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*Plenary sitting*

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**A9-0267/2023**

19.9.2023

**\*\*\*I**

## **REPORT**

on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) No 978/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 applying a scheme of generalised tariff preferences and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 732/2008 (COM(2023)0426 – C9-0226/2023 – 2023/0252(COD))

Committee on International Trade

Rapporteur: Heidi Hautala

### ***Symbols for procedures***

- \* Consultation procedure
- \*\*\* Consent procedure
- \*\*\*I Ordinary legislative procedure (first reading)
- \*\*\*II Ordinary legislative procedure (second reading)
- \*\*\*III Ordinary legislative procedure (third reading)

(The type of procedure depends on the legal basis proposed by the draft act.)

### ***Amendments to a draft act***

#### **Amendments by Parliament set out in two columns**

Deletions are indicated in ***bold italics*** in the left-hand column. Replacements are indicated in ***bold italics*** in both columns. New text is indicated in ***bold italics*** in the right-hand column.

The first and second lines of the header of each amendment identify the relevant part of the draft act under consideration. If an amendment pertains to an existing act that the draft act is seeking to amend, the amendment heading includes a third line identifying the existing act and a fourth line identifying the provision in that act that Parliament wishes to amend.

#### **Amendments by Parliament in the form of a consolidated text**

New text is highlighted in ***bold italics***. Deletions are indicated using either the ***■*** symbol or strikeout. Replacements are indicated by highlighting the new text in ***bold italics*** and by deleting or striking out the text that has been replaced.

By way of exception, purely technical changes made by the drafting departments in preparing the final text are not highlighted.

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## **DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION**

**on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) No 978/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 applying a scheme of generalised tariff preferences and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 732/2008 (COM(2023)0426 – C9-0226/2023 – 2023/0252(COD))**

**(Ordinary legislative procedure: first reading)**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the Commission proposal to Parliament and the Council (COM(2023)0426),
  - having regard to Article 294(2) and Article 207(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, pursuant to which the Commission submitted the proposal to Parliament (C9-0226/2023),
  - having regard to Article 294(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
  - having regard to the undertaking given by the Council representative by letter of 6 September 2023 to approve Parliament's position, in accordance with Article 294(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
  - having regard to Rule 59 of its Rules of Procedure,
  - having regard to the report of the Committee on International Trade (A9-0267/2023),
1. Adopts its position at first reading, taking over the Commission proposal;
  2. Calls on the Commission to refer the matter to Parliament again if it replaces, substantially amends or intends to substantially amend its proposal;
  3. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, the Commission and the national parliaments.

## EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The European Union (EU) has granted trade preferences to developing countries through the Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP) since 1971, currently through three different arrangements: standard GSP, GSP+ and Everything But Arms, the special arrangement for least-developed countries. The current scheme is based on Regulation (EU) No 978/2012<sup>1</sup> and applies until 31 December 2023.

On 22 September 2021, the European Commission adopted a Proposal<sup>2</sup> for a Regulation of the European Parliament and Council on applying a generalised scheme of tariff preferences. The new Regulation would repeal Regulation (EU) No 978/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council and enter into force from 1 January 2024. The European Parliament confirmed the Committee decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations on this file in plenary on 6 June 2022, on the basis of the report that had been adopted in the Committee on International Trade on 3 May 2022. Interinstitutional negotiations started on 31 January 2023.

The ordinary legislative procedure is ongoing, but despite seven rounds of trilogue negotiations, it has not yet been concluded and there is a risk that the new Regulation will not be in place by 31 December 2023, when the existing GSP scheme ceases to apply. The Commission has therefore put forward a proposal to extend the duration of Regulation (EU) No 978/2012 by four years, with a view to ensure continuity in the operation of the scheme beyond 31 December 2023 and to allow sufficient time for the legislative procedure to be concluded.

The proposal amends only the date of application of Regulation (EU) No 978/2012, extending it until 31 December 2027.

Would negotiations on the review be concluded successfully, this regulation will be repealed.

Your Rapporteur agrees that it is of the utmost importance to provide legal certainties to the 60 countries and two billion people benefitting from GSP preferences, as a matter of urgency. In order to ensure clarity, predicatability and continuity for economic operators and beneficiary countries as well as to safeguard the credibility and standing of the EU's trade and development policy, it is important that the extension is agreed as soon as possible. In the meantime, negotiations on the review regulation could continue.

In light of the fact that the extension needs to be adopted and published in the Official Journal at the very latest by 31 December 2023, as well as the very limited scope of the Commission proposal, your Rapporteur proposes that the European Parliament adopts its position without any amendments to the Commission proposal.

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU) No 978/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 applying a scheme of generalised tariff preferences and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 732/2008 (OJ L 303, 31.10.2012, p. 1).

<sup>2</sup> COM(2021) 579: Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on applying a generalised scheme of tariff preferences and repealing Regulation (EU) No 978/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

## PROCEDURE – COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE

<b>Title</b>	Amending Regulation (EU) No 978/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 applying a scheme of generalised tariff preferences and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 732/2008
<b>References</b>	COM(2023)0426 – C9-0226/2023 – 2023/0252(COD)
<b>Date submitted to Parliament</b>	4.7.2023
<b>Committee responsible</b> Date announced in plenary	INTA 10.7.2023
<b>Rapporteurs</b> Date appointed	Heidi Hautala 6.7.2023
<b>Date adopted</b>	19.9.2023
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 29 –: 0 0: 0
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Anna-Michelle Asimakopoulou, Geert Bourgeois, Saskia Bricmont, Jordi Cañas, Daniel Caspary, Arnaud Danjean, Roman Haider, Heidi Hautala, Danuta Maria Hübner, Karin Karlsbro, Danilo Oscar Lancini, Margarida Marques, Gabriel Mato, Sara Matthieu, Carles Puigdemont i Casamajó, Inma Rodríguez-Piñero, Katarína Roth Neved'álová, Helmut Scholz, Mihai Tudose, Marie-Pierre Vedrenne, Jörgen Warborn, Iuliu Winkler, Jan Zahradil
<b>Substitutes present for the final vote</b>	Reinhard Bütikofer, José Manuel García-Margallo y Marfil, Javier Moreno Sánchez
<b>Substitutes under Rule 209(7) present for the final vote</b>	Dietmar Köster, Leopoldo López Gil, Thijs Reuten
<b>Date tabled</b>	19.9.2023

## FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE

29	+
ECR	Geert Bourgeois, Jan Zahradil
ID	Roman Haider, Danilo Oscar Lancini
NI	Carles Puigdemont i Casamajó
PPE	Anna-Michelle Asimakopoulou, Daniel Caspary, Arnaud Danjean, José Manuel García-Margallo y Marfil, Danuta Maria Hübner, Leopoldo López Gil, Gabriel Mato, Jörgen Warborn, Iuliu Winkler
Renew	Jordi Cañas, Karin Karlsbro, Marie-Pierre Vedrenne
S&D	Dietmar Köster, Margarida Marques, Javier Moreno Sánchez, Thijs Reuten, Inma Rodríguez-Piñero, Katarína Roth Neved'alová, Mihai Tudose
The Left	Helmut Scholz
Verts/ALE	Saskia Bricmont, Reinhard Bütikofer, Heidi Hautala, Sara Matthieu

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0	0

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention