

**Question for written answer E-007792/2017
to the Commission
Rule 130
Adam Szejnfeld (PPE)**

Subject: The criteria for granting preferences under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) of the European Union

The Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) of the European Union, under which developing countries can pay lower duties on goods exported to the EU, is designed to help their economies.

The GSP uses two types of criteria. Firstly, an applicant has to meet economic criteria, i.e. it must be a developing country with a non-diversified economy and low imports into the EU. Secondly, said country has to ratify a number of international conventions, while the most recent reports by the monitoring bodies under these conventions may not identify a serious failure to effectively implement any of these conventions.

It should be noted that systems similar to the European system, such as the American or Japanese ones, include additional criteria: complying with arbitration awards regarding citizens and enterprises, ensuring appropriate and effective protection of intellectual property, as well as ensuring fair and reasonable market access. However, preferences under the EU system are enjoyed by countries such as Indonesia – a country classified by the European Commission as operating a protectionist policy, where EU progress towards lifting trade barriers is seriously limited.

Therefore, is the European Commission considering establishing additional criteria for granting tariff preferences (such as reciprocal market access), so as to make the system beneficial not only for developing countries, but also for European enterprises?