Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton on the decision of NLD to re-register as a political party in Myanmar (Burma)

Catherine Ashton, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the Commission, made today the following statement:

"I am delighted at the announcement by the National League for Democracy (NLD) that they are going to join forthcoming by-elections in Myanmar (Burma). This is a courageous and welcome decision. Fair and transparent elections leading to a wider representation of the people in the Burmese Parliament will be a key step towards making national reconciliation a reality. My congratulations go also to the Government and the Parliament for passing the amendments to the law which have enabled the NLD's decision.

The continuing positive developments in Myanmar are a source of great hope and encouragement. I look forward to them continuing, including a further substantial release of political prisoners. The European Union will want to accompany Myanmar on the path it is taking, both with political and economic engagement. I am looking forward to discussing all this directly with Myanmar interlocutors.

The EU has always stated that it will respond to positive events in the country. The restrictive measures have already been partly modified this year. A more substantial review of EU policy is already under way."

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