



EUROPEAN UNION
DELEGATION TO PAKISTAN

PRESS RELEASE

Subject: EU Delegation organises second Business Forum in Lahore to encourage Pakistani SMEs, boost trade to European Union

Islamabad, 11 October 2021: The Delegation of the European Union to Pakistan is launching the second phase of the EU-Pakistan Business Forum on 13 October 2021 in Lahore to widen bilateral trade opportunities for both the EU and Pakistani businesses.

After the first programme in Islamabad on 8 September, the second chapter of the EU-Pakistan Business Forum for Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) in Lahore is expected to be attended by the representatives of local SMEs from key sectors including: Rice, Fruits and Dairy, Sports and Surgical Goods, Fans, Auto Parts, Light Engineering, Hosiery, Garments and Value Added Textiles.

During the Lahore session, the participants will be informed about the European Union's GSP+ Scheme and the ways to benefit from the scheme. GSP+ provides two thirds of tariff lines duty free access to the EU market with the rest on preferential duties. In subsequent meetings of the EU-Pakistan Business Forum later this year, more sectors including the agricultural and auto-parts manufacturers, will also be included.

Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan H. E. Mrs Androulla Kaminara said, "We are coming to Lahore on 13 October, with the second episode of the EU-Pakistan Business Forum, with the confidence that it will widen opportunities – especially for the small and medium enterprises – and enable them to reap full benefits from the EU granted GSP+ concessions by developing contacts in the EU market."

After the first and second parts of the EU-Pakistan Business Forum in Islamabad and Lahore, respectively, the next final programme will take place in Karachi later this year.

For more details on EU granted GSP+ status: <https://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/countries-and-regions/countries/pakistan/>

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For more information please contact:

Saad Yusuf Mustafa
Press and Information Officer
Delegation of the European Union to Pakistan
Phone: +92-51-227 182 8
Email address: saad-yusuf.mustafa@eeas.europa.eu
Web site: www.delpak.ec.europa.eu