

## Myanmar: EP delegation calls for enquiry into human rights violations

**The mass exodus of Rohingya people following human rights violations makes it necessary for the EU to reassess its relationship with Myanmar, said MEPs after visiting on 12-16 February.**

A delegation from the European Parliament's Subcommittee on Human Rights (DROI), joined by Foreign Affairs and Trade Committee MEPs as well as Members of the ASEAN Delegation visited Myanmar and the Bangladesh borders.

The Chair of the delegation Mr. Pier Antonio Panzeri(S&D, IT) said:

"The European Parliament has had concerns about the human rights situation in Myanmar and after a five-day visit these concerns remain as the human rights situation is clearly deteriorating in various regions of the country and affecting many diverse cultural, ethnic and religious groups, human rights defenders and journalists.

This is shown by the issue of the Rohingya people –who are being driven out of their lands, persecuted, and even killed. The delegation visited the refugee camps in the Cox's Bazar area, Bangladesh, which are sheltering the population in dire conditions after their mass exodus.

We held meetings with civil society organisations and religious leaders who confirmed the great difficulties that the democratic transition is facing. The delegation also met with ministers, including the Minister of defence, and parliamentarians. The delegation supports the democratic transition process and considers it a fundamental pillar for a reform policy to ensure the country achieves what it deserves, i.e. a democratic development based on respect for fundamental freedoms and rights.

Unfortunately, the current situation does not allow us to be confident of this objective being achieved, since the on-going process has slowed down and there is a serious risk of returning to the past. In our view it would be in the interest of Myanmar to speed up democratic and constitutional reforms to deliver better lives for its people.

The EU must reconsider its relationship with Myanmar and develop new policies based on incentives and disincentives in each sector, as well as robust conditions.

We conclude that there is a need for:

- full implementation of the 23 November arrangement between Myanmar and Bangladesh, with guarantees including a strong involvement of the UNHCR,
- a modification of the 1982 law on citizenship with a view to solving the problem of stateless people; and
- effective monitoring of the human rights situation in the country as well as unhindered humanitarian access to Rakhine State, and an independent international investigation into the mass atrocities, which have been committed in Rakhine State since August 2017, in order to ensure accountability and avoid impunity."

*The EP delegation, headed by Mr. Panzeri, Chair of the DROI Subcommittee was composed of Mr. Joachim Zeller, Ms. Soraya Post, Mr. Amjad Bashir, Ms. Barbara Lochbiler, from the Committee on Foreign Affairs Mr. Jo Leinen and Mr. Urmaz Paet, from the Committee on International Trade Mr. David Martin, and from the Delegation for relations with the countries of Southeast Asia and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Mr. Marc Tarabella.*

### Further information

[Subcommittee on Human Rights](#)

## Contacts

---

Gediminas VILKAS

Press Officer

 (+32) 2 28 46396 (BXL)

 (+33) 3 881 64504 (STR)

 (+32) 498 98 33 30

 [@EP\\_ForeignAff](https://twitter.com/EP_ForeignAff)

 [gediminas.vilkas@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:gediminas.vilkas@europarl.europa.eu)

---