

**Question for written answer E-001312/2024  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Dominique Bilde (ID)**

Subject: Trade preferences for Bangladesh

Bangladesh benefits from the 'Everything But Arms' arrangement, which grants duty-free and quota-free access for all exports, except arms and ammunition<sup>1</sup>.

In 2023, an editorial in the Bangladeshi financial daily *The Financial Express* predicted that Bangladesh would graduate from the LDC (least developed country) category in 2026<sup>2</sup>.

However, according to that same editorial, Bangladesh could expect to enjoy the current zero-duty benefits until 2029<sup>3</sup>.

The article also states that, under the proposed new EU GSP scheme for 2024-2034, post-LDC Bangladesh might well be able to access GSP+ facilities<sup>4</sup>.

1. How does the Commission justify maintaining the 'Everything But Arms' arrangement for Bangladesh, especially after the Rana Plaza tragedy<sup>5</sup>?
2. Decision COM(2021) 412 final of 15 July 2021<sup>6</sup>suspended certain provisions of Regulation (EC) No 810/2009. What is the Commission's view of Bangladesh's cooperation on migration at present?

Submitted:25.4.2024

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<sup>1</sup> [https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region/countries-and-regions/bangladesh\\_en](https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region/countries-and-regions/bangladesh_en).

<sup>2</sup> 'Second, Bangladesh is set to graduate from LDC in 2026', <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/editorial/coming-to-terms-with-proposed-eu-gsp-protocol>.

<sup>3</sup> 'It can normally expect to enjoy the current zero-duty benefits till 2029', <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/editorial/coming-to-terms-with-proposed-eu-gsp-protocol>.

<sup>4</sup> 'However, under the proposed new EU GSP scheme for 2024-34, post-LDC Bangladesh might well be able to access GSP+ facilities', <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/editorial/coming-to-terms-with-proposed-eu-gsp-protocol>.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/us-working-very-closely-bangladesh-regarding-gsp-facilities-donald-lu-568150>.

<sup>6</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52021PC0412>.