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Statement by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton following her meeting with President U Thein Sein

The High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission issued the following statement today:

"I was delighted to meet President U Thein Sein here in Brussels today. Under his leadership Burma/Myanmar has made remarkable progress towards peace, democracy and respect for human rights. I know that he is committed to continuing on this course.

The final objective, which is also the objective of the European Union, is development and prosperity which all the people of the country will share. When I first met him I told President U Thein Sein that the steps he was planning to take would transform the EU’s relationship with Myanmar. His visit today is a sign that this is happening and I am sure it will continue. We will jointly organise a Task Force in November to support economic and political transition.

Next month the Council will be discussing the latest developments in the country. Without prejudging the decisions of Member States, I am sure everyone will welcome changes taking place. If President U Thein Sein's Government continues on the course he has set in his policies, I believe he can look to the Council’s discussion with confidence.

I am also pleased that the representatives of the two sides today signed a joint statement of intent on areas of cooperation in the field of crisis response. The statement confirms the intention to work together to strengthen their cooperation in the field of crisis response through sharing of experience and capacity building, including through the support for the establishment of the Myanmar Crisis Response Centre."

For more information please also consult:

FACTSHEET - The European Union and Burma/Myanmar – A new chapter in bilateral relations

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