



Everything But Arms (EBA) – Who benefits?

Duty-free, quota-free treatment for all LDCs

The EU is at the forefront of global initiatives to help least-developed countries (LDCs) integrate further into the global economy.

Tailor-made to the specific needs of LDCs, the EU's **"Everything But Arms" arrangement (EBA)** was born in 2001 to give all LDCs **full duty-free and quota-free access** to the EU for all their exports with the **exception of arms and armaments**. This makes it the most generous form of preferential treatment to LDCs globally—an approach the EU encourages other partners to follow.

There are currently **49** beneficiaries under this arrangement. In 2013, EBA beneficiaries accounted for exports worth € 14.1 billion —**more than 15% of all the preferences under the EU's Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP), which provides tariff reductions for developing countries**. Entry into the EBA is automatic and, unlike other GSP arrangements, the EBA has no time-limit.

EBA has been strengthened as of 1 January 2014

A reformed EU GSP applies as of 1 January 2014. Under this new Scheme, the **effectiveness of the EBA arrangement has been strengthened**. By focussing preferences on those that need them most (lower-income economies and LDCs), the reformed GSP has fewer beneficiaries. This reduces competitive pressure on LDCs and makes the preferences for them more meaningful—providing much more opportunity to export.

What happens when a country is no longer considered 'least-developed' by the UN?

All countries identified by the UN as LDCs benefit from the EBA. When countries successfully move up the development ladder, their efforts are recognised and they are no longer considered 'least-developed' by the UN. Thus, EBA preferences are no longer required. The smooth progression into this change in status is guaranteed by a **generous transition period of three years**, during which time EBA preferences continue to apply. This helps mitigate possible trade flow shocks and is a reflection of the EU's commitment to the continued progress of the developing world.

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AFRICA

1. Angola
2. Benin
3. Burkina Faso
4. Burundi
5. Central African Rep.
6. Chad
7. Comoros
8. Congo, Democratic Republic of
9. Djibouti
10. Equatorial Guinea
11. Eritrea
12. Ethiopia
13. Gambia
14. Guinea
15. Guinea-Bissau
16. Lesotho
17. Liberia
18. Madagascar
19. Malawi
20. Mali

ASIA

21. Mauritania
22. Mozambique
23. Niger
24. Rwanda
25. Sao Tome & Principe
26. Senegal
27. Sierra Leone
28. Somalia
29. South Sudan²
30. Sudan
31. Tanzania
32. Togo
33. Uganda
34. Zambia

AUSTRALIA & PACIFIC

44. Kiribati
45. Samoa³
46. Solomon Islands
47. Tuvalu
48. Vanuatu

CARIBBEAN

49. Haiti

¹ Following the decision by the Conference of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) to lift its negative opinion on Myanmar/Burma on 13 June 2012, the EU reinstated GSP preferences for the country on 19 July 2013, with retroactive application as from 13 June 2012. GSP preferences were withdrawn from Myanmar/Burma in 1997 due to serious and systematic violations of the principles of the ILO Convention on forced labour.

² Following South Sudan's independence in July 2011 and its recognition by the UN as an LDC in December 2012, the EU included it among the beneficiaries of the EBA arrangement in May 2013, with retro-active application as from January 2013.

³ Samoa ceased to be an LDC and has a transitional period where it can benefit from EBA until the end of 2016.

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