

FESI exchange with DG Trade on Indonesia

11.09.26

FESI held an exchange with DG Trade to take stock of the EU-Indonesia CEPA ratification process, following the conclusion of legal scrubbing and the transmission of the text to the Council. The discussion focused on the current Council timeline, the authentic language issue, the expected sequencing with the European Parliament, the absence of an interim solution in case of a tariff gap, and DG Trade's ongoing engagement on Indonesia's Halal Product Assurance requirements.

Please find below a structured summary of the main points discussed.

1. Council progress and expected timeline

- Following the conclusion of legal scrubbing, the CEPA text was sent to the Council in June.
- Member States had five weeks to provide comments on the English version of the text.
- These comments are technical only, focusing on layout, grammar and formatting rather than substance.
- **All translations were finalised** and sent to Member States at the end of August.
- English will remain the only authentic version in case of disputes, but Member States will be able to consult the text in their own language before the vote.
- Member States' comments on the English version have been sent to Indonesia for review.
- Once Indonesia has replied, the Council will prepare the final version of the text.
- **A Council vote is not expected before the end of October.**
- **Signature is therefore likely to take place in November.**

2. Authentic language issue

- **France** has raised concerns about the approach whereby English would be the only authentic language in case of disputes.
- **Italy** has lifted its concerns, leaving France as the only Member State still unsure.
- DG Trade indicated that France supports the agreement politically, but that the language issue remains sensitive.
- It remains to be seen how France will position itself at the time of the vote.
- The agreement will be approved **by qualified majority**.

3. European Parliament process

- The European Parliament has already started preparatory work to save time once the file is formally transmitted.
- The Indonesia Monitoring Group has been meeting regularly.
- Its final meeting took place this month and focused on the **TBT and SPS chapters**.
- **INTA** will lead the file
- On 15 September, the **Conference of Committee Chairs** is expected to consider whether other parliamentary committees will provide an opinion.
- DG Trade indicated that the EP process could take **less than two months**.
- DG Trade advised industry to **reach out to MEPs after signature**, when the file is expected to be higher on their radar.

4. No interim solution in case of tariff gap

- DG Trade confirmed that **no interim solution is expected** in case of a tariff gap between Indonesia's loss of GSP status and CEPA entry into force.
- All potential options assessed would require a legislative process, which would take too long.
- The priority therefore remains to complete the ratification process as swiftly as possible.

5. Indonesian Halal Product Assurance requirements

- DG Trade is closely following Indonesia's Halal Product Assurance requirements.
- **Airlangga Hartarto**, Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs, is responsible for the file and has the power to postpone the entry into force of the measure.
- Commission representatives travelled to Indonesia in July to discuss the issue.
- DG Trade considers the current **17 October** deadline too soon, notably because there are not enough certification bodies.
- The EU has notified the issue at the WTO.
- The Commission and Member States have sent letters to Indonesia raising their concerns.
- DG Trade is pushing for a **two-year postponement** of the measure.