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Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the verdict against Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

The European Union condemns the verdict against Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, leader of the National League for Democracy and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, and the unjustified trial against her. The proceedings against Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, on charges which were brought twenty years after she was first wrongfully arrested, have been in breach of national and international law. The EU urges the authorities to immediately and unconditionally release her.

The authorities of Burma/Myanmar have chosen to ignore the protests over her arrest and the appeals for her release. These have come from a larger number of States and organisations than ever before, led by the UN Secretary-General, and including the Chair and several Member States of ASEAN, of which Burma/Myanmar is a member.

The EU will respond with additional targeted measures against those responsible for the verdict. In addition, the EU will further reinforce its restrictive measures targeting the regime of Burma/Myanmar, including its economic interests. The EU underlines its readiness to revise, amend or reinforce its measures in light of the developments in Burma/Myanmar.

The EU will intensify its work with the international community, and especially with its partners in Asia, to achieve our common aim of obtaining the immediate and unconditional release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and all other political prisoners in Burma/Myanmar. This is an essential first step in the process of genuine national reconciliation that is needed if the elections in 2010 are to be seen as credible, free and fair, as was also stressed by the UN Secretary-General during his mission to Burma/Myanmar on 3-4 July. The EU urges the authorities of Burma/Myanmar to comply with the Secretary General's demands and to cooperate with the UN and the international community. If the authorities decide to take such steps, the EU stands ready to respond positively.

The EU recalls its strong and unwavering commitment to support and sustain the people of Burma/Myanmar. The EU provides the people with substantial humanitarian assistance and stands ready to increase its support further.

The Candidate Countries Turkey, Croatia* and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Armenia align themselves with this declaration.

* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.