Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 1 February 2016
(OR. en)

5710/16

SPG 2
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COVER NOTE

From:	Secretary-General of the European Commission, signed by Mr Jordi AYET PUIGARNAU, Director
date of receipt:	28 January 2016
To:	Mr Jeppe TRANHOLM-MIKKELSEN, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union
No. Cion doc.:	COM(2016) 29 final
Subject:	REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL Report on the Generalised Scheme of Preferences covering the period 2014-2015

Delegations will find attached document COM(2016) 29 final.

Encl.: COM(2016) 29 final

EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Brussels, 28.1.2016
COM(2016) 29 final

REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL

Report on the Generalised Scheme of Preferences covering the period 2014-2015

{SWD(2016) 8 final}

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REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL

Report on the Generalised Scheme of Preferences covering the period 2014-2015

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP)

Since 1971, the EU Generalised Scheme of Preferences ('GSP') has assisted developing countries in their efforts to reduce poverty, promote good governance and sustainable development. By providing preferential access to the EU market, the GSP helps developing countries generate additional revenue through international trade. Regulation (EU) No 978/2012 of the European Parliament and the Council of 25 October 2012 on applying a scheme of generalised tariff preferences[1] ('the GSP Regulation') is the legal framework for the GSP. The scheme is in line with WTO law, having been introduced under the so-called 'Enabling Clause', which allows an exception to the WTO 'Most-Favoured Nation' principle.

1.2. Three arrangements within GSP

The GSP Regulation reformed the GSP in order to better focus GSP preferences on those countries most in need, in particular, least developed countries ('LDCs') and other low and lower-middle income developing countries. The reforms to the GSP significantly reduced the number of beneficiaries from 178 to 92[2]. Countries which are classified as upper-middle income and above by the World Bank are excluded from GSP preferences. Also excluded are countries that benefit from a preferential market access arrangement with the EU that grants at least the same level of tariff preferences for substantially all trade.

To accommodate developing countries' trade, development and financial needs effectively, the GSP provides three different preference arrangements: a general GSP arrangement and two special arrangements.

- The general arrangement ('**Standard GSP**') grants duty reductions for ca. 66% of all EU tariff lines to countries of low or lower-middle income, which do not benefit from other preferential trade access to the EU market. There are currently 30 Standard GSP beneficiaries.

[1] OJ L 303, 31.10.2012, p. 1

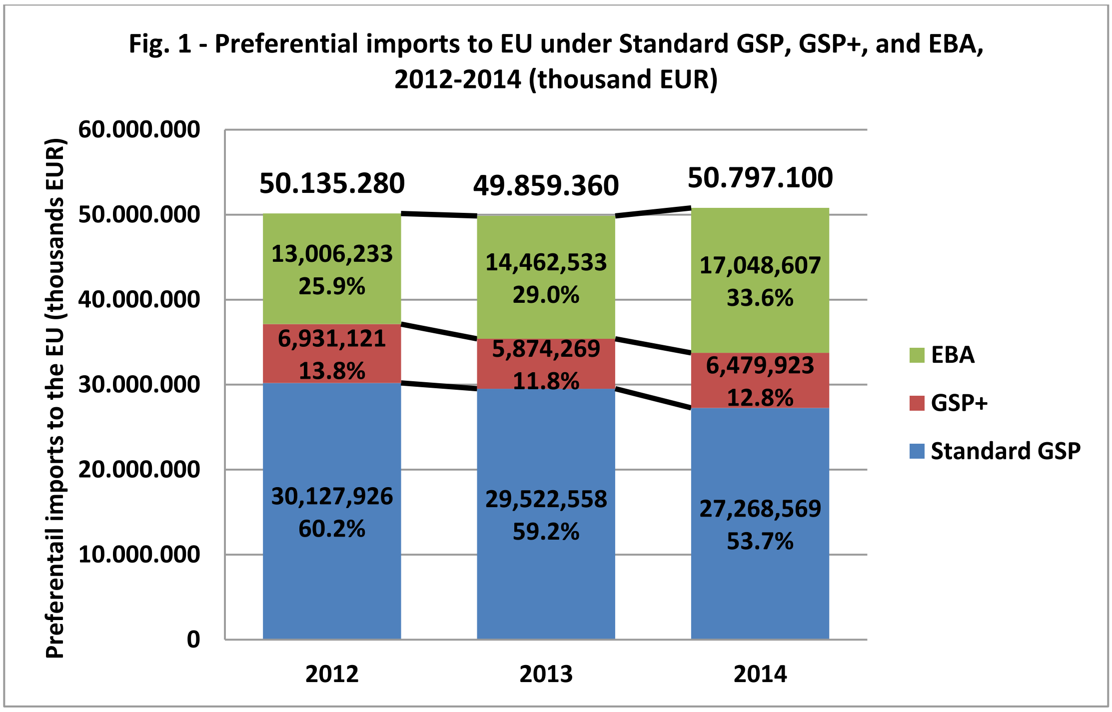
[2] Unless stated otherwise, this report reflects the situation on 1 December 2015. Moreover, data included in this report concerns only GSP beneficiaries as of 1 December 2015.

- The **Special Incentive Arrangement for Sustainable Development and Good Governance, ('GSP+')** grants complete duty suspension for essentially the same 66% tariff lines, as the Standard GSP, for countries especially vulnerable in terms of their economies' diversification and import volumes. In return, beneficiary countries must ratify and effectively implement 27 core international conventions, as listed in Annex VIII of the GSP Regulation. These conventions cover human and labour rights, environmental protection, and good governance. There are currently 13 GSP+ beneficiaries.

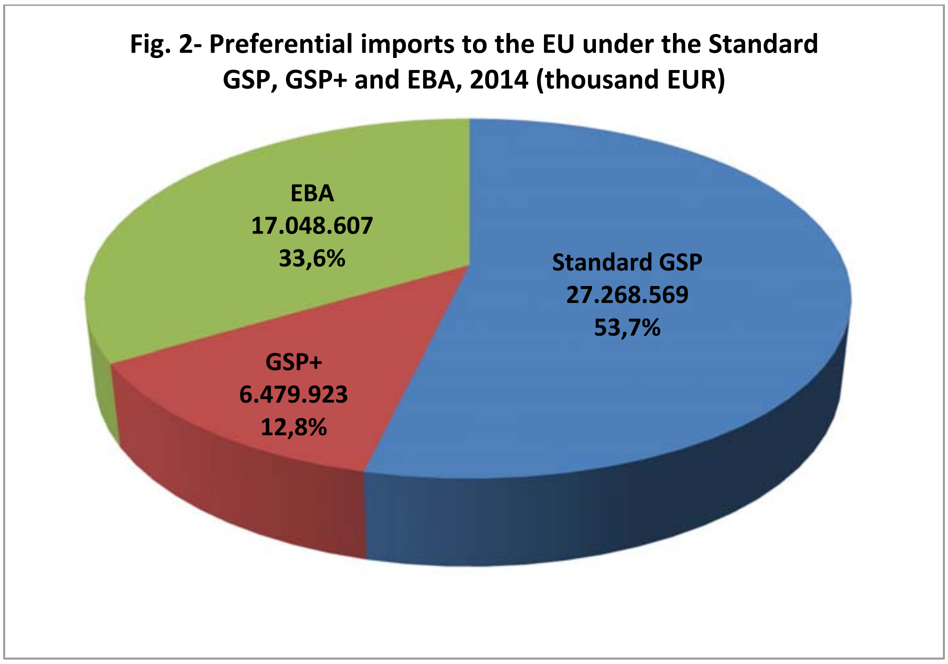
- The special arrangement **Everything But Arms ('EBA')** grants full duty-free, quota-free access for all products except arms and ammunition, for countries classified by the UN as LDCs. There are currently 49 EBA beneficiaries.

