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**DECLARATION BY THE PRESIDENCY ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION ON
MYANMAR/BURMA**

The European Union is gravely concerned at the continuing deterioration of the political situation in Myanmar/Burma, in particular the increasing repression of the population, and the arrests and detention of members of the National League of Democracy (NLD), related to the celebration on 27 May, last, of the anniversary of the 1990 elections. These actions constitute a further flagrant breach of fundamental freedoms and Human Rights. The European Union is of the view that it is the legitimate right of any legal political party to peacefully assemble and to discuss matters of common interest.

The European Union urges the State Law and Restoration Order Council (SLORC) to immediately and unconditionally release those NLD members who are still detained as well as all other political prisoners.

In this respect, the European Union recalls its Common Position as well as its earlier statements on Myanmar/Burma and calls upon the SLORC to enter into a meaningful and substantive dialogue with both Aung San Suu Kyi and other representatives of pro democracy groups, as well as with national minorities to restore democracy, the rule of law, respect for Human Rights and fundamental freedoms, and to bring about national reconciliation.