

**Question for written answer E-000627/2019  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Petras Auštrevičius (ALDE)**

Subject: Workers' rights in Pakistan

The Islamic State of Pakistan has enjoyed the benefits of GSP+ since 2014 despite robust evidence of ongoing and systematic violations of fundamental human and labour rights in the country. Given these benefits, the country has become highly competitive in the leather industry and leather products now represent the second-largest export-earning sector in the country. European leather industries, which cannot compete with industries that violate human and labour rights, are impacted by this unfair competition. In light of the EU Industry Week, it is paramount to discuss the effects of EU trade policy on EU industries and, in the present case, the effects of GSP+ on the European leather industry. In that regard;

1. In its due diligence efforts, the Commission will have conducted a study on the impact of GSP+ on EU industry. What were the findings?
2. What steps has the Commission taken to ensure that unfair competition does not ensue from the granting of GSP+?
3. Could the Commission detail the reasons why GSP+ is granted to a country which does not respect the 27 core Conventions, thereby jeopardising EU textile and leather sectors?