In 2014, almost EUR 50.8[3] billion of imports received GSP preferences as follows: EUR 27.3 billion of imports from countries under the Standard GSP, around EUR 6.5 billion of imports from GSP+ beneficiaries and EUR 17 billion of imports from EBA countries. Full details are given in Tables 1-4 of this Report.

Figures 1 and 2 below provide an overview of imports under the three GSP arrangements.



[3] Eurostat data as of 1 September 2015



1.3. The objective of this Report

The GSP Regulation requires the Commission to submit a report to the European Parliament and the Council on the functioning of the GSP scheme, once every two years, beginning from 1 January 2016.

The report is required to cover the effects of all three preferential arrangements of the GSP over the previous two years[4]. However, the GSP Regulation requires that the report take a particular focus on the GSP+. The report should detail beneficiary countries' ratification, reporting, and effective implementation of the relevant conventions[5].

Thus, this report covers all three elements of the GSP: the **Standard GSP** scheme, the **EBA** scheme, with a particular focus on the **GSP+ scheme**.[6]

2. THE STANDARD GSP ARRANGEMENT

The list of GSP beneficiaries has been modified a number of times to reflect the exit of countries from the GSP, in accordance with the criteria of Article 4 of the GSP Regulation (i.e. countries which have been classified by the World Bank as upper-middle income countries for three consecutive years, or have started benefitting from EU preferential market access arrangements providing the same, or better, tariff preferences).

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[4] Article 40 of the GSP Regulation. Unless stated otherwise, this report reflects the situation on 1 December 2015

[5] Article 14 of the GSP Regulation

[6] A full report on the application of the whole GSP Regulation will be submitted to the European Parliament and to the Council five years after the entry into force of the GSP regulation (i.e. by November 2017)

The list of beneficiaries has also been modified to include countries newly meeting the eligibility conditions for the GSP. In particular:

- Iran and Azerbaijan exited on 23 February 2014[7]
- Croatia ceased to be an eligible country and so also a beneficiary upon its EU accession[8]
- South Sudan and Myanmar were included on 1 January 2014[9]
- China, Ecuador, Thailand and Maldives graduated out on 1 January 2015[10]
- Botswana, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Fiji, Ghana, Kenya, Namibia and Swaziland were included on 1 October 2014[11].

The following 30 countries benefit from the Standard GSP[12]:

- Africa: Botswana*, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Republic of Congo, Kenya, Ghana, Namibia, Nauru, Nigeria, Swaziland
- Asia: Kyrgyzstan, India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan**, Uzbekistan
- Australia and Pacific: Cook Islands, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federate States of), Niue, Tonga
- Europe: Ukraine
- Middle East: Iraq, Syria
- South America: Colombia**, Honduras**, Nicaragua**

As Figures 3 and 4 below show, the exit of China had a major impact on the scope of the scheme. Both the product graduation thresholds in Annex VI[13] and the vulnerability threshold in Annex VII[14] were changed as a result.

[7] Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 154/2013 of 18 December 2012 (OJ L 48 21.2.2013, p.1)

[8] Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1421/2013 of 30 October 2013 (OJ L 355, 31.12.2013, p. 1)

[9] Idem as 8

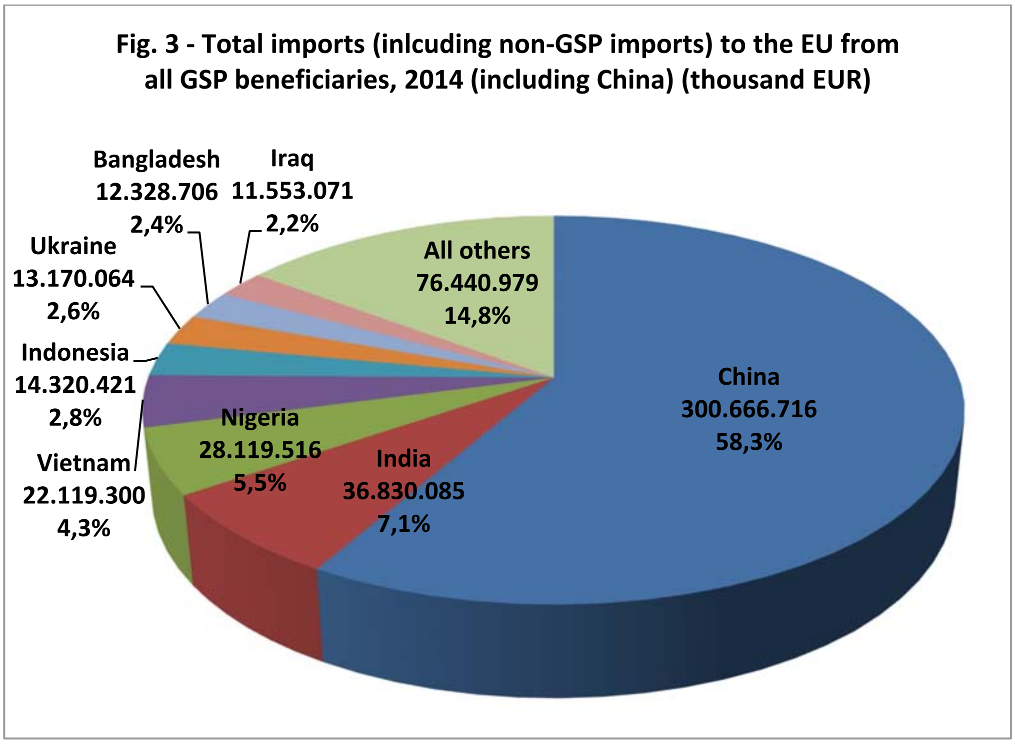
[10] Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1015/2014 of 22 July 2014 (OJ L 283, 27.9.2014, p.20)

