

P R E S S R E L E A S E

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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
concerning Burma**

The European Union is very deeply concerned by the situation of Ms Aung San Suu Kyi who was, on 21 September 2000, once again prevented from leaving Rangoon and has since then been held under house arrest without being able to communicate with the outside world.

The European Union cannot but repeat its condemnation of the obstacles to the free movement of Ms Aung San Suu Kyi and members of the National League for Democracy, and the restriction placed upon access to the Nobel Peace Prize Winner.

All current restrictions on Ms Aung San Suu Kyi's freedom of movement, and on her freedom to communicate with the outside world and to receive visitors must be lifted without delay.

The European Union repeats its call for the establishment of dialogue between the Burmese authorities and the democratic opposition, including the National League for Democracy, and national minorities. Such dialogue is the only way for Burma to begin its transition towards democracy and national reconciliation.

Bulgaria, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovenia and the Slovak Republic, the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this declaration.

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