

**Priority question for written answer P-003736/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Proposal for a reform of fisheries legislation in Thailand and state of play of EU-Thailand free trade agreement negotiations

On 15 March 2023, the Commission announced the resumption of negotiations with Thailand on ‘an ambitious, modern and balanced free trade agreement (FTA), with sustainability at its core’.

On 14 June 2023, Parliament adopted a resolution on the negotiations¹ in which it stressed that ‘a free trade agreement with Thailand could pose a serious threat to the EU canned fish and seafood industry, which is of crucial importance to a number of coastal regions because of its leading role in generating wealth and employment’, as it does in Galicia (Spain). It also urged the Commission to include canned fish and seafood as ‘sensitive products’ for the purposes of possible trade negotiations with Thailand.

Since September 2023, a number of NGOs² and press outlets³ have reported that the Thai Government is planning to reform the country’s fisheries legislation, back-peddalling by introducing proposals that are not sustainable.

1. What is the state of play with regard to the FTA negotiations?
2. What view does the Commission take of those regressive reform proposals?
3. What will their implications for the FTA negotiations be?

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¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2023-0232_EN.html

² https://ejfoundation.org/resources/downloads/CSO-Joint-Statement_Critical-Crossroads_EN-1.pdf

³ <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2652375/ministry-to-amend-tough-fisheries-law>