



**Republic of the Philippines**  
**Department of Environment and Natural Resources**  
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## **MEMORANDUM**

**FOR** : The Director  
Environmental Management Bureau  
Biodiversity Management Bureau  
Mines and Geosciences Bureau  
Climate Change Service

**FROM** : The OIC Director  
Policy and Planning Service

**SUBJECT** : **REQUEST FOR FOCAL PERSONS FOR THE UPCOMING 4<sup>TH</sup> EUROPEAN UNION GENERALIZED SCHEME OF PREFERENCES PLUS (EU-GSP+) MONITORING MISSION MEETINGS**

**DATE** : **FEB 2 2 2022**

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This refers to the invitation from the Department of Trade and Industry Assistant Secretary Atty. Allan B. Gepty dated 19 January 2022 to the conduct of the Preparatory meetings on 23 and 28 February 2022, and Mission meetings on 3 – 4 March 2022 as part of the ongoing 4th European Union Generalized Scheme of Preferences Plus (EU-GSP+) Monitoring Cycle.

### **BACKGROUND**

The European Union Generalized Scheme of Preferences (EU-GSP) was created following United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) recommendation which allows vulnerable developing countries to pay fewer or no duties on exports to Europe. The Philippines, as a beneficiary of EU-GSP+, benefit from enhanced trade relations with the EU, with considerable potential to advance economic growth, sustainable development, and good governance

Following the successful submission of the Philippines responses to the 4th EU-GSP+ Monitoring Scorecards on 15 September 2021, which the Department has submitted its commitment under the "Environment" issue, is now on the last stage process. Accordingly, the outcomes of the fourth (4th) EU-GSP+ Monitoring Mission will be crucial to the European Commission's country report on the Philippines that would dictate the country's future beneficiary status under the EU-GSP+ scheme.

The said Mission will be conducted from 28 February to 04 March 2022. The officials from the European Union will visit the Philippines and will engage the GSP+ interagency team in technical cluster meetings on 03 to 04 March 2022 to discuss the implementation of the country's commitments.

Likewise, in preparation for the upcoming mission, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) will be conducting preparatory meetings that will discuss the arrangements for the Mission as well as the substantive preparations needed for the cluster meetings.

The Department's schedule of the Preparatory meeting and Mission meeting are indicated below:

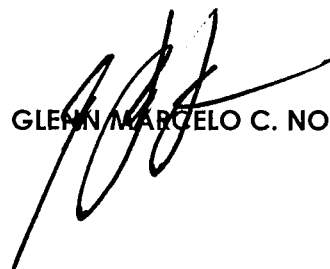
<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Format/ Venue</b>
23 February 2022	14:00-17:00	Preparatory meeting for Labor and Environment Cluster	Zoom
28 February 2022	14:00-17:00	PH GSP+ Delegation Meeting	
04 March 2022	12:30-14:30	Mission Meeting for Environment	A hybrid format will be observed. Cluster lead with 2-3 representative are invited to join in the physical venue. The rest of the interagency will join virtually.

**ACTION REQUESTED**

Considering that the Department serves as the lead agency for the Environmental Protection Cluster, we would like to request for the Bureau to nominate an official/ suitable representative/s to participate in the said Preparatory Meeting and Mission Meeting.

We would appreciate receiving an advance copy of the details of your nominated resource person/s on 22 February 2022 (Tuesday) through our email address: psddivision@gmail.com, copy furnished policy@denr.gov.ph. For your queries/ concerns, you may also contact us through the following numbers: 8925-1183/ 09081314604 (Viber-activated). Attached are the relevant documents provided by DTI.

For your appropriate action, please.

  
GLENN MARCELO C. NOBLE

**URGENT**

18 February 2022

***Please see the Distribution List.***

Dear Colleagues:

Following the successful submission of the Philippines' response to the 4<sup>th</sup> European-Union Generalized Scheme of Preferences-Plus (EU-GSP+) Monitoring Scorecard to the European Commission last 15 September 2020 and relative supplementary response last 15 September 2021, the Department is pleased to inform that the Philippines is now at the last stage of the ongoing fourth GSP+ monitoring process.

The 4th GSP+ Monitoring Mission will be conducted from 28 February to 04 March 2022. Officials from the European Union will visit the Philippines as part of the country's commitment under the GSP. They will likewise engage the GSP+ inter-agency team in technical cluster meetings on **03 to 04 March 2022** to discuss the implementation of the country's commitments under the 27 International Conventions on Human Rights, Labor, Environmental Protection and Good Governance identified in the program.

In preparation for the upcoming mission, the Department would like to invite the GSP+ inter-agency to the following meetings below. The preparatory meetings will discuss the arrangements for the Mission (including physical participation) as well as the substantive preparations needed for the cluster meetings. The schedule of the preparatory meeting and Mission meetings are indicated below:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Preparatory Meetings</b>	<b>Format/Venue</b>
23 February Wednesday	0800 – 1200	Preparatory Meeting for Human Rights and Good Governance Clusters	<i>Zoom links to be provided in subsequent emails</i>
	1400 – 1700	Preparatory Meeting for Labor and Environment Clusters	
28 February Monday	1400 – 1700	PH GSP+ Delegation Meeting	
<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Mission Meetings</b>	<b>Format/Venue</b>
03 March Thursday	0900 – 1200	Good Governance Cluster Meeting	<i>A hybrid format will be observed. Cluster leads with 2-3 representatives from identified agencies are invited to join in the physical venue. The rest of the inter-agency will join virtually.</i>
	1300 – 1700	Human Rights Cluster Meeting	
04 March Friday	0900 – 1130	Meeting for Labor	
	1230 – 1430	Meeting for Environment	
	1430 – 1515	Debriefing with EU, DTI, and DFA	
	1515 – 1600	Plenary debriefing (EU, DTI, and cluster heads)	

For the mission meetings, the Department recommends that the relevant representatives and/or offices/bureaus involved in the drafting of or contributed inputs to the scorecard to participate in the cluster meetings. For reference, please find enclosed a copy of the

**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE POLICY GROUP**

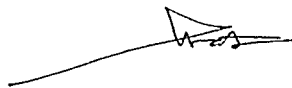
Philippines' full 2020 response and supplementary 2021 response to the 4<sup>th</sup> EU GSP+ Monitoring Scorecard and the indicative Mission Program.

The outcomes of the monitoring mission will form an integral part of the European Commission's country report on the Philippines that would dictate the country's future beneficiary status under the EU-GSP+ scheme. The inter-agency's participation will further ensure that the EU Commission is better-informed regarding the government's policies and initiatives. It is therefore strongly encouraged that the inter-agency participate in the upcoming mission meetings.

It will be greatly appreciated if agencies could confirm their participation on or before the close of business on **Tuesday, 22 February 2022**. To facilitate coordination, kindly contact Ms. Irish Cassandra Tongohan ([BRD\\_EU@dti.gov.ph](mailto:BRD_EU@dti.gov.ph)) ([IrishCassandraTongohan@dti.gov.ph](mailto:IrishCassandraTongohan@dti.gov.ph)) or Mr. Fons Hermoso ([AmadoAlphonsoHermoso@dti.gov.ph](mailto:AmadoAlphonsoHermoso@dti.gov.ph)).

The DTI looks forward to the inter-agency's proactive participation in the GSP+ process.

Very truly yours,



Digitally signed by Gepty Allan  
Batarra  
Date: 2022.02.19 16:51:42  
+08'00'

**ATTY. ALLAN B. GEPTY**  
Assistant Secretary

*Enclosures: as stated*

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