

Question for written answer E-001962/2022
to the Commission
Rule 138
Filip De Man (ID)

Subject: Trade relations with Pakistan

The European Union is an important trade partner for Pakistan, which benefits from the advantages of the EU's generalised system of preferences and highly favourable EU import tariffs. In return for these advantages and for access to the EU market Pakistan, which is a low-wage country, has committed itself to implementing 27 international agreements on, among other matters, human rights.

It seems clear from Amnesty International's 2021 annual report that Pakistan does not take the slightest notice of these terms and conditions, and that the 'Change through Trade' approach adopted by the EU institutions has once again been based on a world view that is both utopian and naive. The EU also sends hundreds of millions of euros worth of development aid to Pakistan.

The Pakistani Government is guilty of persecuting followers of other faiths both within its own country and in those areas of Kashmir under its control. It persecutes and tortures opponents of the regime and oppresses women. Pakistan also harbours terrorist groups.

1. What steps has the Commission already taken during this legislature to bring pressure to bear on the regime in Pakistan?
2. What steps does the Commission anticipate taking in the coming months to restrict the import of Pakistani products or raise import tariffs, at least until Pakistan complies with its obligations?