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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

with request for inclusion in the agenda for the debate on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law

pursuant to Rule 50 of the Rules of Procedure

by Ulla M. Sandbaek

on behalf of the EDD Group

on Burma/Myanmar (renewal of sanctions)

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European Parliament resolution on Burma/Myanmar (renewal of sanctions)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Burma, in particular those of 11 April 2002, 13 March 2003, 5 June 2003 and 4 September 2003,
 - having regard to the Council's Common Position 96/635/CFSP of 28 October 1996 defined by the Council on the basis of Article J.2 of the Treaty on European Union, on Burma/Myanmar, as renewed and extended by the Council's Common Position 2003/297/CFSP of 28 April 2003 on Burma/Myanmar,
 - having regard to the Commission Regulation (EC) n° 2297/2003 of December 23 amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1081/2000 of 22 May 2000 prohibiting the sale, supply and export to Burma/Myanmar of equipment which might be used for internal repression or terrorism, and freezing the funds of certain persons related to important governmental functions in that country,
 - having regard to the recent visit of Mr Razali Ismail, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, to support national reconciliation and democratisation based on the participation of all parties concerned in the country's process for a democratic transition,
- A. whereas Aung San Suu Kyi and other National League for Democracy (NLD) members are still under arrest,
- B. whereas there are approximately 1350 political prisoners in Myanmar, and people continue to be arbitrarily arrested, detained *incommunicado*, and sentenced to long term imprisonment for conducting peaceful political activities,
- C. whereas forced labour of civilians continues in many parts of the country
- D. whereas the current National Convention reconvened by the ruling military State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) is considered oppressive and discriminating by the opposition,
- E. whereas the EU is one of Burma's biggest investors and trading partner,
- F. whereas the Member states have failed to implement the sanctions previously adopted in any significant way,
1. Calls on the Council to renew and extend the sanctions adopted on April 28th, 2003
 2. Insists that the Council Common Position be strengthened to include a foreign investment ban and other measures,
 3. Urges all Member states to immediately and fully implement sanctions adopted,
 4. Reiterates its demand for the immediate release of Aung San Suu Kyi, of her colleagues from the NLD's Central Committee and of all prisoners of conscience,

5. urges the SPDC to ensure that all parties can freely elect representatives to the National Convention charged with drafting the new Constitution, and that human rights safeguards, in particular freedom of speech and assembly, are incorporated in the National Convention,
6. Reaffirms its strong commitment to and full support for democratic, judicial and political change in Burma/Myanmar,
7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, Aung San Suu Kyi, the UN Secretary-General and the SPDC.

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