

Entrepreneurs Complained about the Difficulties of TPT Exports to Europe

Contributed by Maizer
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Even though the government is actively pursuing access to export markets to Europe, the textile and textile products industry must work harder to penetrate the Blue Continent market.

Chairman of the Indonesian Textile Association (API) Ade Sudrajat said, currently the European textile market has already been entered and utilized by textile producing countries of Indonesia's main competitors, Vietnam and Bangladesh. In fact, the two countries have already established a free and comprehensive trade cooperation pact with the European Union. "Even though Indonesia and European Union also member countries of European Free Trade Association [EFTA] formally establish a comprehensive economic partnership agreement [CEPA], we from textile sector still have to work hard. Because, we are late from Vietnam and Bangladesh in establishing cooperation with Europe," he said. He estimates that although there will be IE-CEPA, Indonesia's textile exports to Europe will only be thinner. The portion of Indonesian TPT exports to European Union has so far reached 14% of total exports of national TPT. Based on Bank Indonesia's research throughout 2017, the largest share of textile exports was the United States (32.34%), the European Union (14.97%), and Japan (10.08%). According to Ade, if IE-CEPA is established, the portion of textile exports to Europe will increase to around 18% of Indonesia's total exports next year. Based on data from the Ministry of Trade, IE-CEPA ratification process is targeted to occur this year. Meanwhile, Shinta W. Kamdani, Deputy General Chair of International Relations of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Kadin), said that the CEPA cooperation pact with European Union, both with European Union and EFTA, still has great benefits for the land textile and domestic textile products sector. "Indeed the impact is not immediate. However, at least we can catch up with Vietnam and Bangladesh. After all, we believe, investment in the textile sector from Europe which will eventually lead to exports, will continue to flow to Indonesia. The reason is, we have better potential and resources," he said. Director General of Textile and Multifarious Chemical Industry (IKTA) Ministry of Industry Achmad Sigit Dwiwahjono argued that economic cooperation with Europe could boost textile exports threefold. The reason is, according to Sigit, with cooperation, the import duty of textile exports to Europe can be 0%. Just for the record, the export duty of the textile industry to the European Union is 12%. For that he believes that the CEPA agreement will further increase the Indonesian textile market share in the world which is currently only 1.8%. "Our market is big there [Europe]. I am sure, our products can compete better with those from Vietnam and Bangladesh," he said. **Pengusaha Keluhkan Sulitnya Ekspor TPT ke Eropa** Kendati pemerintah gencar mengupayakan akses pasar ekspor ke Eropa, industri tekstil dan produk tekstil (TPT) harus bekerja lebih keras untuk menembus pasar Benua Biru. Ketua Umum Asosiasi Pertekstilan Indonesia (API) Ade Sudrajat mengatakan, saat ini pasar tekstil Eropa telah lebih dulu dimasuki dan dimanfaatkan oleh negara produsen tekstil pesaing utama RI yakni Vietnam dan Bangladesh. Bahkan, kedua negara tersebut telah lebih dulu menjalin pakta kerja sama dagang bebas dan komprehensif dengan Uni Eropa. "Walaupun nanti Indonesia dan Uni Eropa serta negara anggota Asosiasi Perdagangan Bebas Eropa [EFTA] resmi menjalin comprehensive economic partnership agreement [CEPA], kami dari sektor tekstil tetap harus bekerja keras. Sebab, kami terlambat dari Vietnam dan Bangladesh dalam menjalin kerja sama dengan Eropa," katanya. Dia memperkirakan, meskipun nantinya ada IE-CEPA, ekspor tekstil RI ke Eropa hanya akan terkerek tipis. Porsi ekspor TPT RI ke Uni Eropa selama ini mencapai 14% dari total ekspor TPT nasional. Berdasarkan riset Bank Indonesia sepanjang 2017, pangsa ekspor tekstil paling banyak adalah Amerika Serikat (32,34%), Uni Eropa (14,97%), dan Jepang (10,08%). Menurut Ade, apabila IE-CEPA terjalin, porsi ekspor TPT ke Eropa akan naik menjadi sekitar 18% dari total ekspor RI pada tahun depan. Berdasarkan data dari Kementerian Perdagangan, proses ratifikasi IE-CEPA ditargetkan dapat terjadi pada tahun ini. Sementara itu, Wakil Ketua Umum Bidang Hubungan Internasional Kamar Dagang dan Industri (Kadin) Shinta W. Kamdani mengatakan, pakta kerja sama CEPA dengan—Uni Eropa baik dengan Uni Eropa maupun EFTA—tetap memiliki manfaat yang besar terhadap sektor industri tekstil dan produk tekstil Tanah Air. "Memang dampaknya tidak langsung cepat. Namun, minimal kita bisa mengejar ketertinggalan dari Vietnam dan Bangladesh. Lagipula, kami yakin, investasi di sektor tekstil dari Eropa yang nantinya berujung ekspor, akan tetap mengalir ke Indonesia. Pasalnya, kita punya potensi dan sumber daya yang lebih baik," katanya. Direktur Jenderal Industri Kimia Tekstil dan Aneka (IKTA) Kementerian Perindustrian Achmad Sigit Dwiwahjono berpendapat, kerja sama ekonomi dengan Eropa dapat mendongkrak ekspor TPT hingga tiga kali lipat. Pasalnya, menurut Sigit, dengan adanya kerja sama tersebut, bea masuk ekspor TPT ke Eropa dapat menjadi 0%. Sekadar catatan, bea masuk ekspor industri TPT ke Uni Eropa sebesar 12%. Untuk itu dia percaya perjanjian CEPA tersebut akan semakin meningkatkan pangsa pasar tekstil Indonesia di dunia yang saat ini hanya sebesar 1,8%. "Pasar kita besar di sana [Eropa]. Saya yakin, produk kita dapat bersaing lebih baik dengan dari Vietnam dan Bangladesh," katanya.