

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 : support for Mr Razali**

The European Union gave a very favourable reception to the appointment last April of Tan Sri Razali Ismail as the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Burma.

It fully supports the efforts deployed by Mr Razali, who has already made a first visit to Rangoon (in June and July), in favour of the initiation of a dialogue between the Burmese authorities and the democratic opposition, as well as the national minorities.

The European Union calls on the Burmese Government to engage in a constructive dialogue with the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy, who will shortly be visiting Rangoon, and to take advantage of his good offices so that Burma can move further along the road to democratisation and national reconciliation. To that end, it is important that Mr Razali be able to meet all parties involved, including the democratic opposition.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and the EFTA countries members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this declaration.

Internet: <http://ue.eu.int/Newsroom>
E-mail: press.office@consilium.eu.int

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