



316328 30.09.2008

Brussels,  
JH/sry[02-COMPETI(2008)D/57622]

Committee on Petitions  
The Chairman

Mr Robert Evans  
Chairman  
Delegation for relations with the countries of  
South Asia  
ASP 13G342  
Brussels

**Subject:** Petition 0364/2008 by M T (British) on Sri Lanka and the GSP-Plus arrangements

Dear Chairman,

The Committee on Petitions has recently examined the above-mentioned petition.

The committee considered that it would be worthwhile for the questions raised in this petition to be examined by the delegation which you chair, since it has the main responsibility in the field of the subject matter of the petition, and has therefore instructed me to transmit it to you for your information. It may be used, I hope, as a contribution to the work of your delegation in this domain. Please find enclosed a copy of the file.

As far as the Committee on Petitions is concerned its examination of this petition is thus concluded. I would, nevertheless, like to be informed of any follow-up action taken on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Marcin Libicki  
Chairman of the  
Committee on Petitions

*Annexe: Petition 0364/2008*

**From:** EuroparlRequestFormPetition@europarl.europa.eu  
**Sent:** 11 March 2008 15:05  
**To:** E-mail Petitions  
**Subject:** Pétition envoyée par [REDACTED]

**Name and address**

**Gender:** Mr  
**Surname:** [REDACTED]  
**First name:** [REDACTED]  
**Nationality:** British  
**Postal address:** [REDACTED]  
**Post code:** [REDACTED]  
**Town:** [REDACTED]  
**Country:** United Kingdom  
**E-mail address (If applicable):** [REDACTED]

**Information concerning the petition**

If the Committee on Petitions declares your petition admissible, do you agree to its being considered in public? YES

Do you consent to your name being recorded on a public register, accessible through Internet? NO

**Title of your petition:** Eligibility of Sri Lanka for GSP Plus scheme

According to Sri lankan media on Thursday, February 14, 2008, 12:16 GMT, ColomboPage News Desk, Sri Lanka, head of the EU commission Mr Julian Williams disclosed that the EU has decided to renew the GSP Plus scheme provided for Sri Lanka for another three years from 2009.

Under the EU's GSP in Regulation (EC) No 980/2005, the special incentive arrangement for sustainable development and good governance (the "GSP+") provides additional benefits for countries implementing certain international standards in human and labour rights, environmental protection, the fight against drugs, and good governance.

International Independent Group of Eminent Persons (IIGEP) came to Sri Lanka to ensure that the Presidential Commission of Inquiry into Serious Human Rights Violations would conduct their inquiry in accordance with international standards. The premature departure from IIGEP shows that Sri Lanka has failed to convince the international community that the government was serious about protecting human rights in all circumstances, even in the midst of civil war.

Constitutional democracy has to combat terrorism or internal rebellion subjected to certain civilized norms and restraints that have been placed on them by the virtue that they are an accountable, responsible state. Despite the repeated requests by the co-chairs, by unilaterally abrogating the cease-fire agreement, Sri Lanka exhibits its lack of good governance.

Clearly Sri Lanka failed on at-least two pre-requisites for the GSP+ scheme.