scrapped:

1. Has the Commission analysed the impact that would be had on the fishing and processing sector in the EU and its Member States as a result of tariffs on tuna being scrapped in the agreement reached with Indonesia? If so, could it provide the details of that analysis and of the support measures planned to minimise the negative impacts?
2. Does it intend to strengthen health audits in view of the 'major shortcomings' identified by the Commission in the past?
3. What is its explanation for scrapping tariffs on tuna fillets?

Submitted: 17.4.2026

**Answer given by Mr Šefčovič on behalf of the European Commission
(29 June 2026)**

The EU and Indonesia finalised negotiations on the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement ⁽¹⁾ (CEPA) in September 2025. The Commission has shared with the co-legislators all the EU tariff offers during the negotiations and the outcome upon their finalisation.

The texts were then publicly released. The EU negotiating team has also engaged regularly with stakeholders, including the EU canning and fishing industry, throughout the CEPA talks.

The CEPA achieves unprecedented levels of liberalisation, opening up opportunities for EU businesses, while carefully handling EU sensitivities and potential impacts on concerned sectors.

It achieves for fish products a well-balanced outcome: it ensures modalities to avoid disruptions for EU industry, through strict rules of origin for all tuna products and tariff-rate quotas calibrated on current trade flows for canned tuna (800 metric tonnes) and for tuna loins (5 000 metric tonnes).

For frozen tuna fillets, the CEPA is aligned with the tariff elimination treatment granted in most Free Trade Agreements concluded by the EU, combined with a seven-year transitional period.

The CEPA also secures robust commitments on fighting against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and on the effective implementation of the International Labour Organisation core labour standards and ratified conventions.

The report of the last audit carried out in 2020 concluded that the official control system developed by Indonesia is based on largely adequate procedures.

Deficiencies were detected, to which Indonesia responded with an action plan and written guarantees that were positively assessed. The Commission plans to conduct a follow-up audit in Indonesia in the near future.

⁽¹⁾ https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region/countries-and-regions/indonesia/eu-indonesia-agreements/text-agreements_en.