

EN

E-001050/2026

Answer given by Mr Šefčovič
on behalf of the European Commission
(5.5.2026)

1. Sugar imports of Harmonised System heading 1701 from Everything but Arms (EBA) beneficiaries have fluctuated significantly over the past five years, reflecting EU market demand. After rising from 81 000 tonnes in 2021 to nearly 190 000 tonnes in 2023 - due to low EU production - EBA imports fell sharply as EU output recovered, dropping to 60 000 tonnes in 2024 and just 11 000 tonnes in 2025.

Regarding countries of origin, while their export volumes fluctuate significantly year on year, the primary suppliers are Cambodia, Mozambique, Laos, Malawi and Myanmar.

2. The Commission is not aware of possible circumvention of rules of origin for sugar imported under Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP) EBA scheme. No past or ongoing investigations for potential circumvention of rules of origin in relation to sugar imports from EBA countries have been conducted. Member States can use risk-based checks - verifying unusual trade routes or proofs of origin via administrative cooperation with GSP countries competent authorities - to prevent misuse of preferential tariffs.

3. The Commission monitors third countries benefiting from preferential EU tariffs under the GSP scheme - also from the perspective of compliance with the rules of origin - to ensure that the declared origin is established correctly. By 2026, 32 GSP countries (14 EBA) were monitored, with visits to 16 GSP (6 EBA) countries. No evidence has come to light of sugar exported under preference from an EBA beneficiary country having the origin of another country.