

**Question for written answer E-000217/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Angel Dzhambazki (ECR)

Subject: Providing infrastructure for basic communication as a humanitarian issue in Myanmar

In its resolution on the human rights situation in Myanmar¹, Parliament condemned the military government for its human rights abuses and for using surveillance and censorship tools through restrictions on telecommunications and the internet. To ensure access to essential services for the people, especially when governments are blocking access to basic communication means, it is absolutely essential that independent telecommunication companies can operate in conflict zones such as Myanmar. Providing infrastructure for basic communication issues is a humanitarian issue, akin to ensuring access to fundamental human needs, in addition to shelter, food and medicine.

However, as recent developments are showing, telecom companies that are willing to take risks and operate in conflict zones such as Myanmar are facing many risks to their operations. Their willingness to enter such high-risk markets is laudable because operators are responding in a humanitarian crisis.

1. The EU has made a firm commitment² to supporting Myanmar and its people on the journey towards peace and democracy. Does the Commission agree that providing access to essential telecommunications services is a humanitarian issue?
2. What is the Commission doing to ensure that the oppressed people of Myanmar retain this basic right in light of developments in Myanmar?

¹ Texts adopted, P9_TA(2021)0417.

² https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/it/MEMO_16_2010