

**Priority question for written answer P-000436/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Majdouline Sbai (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Deterioration of human rights in Cambodia and consequences on the tariff preferences under the EBA scheme

In 2020, the Commission decided to withdraw part of Cambodia's tariff preferences under the EU's Everything but Arms (EBA) trade scheme, due to the deterioration of democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law in the country.

Since then, the situation has deteriorated further, notably when it comes to trade unions, as illustrated by Parliament's resolution adopted on 28 November 2024¹. It calls for the EU to send a clear message that improving human rights and safeguarding civil society freedoms are preconditions for economic cooperation, trade and investment.

1. Will the Commission send without delay an observation mission to Cambodia to evaluate, on the ground, the various human rights abuses that have been reported by various civil society organisations?
2. In light of its findings, will the Commission assess changes to tariff preferences (under the EBA scheme) based on the non-cooperation of the Cambodian Government in remedying and preventing human rights violations?
3. What concrete measures is the Commission taking to exert pressure on the Cambodian Government, notably on the release of political prisoners? What concrete measures will the Commission take to increase support and provide protection for human rights defenders, civil society representatives and persecuted opposition members?

Supporters²

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¹ European Parliament resolution of 28 November 2024 on the shrinking space for civil society in Cambodia, in particular the case of the labour rights organisation CENTRAL (2024/2952(RSP)), https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-10-2024-0053_EN.html.

² This question is supported by Members other than the author: Catarina Vieira (Verts/ALE), Mounir Satouri (Verts/ALE)