



MINISTER OF TRADE OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

Ref. No.: 291/M-DAG/SD/3/2020

Jakarta, 23 March 2020

H.E. Phil Hogan
European Commissioner for Trade
Brussels

Dear Excellency,

Thank you for your letter dated 27 February 2020, which refers to your recent meeting with Vice-Minister Jerry Sambuaga in Brussels. I am grateful to note that we indeed share the importance of the CEPA negotiations between Indonesia and the EU. As you were informed by my Vice-Minister during the meeting last month, President Joko Widodo puts great importance to the progress of our negotiations and urges us to complete the negotiations as soon as possible.

I took note of your concerns regarding the importation of alcoholic beverages and dairy products from the EU into Indonesia. Let me reiterate that Indonesia has no regulation banning or restricting the importation of these products from Europe. On alcoholic beverages, for example, Indonesia adopts a non-discriminatory import policy while being mindful of the sensitivity of these products in largely Muslim countries like Indonesia. Similarly, on dairy products, there has been no discriminatory import policy being imposed as Indonesia still needs to meet growing domestic demand as the middle class continue to grow. In short, there should be no difficulties to export those two products to Indonesia so long as all the requirements are met.

It is quite unfortunate that the 10th round of Indonesia – EU CEPA negotiation needs to be postponed due to the rapid spread of the Corona Virus Disease-19 (COVID-19) which prevents our negotiators from traveling to either Indonesia or to Belgium. Notwithstanding, our negotiators have been in close contact to explore the possibility of holding intersessional meetings through digital video conference (DVC) amongst relevant Working Groups. While it is still difficult to organize such DVC meetings these days due to some domestic restrictions in order to contain further spread of COVID-19, I believe both of us should encourage our negotiators to convene the meetings once the situation on the ground improves. On the same vein, Indonesia will be ready to host the 10th meeting of Indonesia – EU negotiation should the overall situation allow us to dispatch our negotiators to Bali.

Finally, allow me once again to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your assignment as the EU Trade Commissioner. I strongly believe that your earlier experience as the EU Agriculture Commissioner renders you a strong basis to improve our bilateral trade on agriculture products

such as palm oil and fisheries—something that Indonesia would like to pursue through Indonesia – EU CEPA.

Let me conclude by thanking you for your commitment to conclude our CEPA negotiation at the soonest possible time. Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely yours,



Agus Suparmanto
Minister of Trade

Cc.:

- Coordinating Minister of Economic Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia
- Coordinating Minister of Maritime Affairs and Investment of the Republic of Indonesia
- Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia
- Vice-Minister of Trade of the Republic of Indonesia
- Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia
- Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia for Belgium, Luxembourg, and the European Union
- Ambassador of the European Union to Indonesia and Brunei Darussalam

Ref. No.: 160/PPI.5/SD/03/2020

Jakarta, 27 March 2020

H.E. Vincent Picket
Ambassador of the European Union
to Indonesia and Brunei Darussalam
in Jakarta

**Subject: Letter of Minister of Trade of the Republic of Indonesia to European
Commissioner for Trade**

Dear Excellency,

The Ministry of Trade of the Republic of Indonesia presents its compliments to the Embassy of the European Union to Indonesia in Jakarta and has the pleasure to enclose the letter of Minister of Trade of the Republic of Indonesia No. 291/M-DAG/SD/3/2020 dated 23 March 2020 to His Excellency Mr. Phil Hogan, European Commissioner for Trade.

In this regard, it would be most appreciated if Your Excellency could convey the said letter to His Excellency Mr. Phil Hogan.

The Ministry of Trade of the Republic of Indonesia avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassy of the European Union in Indonesia the assurances of its highest consideration.

Sincerely yours,



Ni Made Ayu Marthini
Director for Bilateral Negotiations

Cc.:

- Director General of International Trade Negotiations, Ministry of Trade of Indonesia
- Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia for Belgium, Luxembourg, and the European Union
- Director for American and European Intra and Inter-regional Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia
- Trade Attaché of the Republic of Indonesia in Brussels