THE NEWS 08 NUV 2013 Page-No-15

## EU envoy highlights key GSP Plus conventions

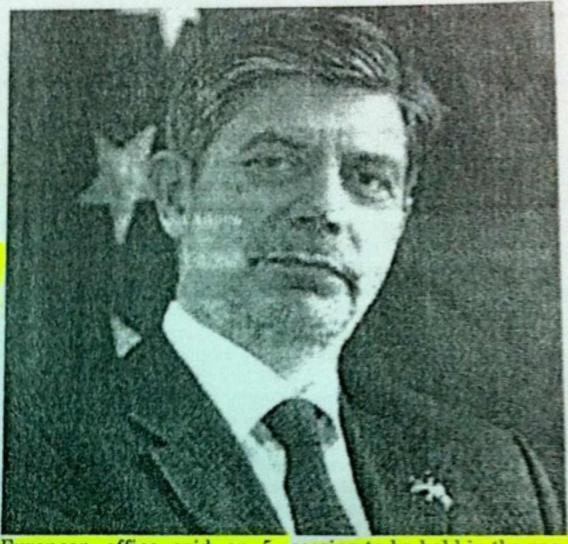
By Mehtab Haider

ISLAMABAD: Welcoming the move towards the granting of the generalised system of preferences (GSP) Plus status to Pakistan, the European Union's Ambassador to Pakistan Lars-Gunnar Wigemark said Thursday if the status is granted, then the country has to implement all the 27 international conventions on human rights, labour standards, environment and good governance.

Pakistan must implement the conventions - which are part of this system of special trade preferences – if the GSP Plus is conferred upon Pakistan by the end of this year," he said in a statement.

The Ambassador said that he welcomed that the GSP+ package had now passed an important test of the European Parliament's Committee on International Trade.

tive effect on Pakistan's trade Pakistani companies as well as tries, including Pakistan.



November 2013 the Interna- ond week of December 2013. tional Trade Committee of the European Parliament voted European 'parliament must If granted these trade pref- against a resolution objecting lodge a request for such a pleerences will have a very posi- to the European Commission's delegated act on GSP Plus, create new opportunities for ences to ten applicant coun-

"We still need to wait if vote could pave the way for there will be a vote in the ple- the status, yet it is not decisive nary session of the European since there is still a possibility parliament in December," he that a negative resolution might be presented before the A statement issued by the European parliament's plenary

European office said on 5 session to be held in the sec-

At least 40 members of the nary session to take place.

Besides, the votes against with the European Union and proposing special trade prefer- the European Commission's proposal must be in an absolute majority i.e. 384 votes out jobs for many locals, he added. Though the committee's of a total of 766 members of the European parliament.

The other countries awaiting the GSP+ include Armenia, Bolivia, Cape Verde, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Georgia, Mongolia, Paraguay, and Peru-

