



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
EXTERNAL RELATIONS DIRECTORATE GENERAL
DIRECTORATE Multilateral relations and human rights
The Director

Brussels, 29 April 2005
ER/B/1/PVA D(2005) 509751

Dear Dr. U Ne Oo,

Thank you for your letter of 1 March, concerning sanctions on the Burmese military junta as well as the European Union's arms embargo on China.

Let me start by assuring you that the European Union remains very concerned about the political situation in Burma/Myanmar and the lack of positive developments in the country. The European Commission and EU Members States therefore continue to take a firm line towards the Burmese regime as demonstrated by the renewal of EU sanctions against the military regime, on 25 April 2005, through the EU Common Position on Burma/Myanmar.

In addition to sanctions targeting the military junta, the Commission and EU Members States continue to encourage our Asian dialogue partners to call for the unconditional release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and other key members of the National League for Democracy who remain in detention. We also continue to urge the Burmese regime to engage in a real dialogue with all political actors, including the NLD, which could lead to national reconciliation and return to democracy.

Regarding the possibility of discussing Burma/Myanmar in the UN Security Council, you might be aware that the situation in Burma has been raised previously, even though it has not been possible yet to reach an agreement on a potential Security Council Resolution. On the other hand, however, I would like to recall that at the initiative of the EU, the UN Commission on Human Rights nevertheless adopted on 11 April 2005 a Resolution on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar of which I join a copy.

As regards China and the EU arms embargo, there is indeed a discussion ongoing about the possible lifting of the embargo. However, no decision has been taken yet. In any case, even if the formal embargo decision were to be lifted, potential EU arms sales would continue to be subject of the EU Code of Conduct on arms exports.

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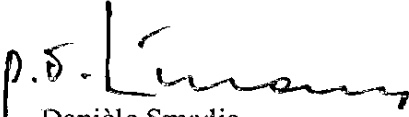
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This Code of conduct as set high common standards for the export of conventional arms by Member States and the EU is currently reviewing and further strengthening this Code of Conduct to make it even more effective.

As a result the EU has repeatedly reiterated its position that an eventual lifting of an embargo should not lead to an increase in the quantity or quality of arms sales to China.

Yours sincerely,


Danièle Smadja