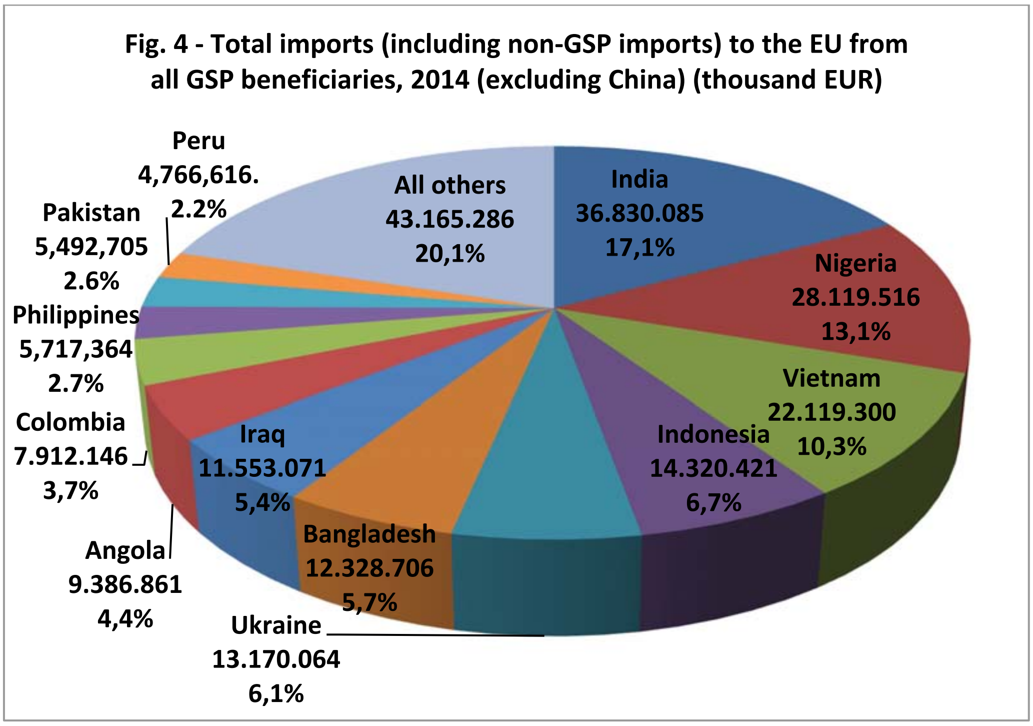
[11] Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1016/2014 of 22 July 2014 (OJ L 283, 27.9.2014, p.23)

[12] *until 31 December 2015, Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1015/2014; ** until 31 December 2016, Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/1979 (OJ L 289/3, 5.11.2015, p.3)

[13] The product graduation thresholds in Annex VI to the GSP Regulation were changed by Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/1978 of 28 August 2015 (OJ L 289/1, 5.11.2015, p.1)

[14] The vulnerability threshold in Annex VII to the GSP Regulation used to assess the integration of applicant countries was increased from 2% to 6.5% by Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/602 of 9 February 2015 (OJ L 100/8, 17.4.2015, p.8)



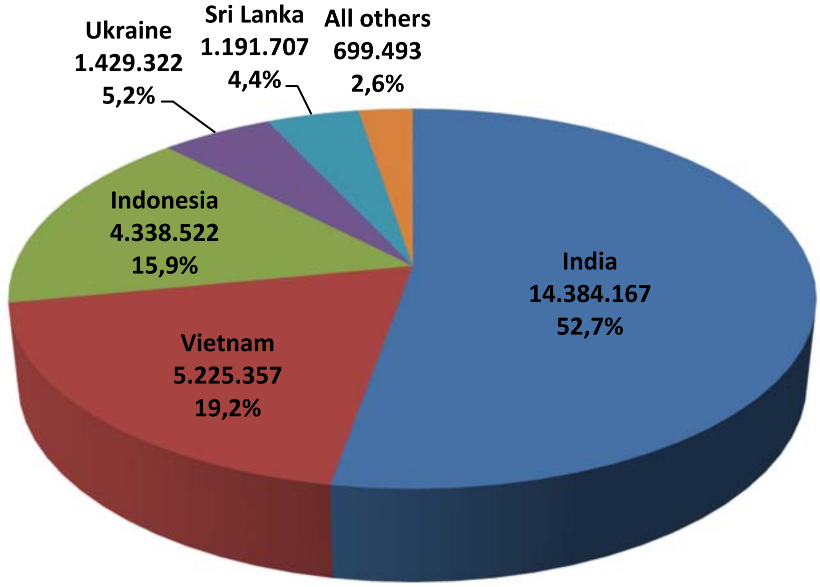


Once every three years, the list of product sections originating in a Standard GSP country that becomes too competitive (and for which therefore preferences are suspended) is reviewed[15]. The next list will apply from 1 January 2017.

[15] The current list of graduated product sections is set in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1213/2012 of 17 December 2012 (OJ L 348, 18.12.2012, p.11)

Table 2 below[16] contains the value of total, eligible and preferential imports[17] to the EU by Standard GSP country. The eligible imports have slightly decreased (from EUR 43.5 billion in 2013 to EUR 38.7 billion in 2014) despite the small increase in total imports. Moreover, the general utilisation rate in 2014 was 70.3%, slightly down from 71.5% a year earlier. Utilisation rate varies substantially from country to country. Figure 5 below shows that India is by far the biggest user of Standard GSP, followed by Vietnam and Indonesia. In 2014, these three beneficiaries together accounted for 87.8% of all imports where Standard GSP preferences have been used.

Fig. 5 - Standard GSP Preferential Imports to the EU, 2014 (thousand EUR)



[16] See Section 6 below

[17] Eligible and total imports differ because GSP does not apply to all products, only those listed in Annex V to the GSP Regulation, and because of product sections graduated under Article 8 of the GSP Regulation. Preferential imports are the eligible imports for which GSP preferences were actually used

3. THE EBA ARRANGEMENT

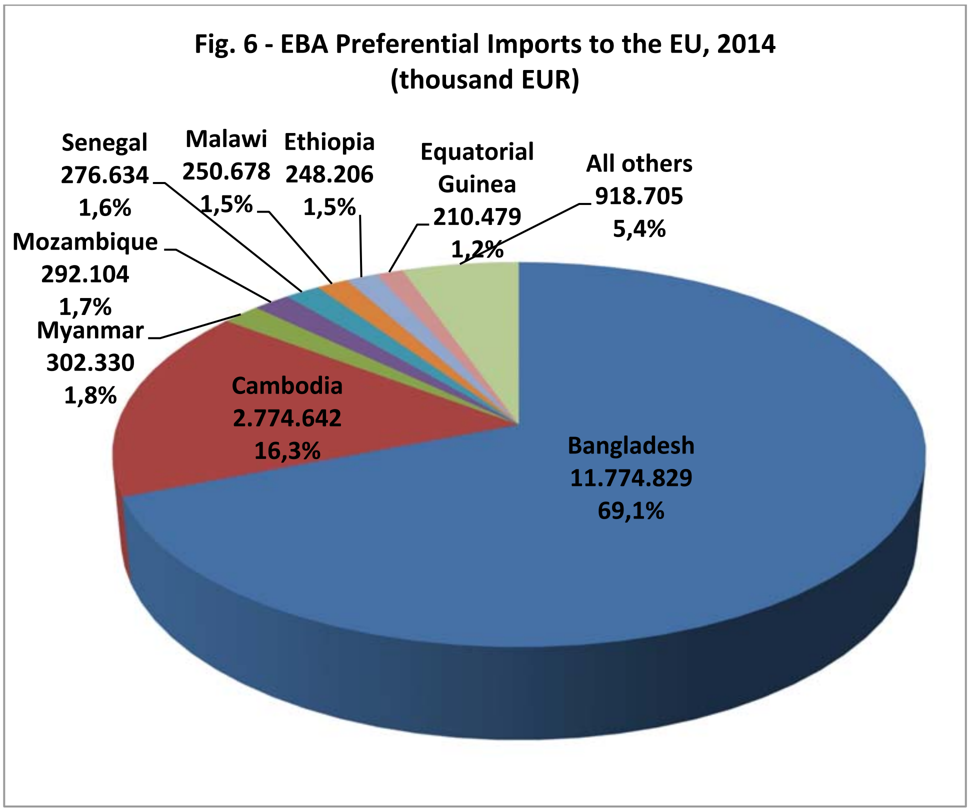
The following 49 countries currently benefit from the EBA arrangement:

- Africa: Angola, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Benin, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African (Republic), Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Comoros Islands, Liberia, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Malawi, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Senegal, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Sao Tome and Principe, Togo, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia
- Asia: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao (People's Democratic Republic), Myanmar/Burma, Nepal, Timor-Leste, Yemen
- Australia and Pacific: Kiribati, Samoa[18], Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu
- Caribbean: Haiti.

