

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000495/26
to the Commission
Tomislav Sokol (PPE)
(6 February 2026)**

Subject: False accusations of blasphemy in Pakistan

Pakistan's National Commission for Human Rights ⁽¹⁾ has outlined how false accusations of blasphemy are being used as a means of extortion, for which there is little to no accountability, an issue that has also been highlighted by the Islamabad High Court. ⁽²⁾ This impunity emboldens perpetrators to continue their violations.

Given that Pakistan is a beneficiary of the EU's Generalised Scheme of Preferences Plus (GSP+) and that it will need to reapply under the new scheme of generalised tariff preferences that is due to come into force from 2027:

1. Will the Commission make the most of this opportunity for leverage by listing a series of specific and achievable actions that it expects to take place in the meantime?
2. In particular, will the Commission consider requiring that the Government of Pakistan prosecutes a perpetrator of a false accusation of blasphemy in at least one case between now and 2027?

Submitted: 6.2.2026

**Answer given by Mr Šeščovič on behalf of the European Commission
(10 April 2026)**

The Commission acknowledges the significance of the concerns relating to the misuse of blasphemy laws in Pakistan, including false accusations that have led to violence and serious human rights violations.

While criminal prosecutions fall under Pakistan's sovereign responsibility, the EU expects the authorities to ensure accountability for abuses of these laws, including action against those who deliberately make false accusations.

Respect for due process, protection of minorities and compliance with international human rights obligations remain essential elements of EU-Pakistan relations, including under the Generalised Scheme of Preferences Plus (GSP+) framework ⁽¹⁾.

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 (ICCPR).

The EU conducted a GSP+ monitoring mission in Pakistan in late 2025 during which the issue of false accusations of blasphemy was highlighted to the Pakistani authorities as one of the priority areas for corrective action.

The Commission will continue to monitor developments closely and assess progress. A GSP monitoring report will be issued to the European Parliament and the Council by the summer of 2026. This will include the EU evaluation, incorporating also findings from UN bodies and civil society.

If Pakistan re-applies for GSP+ under the new GSP Regulation, it will be required to devise a plan of action on the effective implementation of all GSP+ conventions under the new Regulation, including the ICCPR. The issue of false accusations of blasphemy will also be discussed in that context.

¹ <https://nchr.gov.pk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Blasphemy-Report-Oct-2024.pdf>.

² <https://www.dawn.com/news/1351121>.

⁽¹⁾ EU's Special Incentive Arrangement for Sustainable Development and Good Governance of the EU's Generalised Scheme of Preferences Plus (GSP+). Regulation (EU) No 978/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 applying a scheme of generalised tariff preferences and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 732/2008; <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2012/978/oj/eng> — <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2008/732/oj/eng>.

⁽²⁾ Regulation (EU) No 978/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 applying a scheme of generalised tariff preferences and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 732/2008.