



COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION



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9626/12

PRESSE 195

Burma/Myanmar: EU sanctions suspended

The Council today adopted a regulation that, together with a Council decision adopted on 26 April, will give full legal effect to the suspension of EU sanctions against Burma/Myanmar. The suspension had been agreed at the Foreign Affairs Council on 23 April.

The EU restrictive measures against Burma/Myanmar are suspended for one year. Only the embargo on arms and equipment that can be used for internal repression will remain in force for another 12 months. The suspension of the sanctions is part of the EU's policy to welcome and encourage the ongoing reform process in Burma/Myanmar.

EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Catherine Ashton, said: *"The European Union welcomes the remarkable changes in Burma/Myanmar and has decided to open a new chapter in our relations. Now that the sanctions will be effectively suspended, we encourage trade and investment in the country."*

The suspended measures concern trade and investment in the sectors of logging, timber processing and mining of precious metals and precious stones. In addition, persons involved in policies that impeded Burma/Myanmar's transition to democracy and military owned companies or companies controlled by the government of Burma/Myanmar were targeted by asset freezes and travel bans.

See also:

Council conclusions of 23 April ([9008/12](#))

Council decision of 26 April ([EU Official Journal](#))

P R E S S
