



EUROPEAN UNION
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PRESS RELEASE

The European Union Releases The Fourth GSP Report: Evaluating Implementation of 27 International Conventions in Beneficiary Countries, including Pakistan

Islamabad, 21st November 2023: Today, the European Commission and the European External Action Service (EEAS) have published a joint report on GSP.

The report assesses the progress of eight GSP+ beneficiary countries, including Pakistan, in the effective implementation of the 27 international core conventions underlying the GSP+ scheme, which is required for beneficiary countries in order to continue benefitting from GSP+ status. The 27 conventions cover the four areas of human rights, labour rights, environmental standards and good governance for the period 2020 to 2022. The report further highlights areas where more progress is needed. So far, four biennial reviews have been concluded under the current GSP scheme.

This report acknowledges Pakistan's progress on the legislative front while emphasising the need to improve practical application in both letter and spirit.

Like in other GSP+ beneficiary countries, Pakistani authorities at various levels have contributed through dialogue. Furthermore, civil society, trade unions, business organisations and international organisations, contributed by providing information and specific findings during the last monitoring period, in particular during the most recent Monitoring Mission of June 2022.

Pakistan was awarded GSP+ status on 1st January 2014 after the country had ratified 27 international conventions and committed to implement them. The EU GSP+ serves as a special incentive arrangement to promote good governance and sustainable development by facilitating trade. The incentive grants Pakistan zero-rated or preferential tariffs on nearly 66% of tariff lines, enhancing the country's ability to export to the EU market.

GSP+ has proven to be pivotal for EU-Pakistan bilateral trade ties. From 2014 to 2022, Pakistan's exports to the EU increased by 108% whereas imports from the EU increased by 65% and the total trade volume increased from EUR 8.3 billion in 2013 to EUR 14.85 billion. Pakistan's garments, bedlinen, terry towels, hosiery, leather, sports and surgical goods and similar products enter the EU market availing the GSP+ concessions.

On publication of the report, EU Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Dr. Riina Kionka noted that the GSP+ incentive has contributed positively to Pakistani society: "It has undeniably increased awareness of human rights at the grassroots level, of labour rights within businesses and export supply chains and of the significance of environmental considerations and good governance. However, the full potential of the GSP+ benefit can only be realised by diversifying Pakistan's exports to include more value-added products", the Ambassador emphasized.

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