

**Question for written answer E-001284/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Trade negotiations with Thailand

On 18 March 2022, the Committee on Fisheries adopted its Opinion on the Indo-Pacific Strategy in the area of trade and investment¹.

The opinion highlights that Thailand is the world's leading producer of canned tuna and the EU's main competitor in this sector and that a free trade agreement between the EU and Thailand could pose a serious threat to the EU canned fish and seafood industry, which is crucial in several coastal regions, such as Galicia, Spain.

Furthermore, the opinion stresses that any trade agreements with Indo-Pacific countries must be preceded by rigorous sustainability impact studies and a detailed analysis of the potential impacts, and urges the Commission to include canned fish and seafood as 'sensitive products' in trade negotiations with countries in the region.

Since it would appear that trade negotiations with Thailand could resume in 2022, the following questions are pertinent:

1. Is the Commission aware of the impact that further liberalisation of canned fish and seafood from Thailand would have on European coastal regions?
2. Does the Commission intend to include canned fish and seafood as 'sensitive products' in trade negotiations with countries in the region?

¹ 2021/2200(INI)