

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000384/26
to the Commission
Emmanouil Fragkos (ECR)
(29 January 2026)**

Subject: Breach of international obligations by Pakistan and possible suspension of GSP+

According to Opinion No 22/2024 of the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, the continued detention of the former Prime Minister of Pakistan, Imran Khan, is characterised as arbitrary and contrary to fundamental international norms. The Working Group finds violations of Article 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (right to liberty and security), Article 14 (fair trial), as well as Articles 19, 22, 25 and 26, noting the lack of legal basis for the detention, political motivations and systematic violations of procedural guarantees.

At the same time, Amnesty International has called for his immediate release, describing the case as an example of the ‘instrumentalisation of the legal system’ against political opponents.

Pakistan remains a beneficiary of the GSP+ scheme, which requires respect for commitments under 27 international human rights conventions, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The EU therefore has both means of pressure and an increased obligation to react.

In view of the above:

1. Will the Commission ask the EU Delegation in Islamabad to demand verifiable proof of life for the former political leader, immediate access to family and lawyers and guarantees of his physical and mental integrity?
2. Will the Commission consider suspending or reviewing Pakistan's GSP+ status if the UN recommendations are not fully implemented and the relevant fundamental freedoms are not restored?

Submitted: 29.1.2026

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(5 March 2026)**

The High Representative/Vice-President acknowledges the significance of the concerns raised regarding the detention of the former Prime Minister of Pakistan.

The EU Delegation to Pakistan has been closely monitoring the case. The EU has consistently emphasised the importance of humane treatment, due process, fair trial guarantees and respect for fundamental freedoms in all its dialogues with Pakistan.

The EU has taken note of concerns expressed by international human rights actors, including UN Special Rapporteurs, remains attentive to developments and will consider appropriate steps, as necessary, in line with available information.

In cooperation with international partners, the EU Delegation will continue to follow this case with attention through diplomatic channels.

Broader engagement on human rights, including under the Generalised Scheme of Preference Plus (GSP+) framework ⁽¹⁾, remains an important tenet of the bilateral relationship.

As for any GSP+ beneficiary, Pakistan is subject to continuous monitoring of its implementation of 27 international conventions listed in the GSP Regulation ⁽²⁾, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The EU conducted a GSP+ monitoring mission in Pakistan in late 2025. A GSP monitoring report will be issued to the European Parliament and the Council by the summer.

This will include the EU evaluation, incorporating also findings from UN bodies, civil society, and organisations such as Amnesty International, and will inform the EU’s decision on Pakistan’s future GSP+ status.

⁽¹⁾ https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/development-and-sustainability/generalised-scheme-preferences_en.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2012/978/oj/eng>.