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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on statements by the Council and Commission

pursuant to Rule 103(2) of the Rules of Procedure

by Thierry Cornillet, Marielle De Sarnez, Elizabeth Lynne

on behalf of the ALDE Group

on the tragic situation in Burma

European Parliament resolution on the tragic situation in Burma

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the urgent meeting of EU Ministers in charge of humanitarian aid held in Brussels on 13 May 2008,
 - having regard to the International Conference on Humanitarian Rights which will take place in Brussels on 16 September 2008,
 - having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas in the wake of the devastating cyclone that killed at least 143,000 people and left many more destitute, although unofficial estimates are considerably higher, the international community has marshalled a large-scale humanitarian response to help the millions affected by the deadly storm;
- B. recalling that the most basic of humanitarian rights is to get help from others when needed and with all appropriate means;
- C. recalling the principle of the "Responsibility to Protect", established by the UN pour secourir les victimes de génocide et de crimes contre l'humanité;
- D. recalling the repeated requests to the Burmese authorities by the international community to allow access without hindrance to the victims of the cyclone Nargis and to urgently take all the necessary measures to facilitate the distribution of aid;
- E. considérant que le débarquement de 1000 tonnes de vivres et de matériel à bord du navire français ""Le Mistral" a été empêché par les autorités birmanes;
- F. considérant les efforts consentis par le Commissaire européen au Développement, M. Louis Michel, d'ouvrir le pays à l'aide internationale;
- G. whereas, instead of welcoming this assistance, the junta has denied aid workers entry and has seized the limited United Nations relief supplies that were sent in to help the people of Burma, forcing the UN to temporarily suspend relief efforts and further delaying much-needed help;
- H. whereas voters turned out in huge numbers for the elections which took place on 10 May for the first time in 18 years on a referendum which was supposed to pave the way to "multi-party elections" in 2010 and to an eventual "transfer of power" to a civilian government; and whereas voting took place in only two-thirds of the country;
- I. whereas the junta pressed ahead with the referendum on 10 May despite the plight of tens of thousands of people left stricken by the devastating cyclone;

- J. whereas the constitution enshrines the junta's hold on power and excludes the main opposition leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, from holding office;
- K. whereas in some villages, authorities and polling station officials ticked the ballots themselves and did not let the voters do anything themselves;
- L. recalling that for the opposition, represented by 1991 Nobel Prize winner, Aung San Suu Kyi, who herself had called for a "no" vote, the text of the constitution only perpetuates the supremacy of the army in power since 1962;
1. Strongly condemns the military junta in Burma which is failing the basic responsibility of any government - to take care of its citizens,
 2. Urges that the principle of "Responsibility to Protect" should be applied to the cyclone victims - l'entrave avérée et persistante à l'accès à l'aide humanitaire devant être assimilée à un crime contre l'humanité - and that international aid be distributed in Burma;
 3. Requests that international humanitarian law, so often flouted or not respected, be enshrined in an international convention and that violations in this regard be imprescriptible;
 4. Underlines the importance of good governance - with consequent improvements of living conditions and construction standards, inter alia - in prevention of possible disasters;
 5. Expresses its extreme criticism of the elections and stresses that Ms Aung San Suu Kyi's party, the national League for Democracy, had campaigned for a "no" vote and denounced the results as a fraud;
 6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, Member States, the Government of Burma, the ICRC, the UNHCR, ASEAN and the United Nations Assembly.