

## Africa & Bangladesh Strengthen Textile Sector, RI Must Prepare

Contributed by Maizer  
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Vice Chairman of the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Shinta W Kamdani, said that some countries are starting to strengthen the textile sector, so it is feared to disrupt export competition to the European Union.

According to Shinta, several countries in Africa began to make special areas of the textile industry and provide intensive exports. Then Bangladesh also continues to increase the passion of textile exports in the country. Competition is considered to be more difficult if RI does not immediately complete the trade agreement Indonesia - European Union Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (Cepa). The government is targeting the deal to be completed by 2019. "We will be increasingly unrivaled with Africa and Bangladesh if trade agreements with the EU are not resolved soon," Shinta said. Until the end of 2017, the negotiations are only entering the second round. Each preliminary negotiation took place in May 2017 and a second meeting in October 2017. While this year no further negotiations have been undertaken. As for Indonesia is now beginning to fall behind with Vietnam which already has a Cepa agreement with the European Union. As a result, domestic exports, especially shoe and textile, have been rivaled due to the difference in price when entering the European market. "Our hope with a cooperation agreement with the EU can increase its goods [RI] capital," he said.

**Afrika & Bangladesh Perkuat Sektor Tekstil, RI Harus Bersiap**

Wakil Ketua Umum Kamar Dagang dan Industri Indonesia, Shinta W Kamdani menyebut saat ini sejumlah negara mulai memperkuat sektor tekstil sehingga dikhawatirkan mengganggu persaingan ekspor ke Uni Eropa. Menurut Shinta, beberapa negara di Afrika mulai membuat kawasan khusus industri tekstil dan memberikan intensif ekspor. Kemudian Bangladesh juga terus meningkatkan gairah ekspor tekstil di negara tersebut. Persaingan dinilai akan semakin sulit jika RI tidak segera menyelesaikan perjanjian dagang Indonesia & European Union Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (Cepa). Pemerintah menargetkan kesepakatan tersebut selesai pada 2019. "Kita akan semakin tersaingi dengan Afrika dan Bangladesh jika perjanjian dagang dengan Uni Eropa tidak segera diselesaikan," kata Shinta. Hingga akhir 2017, perundingan ini baru memasuki ronde kedua. Masing-masing perundingan awal dilakukan pada Mei 2017 dan pertemuan kedua pada Oktober 2017. Sementara tahun ini belum dilakukan perundingan lanjutan. Adapun Indonesia saat ini sudah mulai tertinggal dengan Vietnam yang sudah memiliki perjanjian Cepa dengan Uni Eropa. Akibatnya ekspor dalam negeri khususnya sepatu dan tekstil sudah tersaingi karena perbedaan harga saat memasuki pasar Eropa. "Harapan kami dengan perjanjian kerjasama dengan Uni Eropa dapat meningkatkan kapital goodsnya [RI]," ujarnya.