Table 3 below[19] contains the value of total, eligible and preferential imports to the EU by EBA country. Both the eligible imports (from EUR 17.4 billion in 2013 to EUR 19.5 billion euros in 2014) and the utilisation rate have increased (from 83.1% to 87.1%). Again, utilisation rate varies substantially from country to country. Figure 6 below shows that Bangladesh is by far the biggest user of EBA, followed by Cambodia. In 2014, these two beneficiaries together accounted for 85.4% of all imports where EBA preferences have been used.

[18] Until 1 January 2019, Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1979/2015. Samoa will then be a standard GSP beneficiary as it is no longer identified as an LDC by the UN

[19] See Section 6 below



4. THE GSP+ ARRANGEMENT

4.1. GSP+ beneficiaries

GSP+ provides additional tariff preferences to developing countries which are vulnerable due to a lack of diversification when exporting to the EU, and due to their insufficient integration within the international trading system. The arrangement supports these countries in effectively implementing the 27 core international conventions on human and labour rights, environmental protection, and good governance[20].

To apply for GSP+ preferences, a country is required to have already ratified these 27 conventions. Moreover, GSP+ applicants must give a binding undertaking in writing[21] to maintain the ratification of these conventions, and to effectively implement them. Applicants must also accept these conventions' reporting and monitoring requirements without reservation, and must agree to co-operate with the EU monitoring procedure led by the European Commission.

The reporting period 2014-2015 covers a total of 14 GSP+ beneficiaries[22]. Armenia, Bolivia, Cape Verde, Costa Rica, Ecuador[23], Georgia, Mongolia, Pakistan, Paraguay and

[20] Annex VIII of the GSP Regulation

[21] Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 155/2013 of 18 December 2012 (OJ L 48, 21.2.2013, p. 5)

[22] On 25 November 2015, the Commission decided to grant GSP+ status to Kyrgyzstan (C(2015) 8213). The Decision is currently under consideration by the Council and the European Parliament

Peru were granted GSP+ status on 1 January 2014[24]. El Salvador, Guatemala and Panama were granted GSP+ status from 28 February 2014[25], and the Philippines from 25 December 2014[26].

Costa Rica, Guatemala, El Salvador, Panama and Peru have ceased to be GSP/GSP+[27] beneficiaries from 1 January 2016, as they benefit from preferential market access under bilateral trade agreements. Similarly, Georgia will cease to be a GSP/GSP+ beneficiary from 1 January 2017[28]. On 25 November 2015, the Commission decided to grant GSP+ status to Kyrgyzstan[29]; the Decision is currently under review before the European Parliament and the Council.

Table 4 below shows the value of total and preferential imports to the EU by GSP+ beneficiaries. Total GSP+ preferential imports have increased (from 5.99 billion euros in 2013 to 6.48 billion euros in 2014). As a result of several beneficiaries starting to apply new free trade agreements with the EU[30], the overall utilisation rate declined slightly (from 69.7% in 2013 to 66.1% in 2014). Given these newly available market access arrangements, utilisation rate varied significantly by country. As shown in Figure 7 below, in 2014, Pakistan and the Philippines together accounted for 87.8% of GSP+ preferential imports.

[23] Ecuador ceased being a GSP/GSP+ beneficiary as from 1 January 2015. See Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1015/2014

[24] Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1/2014 of 28 August 2013 (OJ L 1, 4.1.2014, p. 1)

[25] Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 182/2014 of 17 December 2013 (OJ L 57/1, 27.2.2014, p.1)

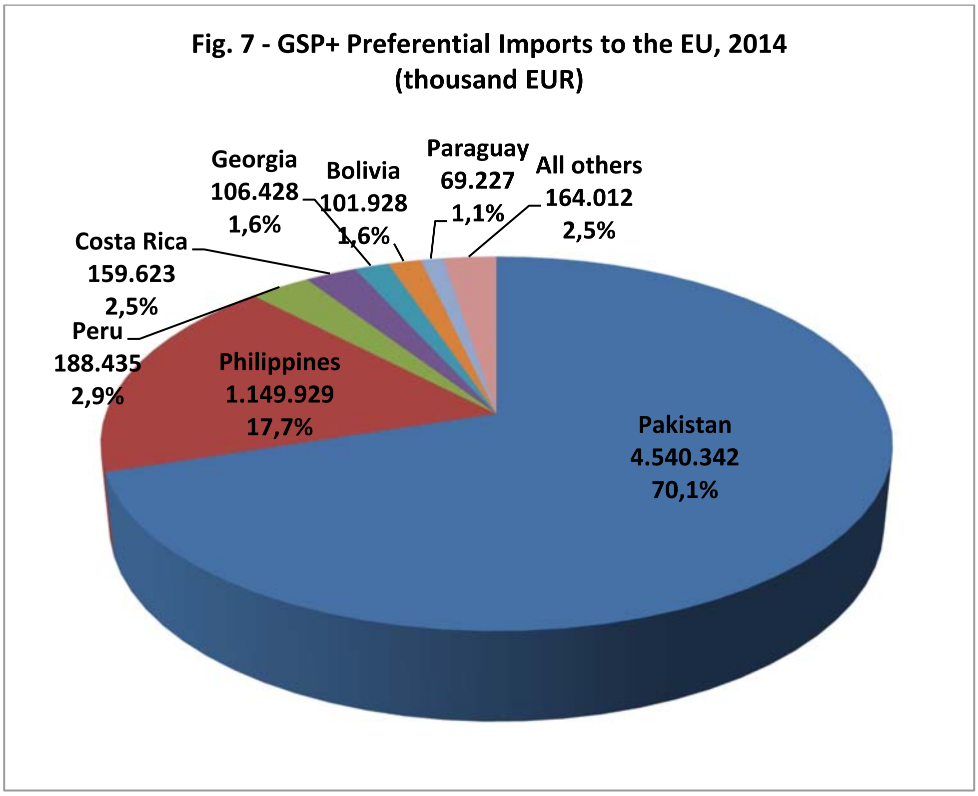
[26] Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1386/2014 of 19 August 2014 (OJ L 369/33, 24.12.2014, p.33)

[27] Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1015/2014

[28] Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/1979

[29] (C(2015) 8213)

[30] The EU-Central America Association Agreement, the EU-Peru Free Trade Agreement



4.2. GSP+ monitoring

4.2.1. Purpose and objective of GSP+ monitoring

The GSP+ scheme is an incentive-based tool that seeks to support beneficiaries to effectively implement the 27 international conventions. As set out in the GSP Regulation, the initial lifetime of the GSP+ is 10 years (i.e. it will apply until 31 December 2023[31]). This is a long-term process. The shortcomings which hamper effective implementation of the conventions often relate to issues which require mid-to-long term solutions. GSP+ conventions cover a large field of issues such as human and labour rights, protection of the environment, climate change, and the fight against drugs and corruption. Moreover, shortcomings are often the result of a range of complex and interconnected issues, encompassing social, cultural, historical, security or economic developments. As developing countries, all beneficiaries are expected to experience challenges with implementation, especially in the short-to-medium term.

In light of the above, the reformed GSP+ monitoring provides a strong incentive for GSP+ beneficiaries to improve their implementation and reporting. This requires commitment not just in the short-term, but in the medium- and long-term, which the GSP+ monitoring seeks to reflect in full.

[31] Article 43(3) of the GSP Regulation. The expiry date does not apply to the EBA regime which is open-ended

4.2.2. Promoting international standards

GSP+ fits the EU's commitment to upholding and strengthening the implementation of international law, as enshrined in the Treaty on European Union. It seeks to ensure that beneficiaries fulfil their commitments arising from their ratification of international conventions. The GSP+ scheme does not require beneficiaries to adopt or implement EU standards – rather, beneficiaries are required to meet obligations they have already agreed to under these international conventions.

The Commission therefore aims to increasingly engage with the relevant international organisations (e.g. International Labour Organisation ('ILO') and the United Nations ('UN')) to ensure that GSP+ monitoring and evaluation by the EU continuously takes into account their views and experiences. Close contact with international organisations' local offices in the beneficiary countries is important.

This engagement is especially important given the long reporting cycle of many of the conventions listed in Annex VIII of the GSP+ Regulation. For example, UN reports are issued every 4-5 years, which is a longer interval than the two-year GSP+ reporting cycle. Active engagement with the relevant international organisations is therefore particularly beneficial between reporting cycles.

Furthermore, the expertise of these organisations can be very useful for cooperation projects in beneficiary countries. The Commission and the ILO are currently launching a GSP+ pilot project on capacity-building in Pakistan, Mongolia, Guatemala and El Salvador. The Commission will continue to work closely with international organisations over the lifetime of the GSP+, including through specific projects.

Lastly, the GSP+ enables the EU to constructively discuss beneficiaries' commitments to these conventions within the relevant international organisations, such as the ILO Tripartite Committee on the Application of Standards or the ILO Governing Body.

4.2.3. The GSP+ monitoring process

The GSP Regulation requires enhanced EU monitoring of GSP+ beneficiaries' compliance with their commitments. Together with the European External Action Service ('EEAS'), the Commission services have therefore set up a structured monitoring process: an ongoing 'GSP+ dialogue' with the beneficiary authorities, formalised through annual lists of issues ('scorecards').

As a beneficiary enters the GSP+, the Commission compiles an initial assessment of the beneficiary's compliance with its GSP+ commitments (the first formal scorecard). This formal scorecard notes the salient shortcomings identified by the international conventions' monitoring bodies. This begins the ongoing GSP+ dialogue, during which the Commission draws the beneficiary's attention to the areas listed in the scorecard.

Whenever possible, the dialogue makes use of existing political and institutional links between the EU and beneficiaries[32]. The list of issues is updated annually, and beneficiaries are expected to demonstrate serious efforts towards tackling the identified problems.

In line with the GSP Regulation, the GSP+ monitoring process takes into account the views from a wide range of sources beyond the international conventions' monitoring bodies, including civil society, social partners, the European Parliament and the Council. A wide range of stakeholders are also involved in the beneficiary countries – not just the central government, but local or regional authorities, civil society (e.g. social partners, non-governmental organisations), business associations, and local offices of international organisations.

As part of its monitoring, the Commission may participate in local workshops, or field visits to industries. Reaching out to local stakeholders, particularly during GSP+ monitoring visits, is important not only to gather first-hand information, but also to improve understanding of how the GSP+ works, and of the EU's expectations of beneficiaries. This helps local stakeholders to play a constructive role in assisting local, regional and central authorities to meet their commitments under the conventions. In particular, as direct beneficiaries of tariff preferences, economic operators are expected to play a key role in supporting implementation of the conventions.

During this first reporting period, interaction with civil society in beneficiary countries has been very positive. Civil society has generally expressed strong support for the participation of their country in the GSP+ scheme. On several occasions, it has specifically welcomed GSP+ monitoring, and the enhanced possibility it offers to raise key human and labour rights issues with authorities. The Commission will therefore continue engagement with local stakeholders during monitoring, and seek to expand it where possible.

4.2.4. Assistance and development projects

International monitoring body reports – the key source for the scorecards – identify not only shortcomings and elements of progress, but also the constraints which may impede or prevent a beneficiary from implementing a convention. This is important, as a number of these constraints may not be within the control or direct sphere of influence of public authorities, which may explain some of the shortcomings. While it is clear that a state has the responsibility to fully meet its international commitments, Commission monitoring should take into account factors such as lack of resources, poverty, natural disasters, or lack of control over certain areas in situations of armed conflict. In 2015, the Commission has launched joint projects with the ILO to support GSP+ countries administrative capacity to effectively implement and report on the fundamental ILO conventions. Over the next reporting period, the Commission will continue to consider

[32] Due to the differing goals pursued under each of the 27 conventions, GSP+ cuts across a number of areas which traditionally fall outside trade policy such as human rights, development, labour, environment etc. These policy areas fall within the competence of different Commission services and the EEAS. As a result, GSP+ issues have been raised in existing bilateral dialogues with beneficiaries under different formats such as, for example, trade dialogues, human rights dialogues, Joint Commissions etc.

ways of supporting beneficiaries to address such constraints through expertise, technical assistance and specific projects on capacity-building.

4.2.5. Beneficiaries' internal organisation on GSP+

The way beneficiaries organised themselves to address the issues covered by the GSP+ conventions provided a first indication of political commitment to the GSP+ process. The conventions often span the competences of different government departments and agencies, which may have varying levels of resources and leverage.

Beneficiaries must therefore coordinate at both the central and local government level. Some beneficiaries opted to set up specific GSP+ task forces led by high-level officials (e.g. Pakistan), while others preferred to coordinate on an *ad hoc* basis under the Ministry of Trade or Foreign Affairs (e.g. Philippines, Guatemala). It is anticipated that over time this coordination will become more efficient. GSP+ monitoring visits by the Commission, with the help of EU Delegations, have proven to be beneficial in this respect[33]. Beneficiaries' coordination efforts on the GSP+ and the relevant conventions are an important and necessary tool for improving implementation on the ground. The Commission will therefore continue to pay close attention to coordination.

4.2.6. Conclusions on first GSP+ monitoring period (2014-2015)

As outlined above, monitoring begins upon each beneficiary's entry to the GSP+ scheme. An overview of shortcomings for each of the GSP+ conventions, as presented by the international monitoring bodies, sets the baseline for the on-going monitoring of each beneficiary. Beneficiaries are expected to demonstrate serious efforts in improving implementation of the 27 core conventions and in addressing those shortcomings. Monitoring covers all aspects of the implementation of the 27 conventions, including discussions on capacity constraints or on progress. Furthermore, GSP+ monitoring takes into account the pre-existing legal and administrative framework in beneficiary countries, as part of the baseline.

