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Answer given by Mr Šefčovič
on behalf of the European Commission
(30.7.2026)

Trade in frozen tuna fillets has been fully liberalised, and as of entry into force, in most free trade agreements concluded by the EU to date. No particular concern has been flagged to the Commission in this respect.

Throughout the negotiations for the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement¹ (CEPA) with Indonesia, the Commission engaged regularly with stakeholders to identify key interests and sensitivities. It carried out a Sustainability Impact Assessment, looking at potential economic impacts of the agreement, and shared with the co-legislators all the EU tariff offers.

In the nine years of CEPA negotiations, the Commission did not receive any indication that a liberalisation of frozen tuna fillets would be disruptive for the EU fleet or industry.

The preferential treatment of products identified as sensitive under the CEPA, such as canned tuna and tuna loins, has been carefully handled in the negotiations. The balanced outcome 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 tuna fillets, despite lack of apparent sensitivity, the Commission negotiated a seven-year staging period for the tariff elimination, which provides EU industry with an additional transition period to adjust if necessary.

As regards the EU health and food safety rules, the CEPA does not affect their application. Indonesian products placed on the EU market, including frozen tuna fillets, will continue being subject to strict EU rules and related controls.

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