

SENATE

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P.S. Res. No. **1243**

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Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

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**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON TRADE AND COMMERCE, ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, AGRICULTURE AND FOOD, AND OTHER APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE PHILIPPINES' ACCEPTANCE TO THE EUROPEAN UNION'S GENERALIZED SCHEME OF PREFERENCES PLUS (GSP+) TO PUT IN PLACE APPROACHES AND STRATEGIES FOR FILIPINO EXPORTERS TO REAP THE FULL BENEFITS OF SAID OPPORTUNITY**

**WHEREAS**, the European Union's Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP) gives exporters from developing countries vital access to European Union (EU) markets by allowing them to pay less or no duties on their exports to the EU, therefore contributing to their economic growth;

**WHEREAS**, the "GSP+" enhanced preferences means full removal of tariffs on basically the same product categories as those covered by the general scheme and are granted to countries which ratify and implement international conventions relating to human and labor rights, environment and good governance;

**WHEREAS**, in December 2014, the Philippines was accepted as an EU-GSP+ beneficiary which will provide zero tariff entry to the EU for over 6,200 of the most important Philippine exports including fruit and foodstuffs, coconut oil, footwear, fish, and textiles;

**WHEREAS**, the foregoing arrangement gives the Philippines a comparative advantage therefore increasing our exports which, consequently, will more create jobs for more Filipinos;

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to inquire if mechanisms are in place to take advantage of this grant as the EU-GSP+ is a valuable opportunity, which a lot of our exporters or even small and medium enterprises (SMEs) can benefit from;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved, that the Philippine Senate direct the Senate Committees on Trade and Commerce, Economic Affairs, Foreign Relations, Agriculture and Food, and other appropriate Senate Committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the Philippines' Acceptance European Union's Generalized Scheme of Preferences Plus (GSP+) to put in place approaches and strategies for Filipino exporters to reap the full benefits of said opportunity

*Adopted,*

  
MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID