



## FACTSHEET

### Myanmar: EU Support for the peace process

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The EU has been at the forefront of the international community's re-engagement with Myanmar and support for its democratic transition and reform process. Sanctions, with the exception of an arms embargo, were suspended in 2012, then lifted and Everything But Arms trade preferences reinstated in 2013. An EU-Myanmar Task Force was held in November 2013. The EU and Myanmar are also cooperating in the area of human rights with two rounds of Human Rights Dialogue taking place since 2014. The EU is deploying an Election Observation Mission for the elections on 8 November 2015. In addition, the EU and Myanmar are currently negotiating an Investment Protection Agreement. Myanmar is benefitting from the second largest bilateral development cooperation envelop in Asia (€688 million). The EU is a key provider of humanitarian assistance for vulnerable populations across the country.

Support for the nationally-owned peace process has been a priority for EU engagement with Myanmar. In recognition of its firm contribution towards peace, the EU has been invited to sign the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement as international witness on 15 October 2015. This Agreement will pave the way for the start of a broad-based and inclusive national political dialogue as the next phase towards lasting peace and national reconciliation.

#### Political support

The Comprehensive Framework for the European Union's policy and support to Myanmar/Burma adopted by Foreign Affairs Council on 22 July 2013 identifies support for

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Myanmar's domestically driven peace process as a priority. Consecutive Council conclusions on Myanmar further confirm this commitment.

In its **high-level political dialogue**, including two rounds of EU-Myanmar Human Rights Dialogue, the EU has welcomed the commitment of the government of Myanmar to the peace process and the progress towards a nationwide ceasefire agreement. The EU has consequently encouraged the government to launch as a next step an inclusive national political dialogue with ethnic armed organisations and other stakeholders.

In its previous **statements**, the EU called for an immediate end to hostilities and for dialogue towards a settlement of conflicts. It stressed the urgency of providing unhindered access for humanitarian relief to the displaced population.

**In Myanmar**, the EU has actively reached out to both the government and the ethnic armed organisations (EAOs) encouraging them to continue the process. The EU plays a key role in the Peace Support Group coordinating the international community's support for Myanmar's peace process.

#### **EU cooperation on core elements of the peace process**

Peace building support is one of the focal sectors of the **Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP)** for 2014-2020 with **103 million out of €688 million** foreseen for this purpose.

The EU **Peace and Conflict Resolution package for Myanmar** is currently over **€58 million** including Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace, bilateral development cooperation and thematic programmes.

**Support to Myanmar Peace Center**, which is facilitating peace talks, is **currently €3.7 million** (of a total €8.7 million since 2012).

**Additional support to EAOs** is provided through a range of projects engaging also with civil society, local authorities, the media and conflict affected communities in areas controlled by EAOs. Projects **totalling over €38 million** focus on reconciliation, conflict transformation, peacebuilding and implementation of ceasefires and civilian ceasefire monitoring. Capacity of local journalists on ethical, conflict sensitive reporting is developed in order to facilitate understanding of Myanmar's conflicts and peace process. Further projects aim at improving access to livelihoods and development in ethnic areas.

In addition, the EU together with other donors is currently finalising the setting up of a **Joint Peace Fund (JPF)**. The JPF will support forthcoming stages of the peace process including the envisaged joint ceasefire monitoring mechanism, the National Political Dialogue and research needs assessments in order to provide aid for recovery and development in former conflict affected areas.

In 2015 a new **€20 million package** is being finalized to effectively continue to support the peace process.