The first monitoring period was a learning process for all beneficiaries, and for the Commission. Nevertheless, all beneficiaries have shown strong commitment to the GSP+ process, both in terms of political will and in introducing institutional and legislative reforms. In particular, beneficiaries have demonstrated a genuine level of engagement with the Commission by responding in time to the annual scorecard documents, by allowing specific GSP+ monitoring visits, and by setting up specific GSP+ governance structures. Moreover, all beneficiaries have taken steps – albeit sometimes incremental – towards improving implementation of their commitments under the GSP+ conventions on the ground, including by submitting several overdue country reports.

The attached Staff Working Document provides a comprehensive assessment of individual beneficiaries including positive developments and domestic constraints, which

[33] It can also contribute to strengthen involvement and position of line ministries and agencies, such as labour and environment

may limit beneficiaries' ability to achieve effective implementation. An assessment is made for each convention individually, with an overall assessment per convention cluster (human rights, labour rights, environment, good governance). At this stage, given the diverse nature of the 27 GSP+ core conventions and the short timeframe of the first reporting period (18 months), it was not considered appropriate or realistic to quantify progress beyond obvious benchmarks (e.g. timely submission of national reports). Trying to attach a standardised, quantifiable value to beneficiaries' performance could be misleading and, to some extent, arbitrary.

Monitoring tools will, however, continue to be refined. In particular, over the next reporting period it will be important that beneficiaries take ownership of the process and are more proactive in addressing the issues in the scorecards. The Commission will pay more attention to beneficiaries' own priorities for action, their timelines for addressing shortcomings, and to the resources made available for implementation. In this respect, the Commission will enhance its engagement with beneficiaries, with a view to identifying priorities for action.

Indeed, here lies the main rationale of the reformed GSP+. After ensuring full compliance with the entry criteria, the GSP+ accompanies beneficiaries with trade incentives, through a progressive improvement of their implementation of the relevant conventions. GSP+ beneficiaries are, therefore, expected to continuously improve their track record. Nonetheless the individual circumstances and constraints of beneficiaries will be taken into account. In this respect, the GSP Regulation provides that if a beneficiary does not respect its binding undertaking, preferences may be temporarily withdrawn[34].

Over the next reporting period (2016-2017), the Commission will continue to monitor beneficiaries in a structured way. By the next review, it will consider response actions, if required, including the possibility to open an investigation should a beneficiary fail to comply with its GSP+ undertaking.

4.2.7. Accompanying this Report: Staff Working Document on the GSP+

The GSP Regulation requires that this report takes a particular focus on the functioning of the GSP+. This report is therefore accompanied by a Staff Working Document ('SWD') on *The EU Special Incentive Arrangement for Sustainable Development and Good Governance ('GSP+') covering the period 2014 – 2015*, which has been jointly prepared by the Commission services and the European External Action Service ('EEAS').

The SWD provides greater detail on the functioning of the GSP+ since the GSP Regulation 978/2012 came into force on 1 January 2014. The SWD also includes a detailed assessment of individual GSP+ beneficiaries under the GSP+ conventions and reports on the utilisation of the GSP+ among the beneficiary countries.

[34] Article 15 of the GSP Regulation

5. FUTURE COMMISSION REPORTS

The GSP Regulation requires the Commission to submit a report to the European Parliament and to the Council on the application of the GSP Regulation five years after the entry into force of the GSP Regulation, i.e. by November 2017. This will reflect on the whole GSP scheme over the five-year period, from 2012 to 2017. It will take into account the implications of the scheme for the development, trade and financial needs of its beneficiaries. The Commission will also assess the need to review the scheme, including the GSP+ and temporary withdrawal provisions of tariff preferences, where appropriate accompanied by a legislative proposal. Furthermore, the report will also include a detailed analysis of the impact of the GSP Regulation on trade and on the EU's tariff income, with particular attention to the effects on beneficiary countries. Lastly, this report, published by November 2017, will also cover specific developments during the second GSP+ reporting cycle (2016-2017).

6. Tables with statistical information covering countries benefiting from GSP on 1 December 2015

Table 1 – Value of preferential imports for all GSP countries (thousand EUR)

	2013				2014				2015 - first 6 months			
	Total imports	GSP eligible imports	GSP preferential imports	Utilisat rate	Total imports	GSP eligible imports	GSP preferential imports	Utilisat rate	Total imports	GSP eligible imports	GSP preferential imports	Utilisat rate
Standard GSP	152,702,551	43,496,032	31,084,841	71.5%	153,181,034	38,776,162	27,268,569	70.3%	75,696,892	23,706,789	15,537,599	65.5%
GSP+	22,733,977	8,596,443	5,989,219	69.7%	23,703,726	9,805,876	6,479,923	66.1%	12,018,057	5,694,967	3,517,874	61.8%
EBA	36,213,868	17,418,142	14,466,191	83.1%	37,997,004	19,567,198	17,048,607	87.1%	19,495,864	11,678,495	10,817,572	92.6%
All GSP	211,650,396	69,510,618	51,540,251	74.1%	214,881,764	68,149,235	50,797,100	74.5%	107,210,814	41,080,251	29,873,045	72.7%

Table 2 – Value of preferential imports to the EU by Standard GSP country (thousand EUR)

