



10 proposals for an effective European strategy in support of the Burmese democratic opposition

As a follow up of the 10th of March EU Parliament Resolution, ITALIA-BIRMANIA.INSIEME consider of an outstanding importance that the EU Commission assume courageous, diplomatic, political and economic decisions:

- 1) to promote an **urgent diplomatic consultation table** involving ASEAN, China, USA, India, and the National Unity Government to discuss the best means to end the genocidal military junta.
- 2) to adopt further **comprehensive economic sanctions**, including the immediate blocking of the access of Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank, Myanmar Investment Bank, Myanmar Central Bank, the **Swift financial system**, and the imposition of restrictive measures toward insurance and reinsurance companies linked with Myanmar transport and trade activities.
- 3) to swiftly launch an investigation pursuant to article 19(1) (a) of the GSP Regulation with a view of the **temporary suspension of GSP and EBA** trade preferences that benefit Myanmar as formally requested at very large majority by the EU Parliament but blocked by the opposition of the EU bureaucracy. This in observance of GSP and EBA facilitation regulations, that states their conditionality, upon the beneficiary country respect of the 15 core UN and ILO Conventions on human rights and labor rights. The heightened human rights due diligence, by the EU companies investing or sourcing from Myanmar cannot be granted, due structural violation of fundamental labor rights: martial law in the industrial zones; ban of freedom of association and collective bargaining, elimination of collective agreements; arrest warrants toward all the Myanmar trade union leadership; military in front of factory gates.
- 4) to urge the **UN Security Council** to impose a comprehensive arms embargo and targeted sanctions and refer the situation to the **International Criminal Court** “so that those who are responsible for this crisis will be held fully accountable,
- 5) to urge the EU Commission to **monitor** the correct implementation of the EU comprehensive arms embargo and of the other restrictive measures violated by some member and candidate countries.
- 6) to adopt further measures to stop junta leaders from stealing Myanmar’s other natural-resource wealth. In particular, since Myanmar is the third largest source of mined rare earths, and since China and Myanmar dominate the **rare earth supply chain** controlling nearly 90 percent of heavy rare earth output., the EU should introduce a block on import of products containing Myanmar extracted rare earths.
- 7) to **support the CRPH, the NUG and the NUCC** National Unity Consultative Council, as the only legitimate representatives of the democratic will of the people of Myanmar.
- 8) to request the immediate and regular access for the **International Committee of the Red Cross** to detainees and prisons, as covered by the Geneva Conventions.
- 9) to calls on the EU, its Member States and the other international donors to urgently meet their **financial obligations to the 2022 UN Myanmar Humanitarian Response Plan**; asks the Commission to redirect and step-up humanitarian aid, including healthcare support, through cross-border channels, local humanitarian networks, ethnic service providers, and community- based and civil society organizations.
- 10) to direct the new **EU Global Europe Human Rights and Democracy Program** to adopt specific urgent programs to support political and financial actions of the NUG as well as the organizations, that are part of the Civil Disobedience Movement and the Myanmar Labor Alliance, which are in urgent need of financial support, thus to avoid that, after one year of sacrifices and courage, the NUG and democratic opposition organizations, are strangled and not anymore in the conditions to continue their non -violent opposition to the military dictatorship.

For all these reasons Europe must be at the side of those, who fight for democracy and rule of law, by providing them with the necessary tools to defend and restore such values, and by doing it, to defend also our freedom and democracy.