

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

Session document

8 March 2004

B5-0146/2004

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 Patricia McKenna

on behalf of the Green/EFA Group

on Burma/Myanmar (renewal of sanctions)

EN

EN

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 UN Special Rapporteur of the Commission of Human Rights' report of 5 January 2004 on the situation of human rights in Burma,
 - 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 on 30 August 2003 the Burmese Prime Minister, General Khin Nyunt, announced a seven-point 'Roadmap' with a constitutional convention supposedly culminating in free and fair elections,
- E. whereas the current National Convention reconvened by the ruling military State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) is considered oppressive and discriminating by the opposition,
- F. whereas the EU remains one of Burma's biggest investors and trading partner,
- G. whereas the Member states have failed to implement the sanctions previously adopted in any significant way,
- H. whereas it is reported that leaders of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) - of which Burma is a member and over which Burma is due to preside in 2006 - have requested

Burma's participation in the Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) of Foreign Ministers in Ireland in April 2004 and at the ASEM summit in Vietnam in October 2004

1. Calls for all those detained or put under house arrest since May 2003 be immediately and unconditionally released, and considers that the release of all political prisoners would be a major step towards the restoration of democracy in Burma
2. Notes that there has been no evidence of substantive progress on the so-called 'Roadmap';
3. Calls on the Council and the Commission to show their readiness, in collaboration with the UN, to help facilitate the national reconciliation process in Burma
4. Suggests that the EU's Common Position on Burma should be strengthened, and should include the following measures: preventing EU companies and citizens from investing in Burma; banning the import of goods and services from enterprises owned by the military, military personnel and their associates; banning the import of strategically important goods from sectors of the economy under monopoly, such as gems and timber; and banning international financial transfers and transactions either by a citizen or an entity of an EU member state;
5. Suggests that these measures should be included within the Common Position when it is reviewed in April 2004, but that the Council should review the situation in June 2004 and then implement these measures if tripartite dialogue between the NLD, ethnic minority leaders and the Burmese authorities, or other concrete steps towards political change, have not taken place;
6. Urges all Member states to immediately and fully implement sanctions adopted,
7. Calls on the UN to impose targeted sanctions on Burma, and for the UN Security Council to address the situation in Burma as a matter of urgency
8. 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,
9. Insists that Burma should not attend the ASEM meeting scheduled for April 2004 in Ireland, and that Burma should not become a member of ASEM until irreversible political change towards democracy takes place in that country;
10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments of the ASEAN and ASEM Member States, Aung San Suu Kyi and the NLD, ethnic minority leaders, the UN Secretary-General and the SPDC
- 11.

2/2

EN