To the kind attention of

H.E Joseph Borrell Fontelles

High Representative of the EU

for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

H.E. Ranieri Sabatucci

EU Ambassador in Myanmar

On. Luigi Di Maio

Minister for Foreign Affairs

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of Italy

Rome, 17.1.22

Excellency,

One year has passed since the violent military coup in Burma/Myanmar. One year of harsh repression and crimes against humanity. One year of weak replies from the International institutions, against such crimes and in order to defeat the military junta.

We understand that most of the EU decisions depend on the member states governments, but we think the UE Commission should have a clear strategy, particularly after the most recent genocidal actions of the military junta. Actions, backed by China, Russia. The support from such countries is impeding any UNSC decisions, beyond the press releases.

The EU, and the Commission, as one of the key players and contributor to the Myanmar democratic transition, has the moral duty to play a stronger role, using all the needed diplomatic instruments, as well as further restrictive measures toward key military assets, some of which indicated also by the EU Parliament October the 7th 2021 Resolution, to the aim of the restoration of democracy in Burma/Myanmar.

It is time for the EU Commission to assume courageous, diplomatic, political and economic decisions, to remain among the main actors for a joint initiative with other like-minded countries, and possibly the ASEAN, to defeat such a genocidal dictatorship.

Until now, unfortunately, we register a lack of a general and EU interest, to accelerate such international action.

Therefore, we ask You to stand up and accelerate the approval of strong, and effective political and economic decisions that, should go beyond those already on the EU Commission table, thus targeting further key sectors for the SAC.

It is time for the EU to target MOGE, and Oil and Gas interests, State and military owned Banks, international insurances and reinsurance companies (in order to paralyze docks and airports and goods international trade), EU investment and pension funds invested in companies operating in Burma/Myanmar, since they cannot respect their ESG commitments.

If Europe wants to maintain its industrial traditional as well as its emerging industrial sectors supply chain sustainable, it is time to ban import of rare earths. In 2020, China imported from Burma/Myanmar 35,500 tonnes of rare earths. This puts Myanmar behind only China and the United States globally. China and Myanmar dominate the rare earth supply chain and control nearly 90 percent of heavy rare earth output. It is time to target also this strategic sector.

Finally, due to the ban of trade unions, the martial law in the industrial zones, the harsh working conditions in violation of the ILO fundamental Conventions, as indicated in this year ILO Conference and GB and UN resolutions, it is time for the EU to initiate the procedures to suspend the existing EBA agreement. We are attaching herewith a paper that illustrates the fulfilment of all the criteria for such suspension.

In view of the launch of the new Global Europe Human Rights and Democracy Programme, we request that such programme includes specific actions to political and financial support to the democratic and trade union non-violent opposition. The National Unity government, as well as the organizations, that are part of the Civil Disobedience Movement and the Myanmar Labour Alliance, need urgent financial support, to avoid that after one year of sacrifices and courage, they are not anymore in the conditions to continue theri fight to defeat the military.

Ready to discuss such proposals, please accept our best regards.

