

RESOLUTION

The promotion of democracy in Myanmar

Adopted at the 13th YEPP Congress in Belgium, 03.07.2021

Recognizing:

- On 1 February 2021 Myanmar's military seized power in the country by way of a coup, detaining Aung San Suu Kyi and other senior members of the country's ruling party¹.
- The military alleged the elections held in November 2020 were fraudulent.
- Independent election observers found no evidence of fraud in the elections².
- The country's new acting president Myint Swe handed all powers of government over to senior General Min Aung Hlaing, the military's commander-in-chief.
- Myanmar's military forces have used indiscriminate violence against peaceful protesters. Reports suggest that over 800 people have been killed by the military so far, the majority of whom were civilians who participated in nationwide pro-democracy protests.³
- The UN's warning that half of Myanmar's population could be living below the national poverty line by early 2022 as a result of the pandemic and the political crisis⁴.

Acknowledging:

¹ <https://www.ft.com/content/1edff5ac-3528-4e51-8ef7-a07858b93442>

² <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-57144397>

³ <https://www.dw.com/en/myanmar-eus-third-round-of-sanctions-raises-eyebrows/a-57826141>

⁴ <https://www.undp.org/press-releases/pandemic-and-political-crisis-could-result-half-myanmars-population-living-poverty>



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- Europe has invested heavily in Myanmar's transition to democracy. Since 1994, the EU has provided €287 million in humanitarian aid to Myanmar, with €9 million allocated in 2021 so far.⁵
- The US, UK and Canada have imposed a set of increasingly tough sanctions on the military's leaders and military-controlled companies⁶.
- The importance of targeted sanctions and not creating a vacuum for certain goods which other malevolent actors in the region could exploit, undermining such a response from the EU.
- The EU signed the EU-ASEAN strategic partnership signed in December 2020.
- Supporting democracy globally is a priority for the European Union⁷.

YEPP calls on:

- Continued humanitarian assistance from the EU.
- The EU to work proactively with ASEAN to promote democracy in the region and support ASEAN's ongoing work on an action plan to hold the military to its promise of new elections.
- The EU to impose targeted sanctions on companies and individuals who are financing the military.
- The EU to push for a global arms embargo on Myanmar.

⁵ https://ec.europa.eu/echo/news/eu-allocates-additional-9-million-support-most-vulnerable-myanmar-following-coup-dat_en

⁶ https://www.lemonde.fr/idees/article/2021/06/09/urgence-au-birmanie-la-reponse-d-emmanuel-macron-n-est-pas-a-la-hauteur-de-la-gravite-de-la-situation_6083463_3232.html

⁷ <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/factsheets/en/sheet/166/promoting-democracy-and-observing-elections>