

EN

E-002318/2026

Answer given by Mr Šefčovič
on behalf of the European Commission
(16.7.2026)

The negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the Philippines are ongoing. So far, six rounds of negotiations have taken place.

The Commission aims for an ambitious, comprehensive and modern agreement that can create opportunities for EU businesses while carefully handling sensitivities and potential impacts on particular sectors. Throughout the negotiations, the Commission shares with the co-legislators all the EU's text proposals and market access offers and maintains regular contacts with stakeholders.

The Philippines is a beneficiary of the Generalised Scheme of Preferences + arrangement, under which it has enjoyed duty-free, quota-free access for tuna products for over a decade, with stable export volumes over that period. Therefore, the FTA would not open a new flow into the EU market but, at most, consolidate an existing one.

Tuna remains sensitive in the negotiations, and the Commission is handling it accordingly. The Commission will take into account the interests of the EU fleet and processing industry, the current and potential impact of imports, and the cumulative effect on the EU market of preferential access granted under other agreements and arrangements, in order to achieve a balanced outcome.