



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Council Conclusions on Burma/Myanmar

*2902nd GENERAL AFFAIRS Council meeting
Brussels, 10 November 2008*

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

"The Council welcomed the Chair's Statement adopted at the ASEM Summit in Beijing on 24 and 25 October 2008, calling for the lifting of restrictions placed on political parties and early release of those under detention and encouraging the government to engage all stakeholders in an inclusive political process and to cooperate more closely with the United Nations. The Council also called upon the Burma/Myanmar authorities to facilitate the issue of visas.

However, the Council deplores the lack of progress made this year towards a genuine transition to democracy in Burma/Myanmar since the violent repression of peaceful demonstrations by the military authorities.

The European Union points out that the elections scheduled for 2010 will have no credibility unless the Burma/Myanmar authorities unconditionally release all political prisoners, in particular Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and initiate a political process with United Nations support on the basis of an inclusive, long-term dialogue in which the opposition and ethnic groups can participate fully.

The Council reaffirms its firm and unconditional support for the UN Secretary-General's Mission of Good Offices and welcomes his renewed personal commitment to ending the current deadlock.

P R E S S

The Council pays tribute to the work of European Union Special Envoy Mr Piero Fassino in support of the UN's efforts, aimed at closer cooperation with the countries of the region, and welcomes the renewal of his mandate.

The European Union is prepared to revise, amend or reinforce the measures it has already adopted to keep pace with developments in the situation. It is determined to help the people of Burma/Myanmar to achieve stability, prosperity and democracy and remains ready to react positively to real progress towards democracy.

The European Union welcomes the close cooperation between ASEAN, the UN and the authorities of Burma/Myanmar in reaction to Cyclone Nargis. The Council reiterates the commitment made by the European Union and its Member States to give substantial assistance to all those in need and to deal with the humanitarian situation in Burma/Myanmar in a more comprehensive way."
