

**Question for written answer E-001708/2026/rev.1  
to the Commission**  
Rule 144  
**Emmanouil Fragkos (ECR)**

**Subject:** Democratic deficit in Bangladesh and implications for GSP+ eligibility

Recent reports by international human rights organisations indicate that the parliamentary elections scheduled for 12 February 2026 in Bangladesh are being held under conditions that may seriously undermine political pluralism, the inclusiveness of the electoral process and the rule of law. In particular, the administrative suspension of the country's largest political party, the mass arbitrary arrests of political activists, the intimidation of lawyers and journalists, prolonged detention without trial and credible allegations of violence against religious minorities raise concerns about compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, in particular Article 25 on participation in public affairs.

Given that continued access to the EU's GSP+ trade incentives depends on the effective implementation of fundamental human rights conventions and democratic principles:

1. How does the Commission assess the credibility and inclusiveness of the upcoming elections in Bangladesh, in light of the reported exclusion of a major political party and the broader restrictions on political and civil liberties?
2. Is the Commission considering launching a formal review of Bangladesh's eligibility for the GSP+ scheme, should these concerns be confirmed?
3. What diplomatic or monitoring measures is the Commission taking, including through election observation and dialogue with the Bangladeshi authorities, to promote conditions for free, fair and inclusive elections?

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