

**Question for written answer E-005461/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Dominique Bilde (ID)

Subject: Pakistan's GSP+ status

On 21 September 2021, in its review of the Generalised Scheme of Preferences ('GSP+'), the Commission introduced six new conventions, pertaining in particular to children's rights, environmental safety and persons with disabilities¹.

No mention was made of whether Pakistan's GSP+ status would continue past 2022, which it was extended to in 2020²³.

However, a European Parliament resolution adopted on 29 April 2021 highlighted the issue of fundamental rights, which countries must uphold to be granted GSP+ status⁴.

1. Will the Commission re-evaluate Pakistan's GSP+ status, in the light of its fundamental rights record and the fact that the Financial Action Task Force stated on 21 October 2021 that the country would remain on the 'grey list' for, among other things, terrorist financing and money laundering⁵?
2. According to the daily newspaper *Business Recorder*, from 2014 (when the GSP+ status entered into force) until the COVID-19 pandemic, 'Pakistan's exports [to its main market, the EU,] registered a cumulative increase of 66%'. Furthermore, '78% of all Pakistani exports concern textiles'. How will the Commission prevent unfair competition from being created for the European textile industries⁶?

¹ 'Pakistan's Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP+) status will continue for now, it emerged on Tuesday, with six new conventions introduced. The new conventions pertain to greater accessibility for people with physical disability, the eradication of child labour, and environmental safety'. 'Pakistan's GSP Plus status to continue; six new conventions introduced', *Geo News*, 22 September 2021.

² 'In March 2020, the EU extended Pakistan's GSP+ status till 2022'.

³ 'In the latest review, Pakistan's individual status was not discussed'.

⁴ <https://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/countries-and-regions/development/generalised-scheme-of-preferences/>

⁵ <https://www.fatf-gafi.org/publications/high-risk-and-other-monitored-jurisdictions/documents/increased-monitoring-october-2021.html>

⁶ 'EU envoy explains how Pakistan can carry on benefiting from GSP+ regime beyond 2023', Tahir Amin, *Business Recorder*, 9 September 2021.