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<TitreType>MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION</TitreType>

<TitreRecueil>pursuant to Rule 105(3) of the Rules of Procedure</TitreRecueil>

<Titre>on the Commission delegated regulation of 11 January 2017 amending Annex III to Regulation (EU) No 978/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council applying a scheme of generalised tariff preferences</Titre>

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<Commission>on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group</Commission>

B8‑0273/2017

European Parliament resolution on the Commission delegated regulation of 11 January 2017 amending Annex III to Regulation (EU) No 978/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council applying a scheme of generalised tariff preferences

(C(2016)8996 – 2017/2511(DEA))

*The European Parliament*,

– having regard to the Commission delegated regulation (C(2016)8996),

– having regard to Article 290 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

– having regard to 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[[1]](#footnote-1), and in particular Article 10(4) and 36(5) thereof,

– having regard to Rule 105(3) of its Rules of Procedure,

A. whereas Regulation (EU) No 978/2012 lays down the modalities of the Union's Generalised System of Preferences, which is intended to improve the development of countries' access to the EU market by granting them preferential treatment for their export products;

B. whereas the Generalised System of Preferences consists of a general arrangement and two special arrangements, including the special incentive arrangement for sustainable development and good governance (GSP+), charging no duties on imports of over 6 000 tariff lines from beneficiaries;

C. whereas GSP+ is intended to provide a credible incentive for countries which commit themselves to implementing core international conventions that are considered essential in the context of sustainable development;

D. whereas Article 9(1) of Regulation (EU) No 978/2012 defines the conditions which an applicant country must fulfil to become a GSP+ beneficiary country;

E. whereas Article 10(4) of Regulation (EU) No 978/2012 empowers the Commission to adopt delegated acts in order to establish or amend Annex III in order to grant a requesting country the special incentive arrangement for sustainable development and good governance by adding that country to the list of GSP+ beneficiary countries;

F. whereas in February 2010 GSP+ preferences to Sri Lanka were suspended due to serious breaches in the application of UN human rights instruments, in particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the ILO core labour conventions;

G. whereas, since January 2015, the government of Sri Lanka has taken some positive steps towards improving human rights, including its decision to co-sponsor Human Rights Council (HRC) Resolution 30/1 in October 2015;

H. whereas on 11 January 2017 the Commission adopted a delegated act to add Sri Lanka to Annex III of Regulation (EU) No 978/2012;

I. whereas the government’s reform efforts, including those that directly relate to the GSP+ criteria, have not yet delivered on their aim of complying with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination;

J. whereas the report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on Sri Lanka (A/HRC/34/20) of 10 February 2017 concludes that the measures taken by Sri Lanka since October 2015 have been ‘inadequate to ensure real progress’ and that the fulfilment of commitments has been ‘worryingly slow’;

K. whereas the ILO Committee of Experts has identified a number of shortcomings in relation to ILO Conventions 87 and 98, including the insufficiencies of the Industrial Disputes Amendment Act 56 of 1999, which is the only existing legislation that relates to ILO Convention 87;

L. whereas the process of repealing and replacing the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) has not yet been accomplished; whereas if a new act replaces the PTA it must not include a broad definition of ‘terrorism-related’ offences and must limit the risk of forced confessions through torture;

M. whereas the existing human rights violations in Sri Lanka raise concerns about the appropriateness of granting GSP+ status while not enough real progress is being made according to international bodies; whereas the Sri Lankan Government is suspected of not adequately tackling the culture of impunity by rewarding military officials accused of human rights violations with government positions;

N. whereas a delegated act may enter into force only if no objection has been expressed by either the European Parliament or the Council within two months of its notification; whereas it was agreed to extend that period by two months on 23 January 2017;

1. Objects to the Commission delegated regulation;

2. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission and to notify it that the delegated regulation cannot enter into force;

3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and to the governments and parliaments of the Member States.

1. OJ, OJ L 303, 31.10.2012, p. 1. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)