



Council of the
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COVER NOTE

From:	Secretary-General of the European Commission, signed by Mr Jordi AYET PUIGARNAU, Director
date of receipt:	1 April 2015
To:	Mr Uwe CORSEPIUS, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union
No. Cion doc.:	C(2015) 1939 final
Subject:	COMMISSION DECISION of 26.3.2015 on the European Union joining the Initiative to Promote Fundamental Labour Rights and Practices in Myanmar/Burma

Delegations will find attached document C(2015) 1939 final.

Encl.: C(2015) 1939 final



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Brussels, 26.3.2015
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COMMISSION DECISION

of 26.3.2015

**on the European Union joining the Initiative to Promote Fundamental Labour Rights
and Practices in Myanmar/Burma**

COMMISSION DECISION

of 26.3.2015

on the European Union joining the Initiative to Promote Fundamental Labour Rights and Practices in Myanmar/Burma

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the European Union, and in particular Article 17 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) By Council conclusions of 22-23 April 2013 the European Union lifted its sanctions against Myanmar/Burma, with the exception of the arms embargo, and underlined in particular in the fourth, fifth and sixth indent of conclusion 3 the significant challenges to be addressed. In conclusion 6, the European Union undertook to use all means and mechanisms at its disposal to support Myanmar/Burma's political, economic and social transition.
- (2) Regulation (EU) No 607/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹ reinstated access to generalised tariff preferences to Myanmar/Burma.
- (3) Pursuant to its conclusions of 22 July 2013, the Council established the Comprehensive Framework defining the European Union's policy and support in the next three years to the ongoing reforms in Myanmar/Burma and whereby development and trade and Myanmar/Burma's engagement with the international community have been identified as main areas for engagement.
- (4) On 19 March 2014, negotiations on a EU-Myanmar/Burma investment protection agreement were launched, aiming at improving the protection afforded to investors of both parties and to contribute to attracting investments to Myanmar/Burma and the European Union by ensuring that they will be treated fairly and on an equal footing with other investors, as well as aiming at strengthening the commitment of both parties to sustainable development in its economic, social and environmental dimensions and to the promotion of high levels of protection in these areas, as well as to promote responsible corporate conduct, in line with internationally recognised principles and guidelines.
- (5) The European Union provides considerable development cooperation in support of Myanmar/Burma's democratic transformation and the strengthening of civil society and the public administrations capacity at central and regional level, including a strong trade-related assistance package to support trade and private sector development.

¹ Regulation (EU) No 607/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 June 2013 repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 552/97 temporarily withdrawing access to generalised tariff preferences from Myanmar/Burma (OJ L 181, 29.6.2013, p. 13).

- (6) For these reasons, the European Union should join the Initiative to Promote Fundamental Labour Rights and Practices in Myanmar/Burma launched by the Governments of Myanmar/Burma, the United States of America, Japan, Denmark and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) on 14 November 2014.
- (7) The European Union joining the Initiative to Promote Fundamental Labour Rights and Practices in Myanmar/Burma has no financial implications.
- (8) The European Union joining the Initiative to Promote Fundamental Labour Rights and Practices in Myanmar/Burma does not, nor is intended to, create any binding or legal obligations for the Union under domestic or international law,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Sole Article

The European Commission takes the position that the European Union shall join the multi-stakeholder process under the framework of the Initiative to Promote Fundamental Labour Rights and Practices in Myanmar/Burma.

The European Commission shall seek endorsement from the Council to this end.

Done at Brussels, 26.3.2015

*For the Commission
Cecilia MALMSTRÖM
Member of the Commission*