

Indonesia Assess Australia's Offer of Zero Percent Import Duty

Contributed by Maizer
Tuesday, 31 October 2017

The Government of Indonesia accepts bids from Australia for bilateral cooperation in relation to the imposition of zero tariffs on the three state-owned commodities. Minister of Industry, Airlangga Hartarto said the cooperation is part of a comprehensive Indonesia-Australia economic partnership agreement.

"We will learn first, because this is a discussion of the implementation of free trade agreement. So, it must be taken into account the advantages and disadvantages," Airlangga Hartarto said after receiving the visit of Australian Ambassador to Indonesia, Paul Grigson, in Jakarta, Thursday (12/11/2017) as quoted by Antara. According to Airlangga, Australia has asked Indonesia to free tariffs on beef for the country's three export commodities, namely milk (skim milk and skim milk powder), copper cathode, and hot rolled coil and cold rolled coil. Instead, Australia has offered zero percent import duties for Indonesia's three export commodities namely textiles, footwear and clothing. Airlangga acknowledged the offer is actually promising a great opportunity for the Indonesian textile industry. "Currently, China and Vietnam are subject to zero percent, while exports of Indonesian textile products to America and Europe are still subject to 5-20 percent import duty, with our exemption, our industry will be stronger," he said. He added that the national textile and textile products industry has competitiveness at the global level because it has been integrated from upstream to downstream. Its products are also known to have good quality in the international market. "Especially for the sports shoes and apparel industry, we have already passed China. In fact, in Brazil, we have mastered the market there to 80 percent," he said. Airlangga also considers this collaboration to remind the competitiveness and productivity of the national manufacturing sector through the provision of quality raw materials. So far, Indonesian exports are often hampered by tariffs on traditional markets such as the United States and the European Union. "This is because Indonesia has a high competitiveness, so they put a barricade too," he said. Director General for International Industry's Access and Development (KPAII) Ministry of Industry, Harjanto added that Indonesia is not necessarily agreeing to Australia's offer. Comprehensive calculations need to be done first. He proposed that Australia use a zero percent tariff preference scheme that could be granted if there were incoming investments. Thus, there is still added value for Indonesia in addition to more easily export textile products to Australia. "The raw materials (milk, copper and steel) may be from them, but the investment must come in so there is technology transfer so that although Indonesia is still importing raw materials but can export its derivative products," he said.

Indonesia Kaji Tawaran Australia Soal Bea Masuk Nol Persen
Pemerintah Indonesia menerima tawaran dari Australia untuk kerja sama bilateral terkait dengan pemberlakuan tarif bea masuk nol persen terhadap tiga komoditas unggulan milik masing-masing negara. Menteri Perindustrian, Airlangga Hartarto mengatakan kerja sama ini bagian dari perjanjian kemitraan ekonomi komprehensif Indonesia-Australia. "Kami akan pelajari dulu, karena ini merupakan pembahasan dari implementasi free trade agreement. Jadi, harus diperhitungkan keuntungan dan kerugiannya," kata Airlangga Hartarto usai menerima kunjungan Duta Besar Australia untuk Indonesia, Paul Grigson, di Jakarta, Kamis (12/11/2017) seperti dikutip Antara. Menurut Airlangga, Australia meminta Indonesia membebaskan tarif bea masuk untuk tiga komoditas ekspor negara itu, yakni susu (skim milk dan skim milk powder), lempeng tembaga murni (copper cathode), dan baja (hot rolled coil dan cold rolled coil). Sebagai gantinya, Australia memberi tawaran bea masuk nol persen untuk tiga komoditas ekspor Indonesia yakni tekstil, alas kaki, dan pakaian. Airlangga mengakui tawaran tersebut sebenarnya menjanjikan peluang besar bagi industri tekstil Indonesia. "Saat ini, Tiongkok dan Vietnam sudah dikenakan nol persen. Sedangkan ekspor produk tekstil Indonesia ke Amerika dan Eropa masih kena bea masuk 5-20 persen. Dengan pembebasan bea masuk ini, industri kita akan semakin kuat," ujar dia. Dia mengimbau industri Tekstil dan Produk Tekstil nasional memiliki daya saing di level global sebab telah terintegrasi dari hulu sampai hilir. Produknya juga dikenal memiliki kualitas yang baik di pasar internasional. "Khusus untuk industri shoes and apparel sport, kita sudah melewati Tiongkok. Bahkan, di Brazil, kita sudah menguasai pasar di sana hingga 80 persen," kata dia. Airlangga juga menilai kolaborasi ini dapat meningkatkan daya saing dan produktivitas sektor manufaktur nasional melalui penyediaan bahan baku berkualitas. Selama ini, ekspor Indonesia kerap terhambat tarif bea masuk ke pasar tradisional seperti Amerika Serikat dan Uni Eropa. "Ini karena Indonesia punya daya saing tinggi, sehingga mereka pasang barikade juga," kata dia. Dirjen Ketahanan dan Pengembangan Akses Industri Internasional (KPAII) Kemenperin, Harjanto menambahkan Indonesia belum tentu menyetujui tawaran Australia. Perhitungan komprehensif perlu dilakukan dulu. Dia mengusulkan, Australia menggunakan skema preferensi tarif nol persen yang dapat diberikan jika ada investasi yang masuk. Dengan demikian, masih ada nilai tambah bagi Indonesia selain lebih mudah melakukan ekspor produk tekstil ke Australia. "Bahan baku (susu, tembaga dan baja) boleh saja dari mereka, tetapi investasi harus masuk sehingga ada transfer teknologi. Dengan begitu, walaupun Indonesia masih impor bahan baku, tapi bisa ekspor produk turunannya," kata dia.