Standard GSP	2013 Total imports	2013 GSP eligible imports	2013 GSP preferential imports	2013 Utilisat rate	2014 Total imports	2014 GSP eligible imports	2014 GSP preferential imports	2014 Utilisat rate	2015 - first 6 months Total imports	2015 - first 6 months GSP eligible imports	2015 - first 6 months GSP preferential imports	2015 - first 6 months Utilisat rate
	152,702,551	**43,496,032**	**31,084,841**	**71.5%**	**153,181,034**	**38,776,162**	**27,268,569**	**70.3%**	**75,696,892**	**23,706,789**	**15,537,599**	**65.5%**
Botswana	3,441,195	162	0	0.0%	1,822,600	29	0	0.0%	902,849	92		0.0%
Cameroon	2,368,669	137,803	774	0.6%	2,148,930	32,279	39	0.1%	786,640	73,434	14,174	19.3%
Colombia	7,387,566	573,453	514,911	89.8%	7,912,148	637,555	87,818	13.8%	3,458,487	291,255	7,390	2.5%
Congo	1,373,839	67,974	48,158	70.8%	1,530,574	83,210	67,257	80.8%	881,509	25,702	22,719	88.4%
Cook Islands	2,290	146	0	0.0%	1,497	94	61	64.6%	2,801	25		0.0%
Côte d'Ivoire	3,285,353	994,163	3,340	0.3%	3,243,973	319,442	366	0.1%	1,787,465	504,408	1,694	0.3%
Fiji	82,501	3,488	213	6.1%	97,810	1,302	3	0.2%	33,093	2,592	336	13.0%
Ghana	3,336,336	488,885	3,573	0.7%	2,846,769	149,717	127	0.1%	1,028,990	245,089	398	0.2%
Honduras	726,892	233,986	176,470	75.4%	839,946	328,012	28,704	8.8%	637,493	167,225	123	0.1%
India	36,436,340	22,298,124	18,589,577	83.4%	36,830,322	16,138,352	14,384,167	89.1%	20,274,674	9,822,973	8,536,404	86.9%
Indonesia	14,180,212	6,585,035	4,823,287	73.2%	14,320,389	6,085,385	4,338,522	71.3%	7,546,272	3,534,020	2,391,814	67.7%
Iraq	10,618,992	3,621	48	1.3%	11,553,071	6,005	146	2.4%	5,441,869	2,965	453	15.3%
Kenya	1,132,251	727,248	7,083	1.0%	1,164,317	190,850	129,187	67.7%	671,933	433,650	12,005	2.8%
Kyrgyzstan	77,344	4,100	1,098	26.8%	78,103	11,942	8,233	68.9%	26,831	4,467	2,225	49.8%
Marshall Ils	92,501	837	0	0.0%	310,368	389	0	0.0%	116,384	294		0.0%
Micronesia	230	224	204	90.9%	351	141	127	89.9%	299	288	52	17.9%
Namibia	940,257	326,416	60	0.0%	961,846	62,903	1	0.0%	545,632	163,725	143	0.1%
Nauru	238	152	0	0.0%	464	28	0	0.0%	422	155		0.0%
Nicaragua	280,704	122,356	56,806	46.4%	282,693	139,610	1,133	0.8%	141,273	46,592	598	1.3%
Nigeria	28,595,038	493,253	407,795	82.7%	28,119,517	206,224	135,312	65.6%	9,608,384	49,635	29,244	58.9%
Niue	6	0	0	n/a	127	108	0	0.0%	25	3		0.0%
Sri Lanka	2,314,528	1,846,658	1,096,511	59.4%	2,481,090	2,026,297	1,191,707	58.8%	1,294,586	1,084,020	580,766	53.6%
Swaziland	224,479	17,017	852	5.0%	150,754	4,845	46	1.0%	68,729	7,486	98	1.3%
Syria	124,505	46,055	8,309	18.0%	86,696	24,618	3,436	14.0%	45,203	6,970	1,020	14.6%
Tajikistan	83,054	14,748	11,709	79.4%	60,862	14,893	10,571	71.0%	31,081	7,276	6,129	84.2%
Tonga	174	33	15	45.6%	906	71	54	75.7%	243	37	23	61.7%
Turkmenistan	863,617	163,361	156,397	95.7%	813,797	241,678	167,123	69.2%	182,236	28,433	23,221	81.7%
Ukraine	13,295,383	2,972,454	2,159,286	72.6%	13,169,401	2,970,122	1,429,322	48.1%	5,931,364	1,697,150	686,931	40.5%
Uzbekistan	245,779	86,441	73,476	85.0%	232,590	74,959	59,748	79.7%	111,423	35,871	26,688	74.4%
Vietnam	21,192,278	5,287,839	2,944,889	55.7%	22,119,122	9,025,100	5,225,357	57.9%	14,138,701	5,470,952	3,192,950	58.4%

Table 3 – Value of preferential imports to the EU by EBA country (thousand EUR)*

EBA	2013 Total imports	2013 EBA eligible imports	2013 EBA preferential imports	2013 Utilisat rate	2014 Total imports	2014 EBA eligible imports	2014 EBA preferential imports	2014 Utilisat rate	2015 - first 6 months Total imports	2015 - first 6 months EBA eligible imports	2015 - first 6 months EBA preferential imports	2015 - first 6 months Utilisat rate
	36,213,868	**17,418,142**	**14,466,191**	**83.1%**	**37,997,004**	**19,567,198**	**17,048,607**	**87.1%**	**19,495,864**	**11,678,495**	**10,817,572**	**92.6%**
Afghanistan	47,675	7,423	3,083	41.5%	36,954	16,914	6,948	41.1%	12,599	2,777	1,902	68.5%
Angola	9,306,195	71,225	26,452	37.1%	9,386,862	47,967	20,937	43.6%	3,728,691	12,994	4,016	30.9%
Bangladesh	10,862,338	10,778,862	10,313,716	95.7%	12,328,757	12,224,848	11,774,829	96.3%	7,553,343	7,501,189	7,201,608	96.0%
Benin	16,669	3,245	2,584	79.6%	31,104	11,862	10,962	92.4%	13,212	4,432	1,981	44.7%
Bhutan	10,267	9,368	9,278	99.0%	14,940	14,660	14,331	97.7%	8,517	8,079	7,699	95.3%
Burkina Faso	45,020	8,092	6,911	85.4%	107,451	10,932	9,853	90.1%	26,413	5,674	4,750	83.7%
Burundi	31,633	685	0	0.0%	21,420	415	86	20.6%	20,704	232	200	86.3%
Cambodia	2,514,407	2,492,059	2,301,708	92.4%	3,026,422	2,996,898	2,774,642	92.6%	1,849,714	1,788,841	1,644,442	91.9%
Central Africar	26,061	357	290	81.2%	6,302	180	157	87.5%	6,056	25	1	2.7%
Chad	50,388	230	54	23.5%	14,882	277	0	0.0%	32,992	229		0.0%
Comoros	13,444	8,686	226	2.6%	10,808	6,770	1,283	19.0%	5,101	2,759	2,617	94.9%
Congo Democr	1,095,287	14,524	12,929	89.0%	1,002,992	7,904	6,116	77.4%	295,899	4,870	2,770	56.9%
Djibouti	9,152	2,317	0	0.0%	10,221	3,767	62	1.6%	8,099	1,452	157	10.8%
Equatorial Guir	4,029,109	375,025	335,590	89.5%	3,650,206	224,738	210,479	93.7%	1,029,831	21,250	16,199	76.2%
Eritrea	3,148	2,383	2,258	94.8%	9,732	2,506	2,337	93.2%	21,251	1,201	953	79.3%
Ethiopia	541,853	229,259	223,596	97.5%	571,312	252,473	248,206	98.3%	335,209	135,981	129,865	95.5%
Gambia	8,483	5,064	4,999	98.7%	17,707	9,253	8,556	92.5%	10,005	6,756	6,583	97.4%
Guinea	438,665	2,272	267	11.7%	454,330	1,613	654	40.5%	361,338	1,119	427	38.1%
Guinea-Bissau	1,473	121	8	6.6%	3,346	8	0	0.0%	880	284		0.0%
Haiti	28,033	15,964	432	2.7%	31,451	17,622	3,320	18.8%	19,281	10,173	8,965	88.1%
Kiribati	59	42	6	14.0%	53	32	25	76.8%	101	30		0.0%
Lao People's D	252,500	193,309	190,010	98.3%	223,233	194,615	190,033	97.6%	117,033	89,649	85,488	95.4%
Lesotho	186,467	1,401	322	23.0%	247,383	1,471	484	32.9%	123,879	731	465	63.7%
Liberia	530,382	2,570	663	25.8%	366,390	3,829	423	11.1%	228,995	224		0.0%
Madagascar	736,262	554,975	19,412	3.5%	834,933	539,803	21,197	3.9%	416,318	240,712	1,711	0.7%
Malawi	220,267	188,851	181,415	96.1%	296,049	266,569	250,678	94.0%	176,838	160,553	150,495	93.7%
Mali	41,591	3,891	2,357	60.6%	35,905	4,289	3,596	83.9%	24,496	2,050	1,513	73.8%
Mauritania	486,001	113,290	110,755	97.8%	548,518	172,242	164,319	95.4%	264,214	116,913	109,065	93.3%
Mozambique	1,315,133	1,116,038	51,048	4.6%	1,361,190	1,143,230	292,104	25.6%	761,489	648,403	597,013	92.1%

* 'Total imports' covers all imports, including products which automatically benefit from most-favoured nation ('MFN') zero tariffs. 'EBA eligible imports' only references the products under the EBA scheme, which do not otherwise benefit from MFN zero duty.

