

**Question for written answer P-001572/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Daniele Viotti (S&D)

Subject: GSP+ concessions and LGBTI rights in Sri Lanka

GSP+ concessions are made on the basis of a number of guarantees, including the protection of 'core human and labour rights'. The EU is committed to promoting its values around the world, including the respect of LGBTI rights. This commitment is also outlined in the 2013 Council Guidelines on LGBTI Rights as part of the EU's external activities.

In 2015 Sri Lanka applied to regain GSP+ concessions from the EU. However, local NGOs have denounced the fact that LGBTI rights have been removed from the list of conditions that the Sri Lankan Government is required to meet.

Same-sex acts are currently illegal in Sri Lanka, while 'conversion therapies' are tolerated.

How can the Commission justify the absence of the protection of LGBTI rights from the list of conditions that Sri Lanka is required to meet in order to gain GSP+ concessions?

Does the Commission intend to take steps to ensure that LGBTI rights are included on the list of conditions for GSP+ concessions?