

EN
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Answer given by Mr Hansen
on behalf of the European Commission
(16.2.2026)

The Commission closely monitors ethanol imports into the EU, particularly non-fuel imports from Pakistan, for which preferential treatment was removed on 21 June 2025. Products that were on their way to the EU on that date were still eligible to preferential treatment when entering the EU; this was the case for some imports in July and August 2025. It should be noted that imports of non-fuel ethanol from Pakistan can still occur if the Most Favoured Nation duties are paid, which actually happened these last four months based on the preliminary customs data available¹. According to this data, between July and October 2025 non-fuel imports from Pakistan decreased by around 37% compared to the same period of 2024. Concerning fuel ethanol imports from Pakistan, which are not subject to safeguard measures, they are also currently lower than average.

Customs authorities use risk criteria set at EU and national level to establish risk indicators and create risk profiles used to target their customs controls. Classification and origin of goods are among such risk criteria used by customs authorities to target controls on goods which are prone to customs duties circumvention, especially when goods are subject to a change in the rate of customs duties or to other trade measures.

On 1 December 2025 the co-legislators reached a political agreement² on the new Generalised Scheme of Preferences rules that will apply from 2027 until 2036. The European Parliament and the Council did not alter the provisions in Article 30 as they considered that this instrument can properly address serious market disturbance in the agricultural sector.

¹ Source: DG TAXUD Surveillance.

² <https://gsphub.eu/about-gsp/gsp-review>.