Table 3 (continuation) – Value of preferential imports to the EU by EBA country (thousand EUR)

EBA	2013 Total imports	2013 EBA eligible imports	2013 EBA preferential imports	2013 Utilisat rate	2014 Total imports	2014 EBA eligible imports	2014 EBA preferential imports	2014 Utilisat rate	2015 - first 6 months Total imports	2015 - first 6 months EBA eligible imports	2015 - first 6 months EBA preferential imports	2015 - first 6 months Utilisat rate
	36,213,868	**17,418,142**	**14,466,191**	**83.1%**	**37,997,004**	**19,567,198**	**17,048,607**	**87.1%**	**19,495,864**	**11,678,495**	**10,817,572**	**92.6%**
Myanmar	220,609	167,552	83,050	49.6%	388,369	318,171	302,330	95.0%	270,683	225,294	205,441	91.2%
Nepal	84,505	75,976	70,911	93.3%	86,756	77,397	71,650	92.6%	42,268	37,139	34,317	92.4%
Niger	597,710	3,205	2,550	79.5%	386,500	3,105	1,925	62.0%	280,048	1,279	981	76.7%
Rw anda	26,442	410	0	0.0%	30,214	418	107	25.7%	18,095	389	238	61.1%
Samoa	479	423	278	65.7%	1,096	720	166	23.0%	1,509	1,155	115	10.0%
Sao Tomé and	4,366	190	112	58.8%	8,028	174	112	64.4%	3,737	29	20	68.5%
Senegal	330,248	219,293	214,220	97.7%	400,201	281,098	276,634	98.4%	235,872	177,098	166,146	93.8%
Sierra Leone	168,399	3,529	2,084	59.1%	220,446	438	79	18.0%	126,530	1,854	1,709	92.2%
Solomon Islanc	48,211	47,422	47,357	99.9%	63,031	62,055	61,950	99.8%	14,555	14,321	14,117	98.6%
Somalia	1,828	27	0	0.0%	2,573	122	6	4.7%	3,642	65		0.0%
South Soudan	71	9	0	0.0%	118	32	0	0.0%	85	21		0.0%
Sudan	180,109	68,604	65,694	95.8%	205,069	107,612	101,048	93.9%	113,640	50,134	49,373	98.5%
Tanzania	542,153	237,321	58,415	24.6%	600,050	280,962	118,434	42.2%	425,619	218,211	212,026	97.2%
Timor-Leste	6,943	139	0	0.0%	11,979	54	2	3.0%	3,752	18		0.0%
Togo	149,841	62,409	13,508	21.6%	85,224	20,208	19,110	94.6%	37,512	15,800	14,255	90.2%
Tuvalu	263	211	73	34.7%	843	474	0	0.0%	237	108		0.0%
Uganda	426,363	147,282	3,026	2.1%	451,484	149,796	31,346	20.9%	261,695	88,029	85,454	97.1%
Vanuatu	926	201	170	84.6%	8,518	402	334	83.1%	1,464	359	91	25.5%
Yemen	185,996	81,067	80,045	98.7%	84,554	10,468	8,268	79.0%	12,790	5,042	1,702	33.7%
Zambia	390,444	101,344	24,329	24.0%	311,096	75,802	38,491	50.8%	189,634	72,572	50,706	69.9%

Table 4 – Value of preferential imports to the EU by GSP+ country (thousand EUR)*

GSP+	2013				2014				2015 - first 6 months			
	Total imports	GSP+ eligible imports	GSP+ preferential imports	Utilisat rate	Total imports	GSP+ eligible imports	GSP+ preferential imports	Utilisat rate	Total imports	GSP+ eligible imports	GSP+ preferential imports	Utilisat rate
	22,733,977	**8,596,443**	**5,989,219**	**69.7%**	**23,703,726**	**9,805,876**	**6,479,923**	**66.1%**	**12,018,057**	**5,694,967**	**3,517,874**	**61.8%**
Armenia	215,542	74,418	58,239	78.3%	228,616	81,814	59,583	72.8%	143,504	75,896	58,601	77.2%
Bolivia	470,195	69,895	68,066	97.4%	518,500	106,278	101,928	95.9%	262,519	36,672	34,573	94.3%
Cape Verde	47,894	45,388	43,754	96.4%	97,322	55,781	54,713	98.1%	27,693	25,410	24,587	96.8%
Costa Rica	4,007,151	743,910	637,473	85.7%	3,767,873	872,169	159,623	18.3%	1,256,747	539,347	71,390	13.2%
El Salvador	211,561	94,968	67,462	71.0%	169,599	77,027	339	0.4%	83,136	26,520	380	1.4%
Georgia	658,312	184,891	155,968	84.4%	649,631	224,756	106,428	47.4%	386,737	149,722	6,425	4.3%
Guatemala	610,600	397,223	350,222	88.2%	685,734	342,628	26,755	7.8%	404,921	155,959	6,374	4.1%
Mongolia	69,952	16,051	14,212	88.5%	73,280	16,876	14,482	85.8%	41,355	5,763	4,242	73.6%
Pakistan	4,506,204	3,853,932	2,633,866	68.3%	5,492,732	4,762,400	4,540,342	95.3%	3,039,031	2,726,927	2,575,741	94.5%
Panama	652,446	112,494	67,169	59.7%	436,396	140,485	8,141	5.8%	255,041	76,960	3,729	4.8%
Paraguay	1,163,165	48,019	43,954	91.5%	1,100,046	72,535	69,227	95.4%	483,220	16,017	13,515	84.4%
Peru	5,071,923	1,261,292	766,463	60.8%	4,766,620	1,329,832	188,435	14.2%	2,376,769	775,092	37,317	4.8%
Philippines	5,049,032	1,693,964	1,082,372	63.9%	5,717,378	1,723,295	1,149,929	66.7%	3,257,385	1,084,683	681,001	62.8%

* Costa Rica, Guatemala, El Salvador, Panama, and Peru will cease to be GSP+ beneficiaries from January 2016. The GSP+ imports from these countries have reduced significantly in 2014 and 2015, respectively, as these countries used the alternative preferences available under the EU-Central America Association Agreement. Similarly, Georgia is benefitting from the bilateral deep and comprehensive free trade agreement (DCFTA) since 2014, and usage of GSP+ is expected to reduce until 1 January 2017, when the country will exit the GSP+ scheme.