

Still Process, Trade Ministry Reluctant to Comment on EHP Shoes & Textiles

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The Ministry of Commerce is still reluctant to submit its response on the association applying the EU Early Harvest Program (EHP) to the EU ahead of the fourth round of talks with the Indonesian government this month.

Director of Bilateral Cooperation at Trade Ministry Ni Made Ayu Marthini said the implementation of negotiations between RI and EU related to the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) will be held on February 19 to 23 in Solo, Central Java. Meanwhile, when asked the possibility to submit EHP submission letter from the government to the EU, Made Ayu just said, "I'm sorry not to be yes, hehe. I'm negotiating in Iran," he wrote EHP is a program governing the provision that entry rates may be removed for certain categories in a trade relationship. Such status benefits the receiving country with the lowest tariff or higher import quotas, but the status giver should also be subject to equal treatment by the bound state. The Indonesian Shoes Association (Aprisindo) since the beginning of this year has written and asked the government to accelerate the exemption of tariffs on commodities such as shoes and textiles. Because the current two commodities must admit defeat compared to Vietnam which is free tariff entry to Europe, while Indonesia still must be subject to 11% -14% import duty. Vice Chairman of the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Kadin), Shinta W. Kamdani early last year asked to accelerate the settlement of the trade agreement that must be done before getting left behind with other countries. This year Indonesia's shoe and textile exports have to compete with Vietnam after the country succeeded in entering into trade union-free trade agreement with the European Union. As a result export two domestic products began to lose compete. "We continue to encourage the government to immediately complete this agreement," said Shinta. The agreement under the negotiation process is Indonesia - European Union Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. If these negotiations reach an agreement, it is believed will make the price of goods into the European market save 11%. According to him, this agreement is important to grow exports to Europe which is the most potential market followed by the United States. If the talks continue to drag on, it is feared that the export of the product will decline. Masih Proses, Kemendag Enggan Komentari EHP Sepatu & Tekstil Kementerian Perdagangan masih enggan menyampaikan tanggapannya mengenai asosiasi yang mengajukan Early Harvest Program (EHP) kepada Uni Eropa menjelang dilaksanakan perundingan putaran keempat dengan Pemerintah Indonesia bulan ini. Direktur Perundingan Bilateral Kementerian Perdagangan Ni Made Ayu Marthini mengatakan pelaksanaan perundingan antara RI dan Uni Eropa terkait dalam Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) akan dilaksanakan pada 19 hingga 23 Februari di Solo, Jawa Tengah. Sementara, saat ditanya kemungkinan untuk menyampaikan surat pengajuan EHP dari pemerintah ke Uni Eropa, Made Ayu hanya mengatakan, "Maaf belum boleh dulu ya, hehe. Saya sedang perundingan di Iran," tulisnya EHP merupakan program yang mengatur ketentuan agar tarif masuk dapat dihapus untuk beberapa kategori tertentu dalam sebuah hubungan dagang. Status tersebut memberi keuntungan kepada negara penerima mendapatkan tarif terendah atau kuota impor lebih tinggi, tetapi pemberi status juga harus mendapat perlakuan sama oleh negara yang terikat. Asosiasi Persepatuan Indonesia (Aprisindo) sejak awal tahun ini telah menyurati dan meminta pemerintah untuk mempercepat upaya pembebasan tarif masuk komoditas seperti sepatu dan tekstil. Pasalnya, saat ini dua komoditas tersebut harus mengaku kekalahan dibandingkan dengan Vietnam yang sudah bebas tarif masuk ke Eropa, sedangkan Indonesia masih harus dikenai bea masuk 11%-14%. Wakil Ketua Umum Kamar Dagang dan Industri (Kadin) Indonesia, Shinta W. Kamdani awal tahun lalu ikut meminta percepatan penyelesaian perjanjian dagang tersebut yang mesti segera dilakukan sebelum semakin tertinggal dengan negara lain. Tahun ini ekspor sepatu dan tekstil Indonesia harus bersaing dengan Vietnam setelah negara itu berhasil melakukan perjanjian dagang bebas bea masuk ke Uni Eropa. Alhasil ekspor dua produk dalam negeri itu mulai kalah bersaing. "Kita terus dorong agar pemerintah segera menyelesaikan perjanjian ini," kata Shinta. Adapun perjanjian yang sedang dalam tahap perundingan tersebut ialah Indonesia – European Union Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. Jika perundingan ini mencapai kata sepakat, diyakini akan membuat harga barang masuk ke pasar Eropa hemat 11%. Menurutnya, perjanjian ini cukup penting untuk menumbuhkan ekspor ke Eropa yang merupakan pasar paling potensial disusul Amerika Serikat. Jika perundingan terus berlarut, dikhawatirkan membuat ekspor produk tersebut menurun.