
READING ROOM · SHAPE A · POLICY-ANALYTICAL BRIEF

EU GSP+ Compliance · Sri Lanka

27 conventions, 2027 cycle, OHCHR A/HRC/60/21 framing. No withdrawal ask.

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Executive summary

UK MPs asked about the EU's Generalised Scheme of Preferences Plus (GSP+) on Sri Lanka. The pack supports:

- Trade-policy PQs to the FCDO and Department for Business and Trade. - Letters into the UK delegation engaging with the EU GSP Hub under the new (2027) regime. - All-Party Parliamentary Group for Tamils evidence sessions. - International Trade and Business Committee written evidence.

01 · Summary points

- Never asks the UK or any MP to call for GSP+ withdrawal. - Never characterises Sinhalese apparel workers as adversaries. - Never aggregates a "withdrawal cost" number. - Never frames this as Tamil-specific — convention compliance is universal.

02 · Introduction · scope · methodology

GSP+ is conditional on ratification AND effective implementation of 27 international conventions. The new GSP Regulation (adopted 28 April 2026, applies 1 January 2027) expands the convention list, creates structured civil-society engagement channels, and accelerates the urgent withdrawal procedure. Sri Lanka has confirmed it will re-apply under the new regime.

The UK is no longer an EU member but remains a major buyer of Sri Lankan apparel and a leading voice on Sri Lanka at the UN Human Rights Council. UK MPs can lawfully press for:

1. A transparent, civic-grade compliance dossier inside EU monitoring. 2. UK Government use of its own GSP scheme (DCTS — Developing Countries Trading Scheme) which has parallel human-rights conditionality. 3. Standing FCDO engagement on Sri Lanka's UN treaty-body cycle.

03 · Section I · structural record

- OHCHR — A/HRC/60/21 (2025): "surveillance apparatus 'largely intact'". - OHCHR OISL (2015). - UN Human Rights Council resolution 51/1 (2022). - ILO CEACR — latest Sri Lanka observations on ILO C87 (freedom of association), C98 (collective bargaining), C111 (discrimination), C29 / C105 (forced labour). - UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances — Sri Lanka concluding observations. - UN CEDAW — Sri Lanka concluding observations. - European Parliament resolution on Sri Lanka (2021/2748(RSP)) — PTA arrests. - Commission reply to MEP letter on GSP+ action (Dombrovskis, February 2022). - EU Trade Policy Review statement on Sri Lanka, WTO, 15 October 2025. - EU

Commission — New GSP Regulation, 28 April 2026, entry into application 1 January 2027. - Sri Lanka MFA — confirmation of GSP+ re-application interest, February 2026. - ICG — Sri Lanka country reports. - Amnesty International — When Will

04 · Section II · current operational picture

1. Publish a UK assessment of Sri Lanka's standing against the 27 GSP+ conventions, with particular attention to ILO C87, C98 and C111, and the post-A/HRC/60/21 surveillance record. 2. Confirm UK use of the Developing Countries Trading Scheme (DCTS) conditionality on Sri Lanka mirrors the spirit of the new EU GSP Regulation. 3. Engage the EU as a third-country partner on the new civil-society compliance channel. 4. Continue UK co-sponsorship of UN Human Rights Council resolutions on Sri Lanka — the multilateral evidentiary base for any GSP+ judgement.

05 · Section III · comparative frame

- Table written PQs (below). - Sign letters that support compliance — never letters that call for withdrawal. - When asked, frame this as a multi-community labour-and-human-rights file, not a Tamil-specific ask.

06 · Conclusions · policy implications

1. What assessment has the Government made of Sri Lanka's adherence to ILO Conventions 87 and 98 in light of recent Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR) observations? (FCDO / DBT, written) 2. What discussions has the Government had with the European Union on Sri Lanka's standing against the GSP+ conventions under the new regulation entering into application on 1 January 2027? (FCDO, written) 3. What human-rights conditionality applies to Sri Lanka under the Developing Countries Trading Scheme (DCTS), and how is it monitored? (DBT, written) 4. What representations has the Government made to Sri Lanka on the implementation of UN Human Rights Council resolution 51/1, with reference to the convention-by-convention compliance record? (FCDO, oral) 5. What assessment has the Government made of the OHCHR finding in A/HRC/60/21 that Sri Lanka's survei

07 · Recommendations

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08 · Footnotes

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