

**Question for written answer E-007870/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Entry of Pakistan into the GSP plus

The EU's measures granting Pakistan relief from tariff duties will expire shortly and the Commission is apparently making every effort to reintroduce a generalised zero rate of duty, without a time limit, on products entering the European Union from Pakistan. It would seem, moreover, that Pakistan may also be on the list of countries that will benefit from the GSP plus, having applied for this even though effective implementation of the Conventions on which admission of third countries is based has not been monitored.

Furthermore, the Commission has enacted a delegated act which covers applications from all the countries applying to join the GSP plus. As a result, rejection of any one application would compromise all the others. The grounds given by the Commission are not, it would seem, based on a failure to apply the Conventions on human rights and environmental and social standards, but on a simple absence of references and notifications proving the contrary.

- Does the Commission believe it should check that the Conventions on human rights and on compliance with social and environmental standards have been effectively implemented in Pakistan?
- If it has already done so, what was the outcome?
- Which external references might it draw on in its own assessment of whether Pakistan should enter the GSP plus programme?
- Use of a delegated act will make the examination procedures more difficult since the rejection of one country's application would mean that all the other countries' applications lapse too, even when they have been submitted by countries that meet the requirements. Does the Commission consider the use of a delegated act inappropriate?