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Asymmetry of external relations of the European Union in the political, social and economic dimensions

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External relations in general- Treaty of Lisbon

Article 10 A

2. The Union shall define and pursue common policies and actions, and **shall work for a high degree of cooperation** in all fields of international relations, in order to:

(a) safeguard its **values, fundamental interests, security, independence and integrity**;

(b) consolidate and support democracy, the rule of law, human rights and the principles of international law;

(c) preserve peace, prevent conflicts and strengthen international security, (...);

(d) foster the sustainable economic, social and environmental development of developing countries, with the primary aim of eradicating poverty;

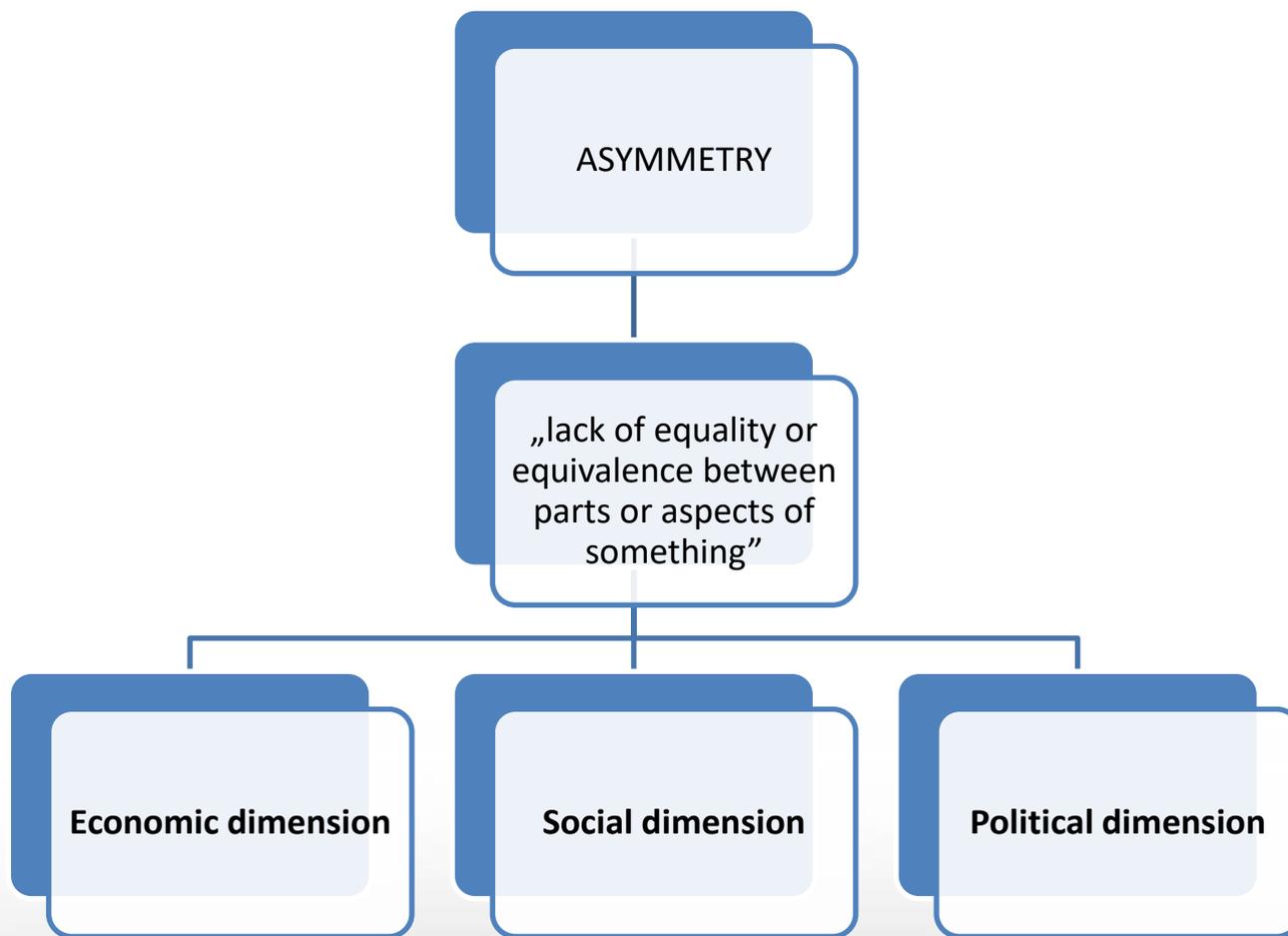
(e) encourage the integration of all countries into the world economy, including through the progressive abolition of restrictions on international trade;

(f) help develop international measures to preserve and improve the quality of the environment and the sustainable management of global natural resources, in order to ensure sustainable development;

(g) assist populations, countries and regions confronting natural or man-made disasters; and

(h) promote an international system based on stronger multilateral cooperation and good global governance.

Asymmetry of external relations



ASYMMETRY OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS

ECONOMIC DIMENSION

- Common Trade Policy
- Financial, economic and technical cooperation with third countries
- 500 mln people market with over 14 trillion euro of GDP

SOCIAL DIMENSION

- Humanitarian aid
- Cooperation for the development
- Management of refugee crisis
- European Solidarity Corps

POLITICAL DIMENSION

- EU as a inspiration for the globalizing world
- European Neighbourhood Policy
- Open for new countries
- Now it covers countries from Black Sea to Atlantic
- Who will be next?

Within the Generalized System of Preferences the EU offers



Mid-term evaluation of GSP – key findings

- Increase of EU imports from 49 EBA countries (2011-2016)
- A small absolute increase in the exports of the 23 Standard GSP countries since 2014
- The level of export diversification, measured by number of tariff lines for which nonzero exports have been recorded, has been the highest for Standard GSP beneficiaries
- The relevance of the GSP remains strong. Its aggregate trade impact has reduced but it remains positive and vital for those countries most in need of support for their market access, notably LDCs and other vulnerable countries

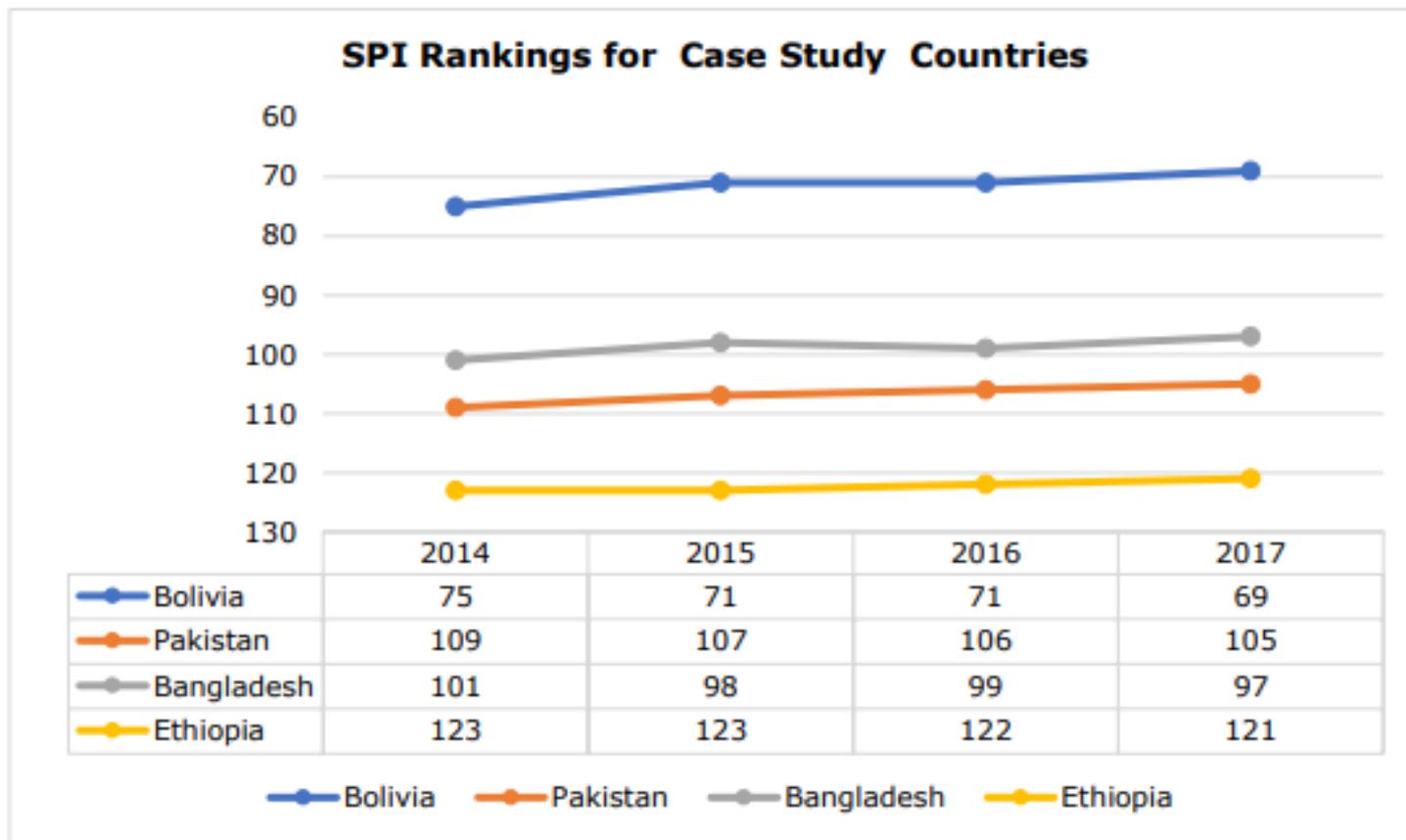
The GSP non-economic effects

- Environmental impact difficult to witness
- Positive social and human rights impacts
- Limited impact on good governance
- Impact on Social Progress Index

Overview of social progress indicators under the Social Progress Index

BASIC NEED	HUMAN	FOUNDATIONS OF WELLBEING	OPPORTUNITY
Nutrition and Medical Care	Basic	Access to Basic Knowledge	Personal Rights
Water and Sanitation		Access to Information and Communications	Personal Freedom of Choice
Shelter		Health and Wellness	Tolerance and Inclusion
Personal Safety		Environmental Quality	Access to Advanced Education

Overview of the development in social progress in the four case study countries



Source: EC, Mid-Term Evaluation of the EU's Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP), EC, pp. 108-109, 2018.

Thank you!



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