



EU Presidency Statement

EU Presidency Statement calling for all-inclusive dialogue between the authorities and the democratic forces in Burma/Myanmar

The Presidency of the EU notes the recent visits by the UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser Ibrahim Gambari and UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar Tomás Ojea Quintana. The Presidency also notes the briefing by Mr. Gambari in the Security Council last Friday (20th February), and attended the meeting of "Group of Friends of SG on Myanmar" today.

In this context, the Presidency reiterates the EU's support for the good offices role of the UN SG as mandated by the UN General Assembly resolution 63/245 from December 24, 2008, and, with regret, notes the information by Mr. Gambari that, so far, there is no tangible outcome of his visits to Burma/Myanmar.

The Presidency recalls that the UN GA resolution stated that the political process in the country is "not transparent, inclusive, free and fair, and that the procedures established for the drafting of the constitution resulted in the de facto exclusion of the opposition from the process." The Presidency shares the view expressed by Mr. Gambari that it is the time to demonstrate the Myanmar's commitment to addressing concretely the issues of concern to the international community.

The Presidency of the EU strongly calls for an immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners and detainees, including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, lifting all restrictions on political parties, and all-inclusive dialogue between the authorities and the democratic forces, including ethnic groups.

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