



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 22 February 2021
(OR. en)

6287/21

COASI 22
ASIE 5
RELEX 109
COHAFA 10
CFSP/PESC 138
DEVGEN 26

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 22 February 2021
To: Delegations

No. prev. doc.: 6171/21

Subject: Myanmar/Burma
- Council conclusions (22 February 2021)

Delegations will find attached Council conclusions on Myanmar/Burma, as approved by the Council on 22 February 2021.

Council conclusions on Myanmar/Burma

1. The European Union stands with the people of Myanmar/Burma. The Council condemns in the strongest terms the military coup carried out in the country on 1 February 2021. The European Union calls for de-escalation of the current crisis through an immediate end to the state of emergency, the restoration of the legitimate civilian government and the opening of the newly elected parliament. The results of the democratic elections held on 8 November 2020 have to be respected. The military must renounce its action.
2. The European Union calls upon the military authorities, and in particular the Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, to immediately and unconditionally release President U Win Myint, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and all those who have been detained or arrested in connection with the coup. Unimpeded telecommunications must be ensured; the freedoms of expression, association, and assembly, and access to information guaranteed, and the rule of law and human rights respected. The EU condemns military and police repression against peaceful demonstrators while calling for maximum restraint to be exercised by the authorities and for all sides to refrain from violence, in line with international law. The EU stands in solidarity with all those citizens of Myanmar/Burma who exercise their fundamental right to peaceful assembly in support of the legitimate civilian government and parliament, and their choice for a democratic future.
3. The European Union has been a steadfast supporter of Myanmar/Burma's civilian and democratic transition as well as of its peace process and national reconciliation, and inclusive socio-economic development. The European Union stands ready to support dialogue with all key stakeholders who wish to resolve the situation in good faith, with a view to facilitating a swift reinstatement of power to the legitimate democratic institutions.

4. The European Union will work together with all those willing to support democracy, the rule of law and good governance, and to ensure respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Myanmar/Burma. To this end, the EU will use all channels of dialogue together with other regional and international partners. In this regard, the European Union highly values its strategic partnership with ASEAN, encourages regional initiatives, and welcomes the UN Secretary-General's engagement and lends its full support to the continued efforts of UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy Schraner Burgener to secure a peaceful return of Myanmar/Burma to its path towards democracy.
5. The European Union is deeply concerned about reports of intimidation. Strong engagement with civil society and support for human rights defenders and journalists will remain a key priority.
6. In response to the military coup, the European Union stands ready to adopt restrictive measures targeting those directly responsible. All other tools at the disposal of the European Union and its Member States will be kept under review. The European Union will seek to avoid measures which could adversely affect the people of Myanmar/Burma, especially the most vulnerable. The Council invites the High Representative and the European Commission to develop appropriate proposals in this regard.
7. The European Union will continue to provide humanitarian assistance, in accordance with the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence, to refugees and displaced persons in Myanmar/Burma and the region, including the Rohingya, in line with its longstanding engagement and its pledges during the International Rohingya Donor Conference that it co-chaired on 22 October 2020. In this context, the EU repeats its call for free and unhindered humanitarian access and stands ready to step up its humanitarian assistance for all needs, if required. The Council reiterates the need to address the root causes of the crisis in Rakhine State and to create conditions necessary for the safe, voluntary, sustainable and dignified return of refugees and displaced persons, in accordance with international standards.
8. The Council agreed that it would keep its relations with Myanmar/Burma under constant review and may consider further measures as deemed appropriate.