

Rt Hon Margaret Beckett MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA  
UK

09 May 2006

Dear Ms Beckett,

**Re: Review of the EU Common Position on Burma**

Last year I wrote to your predecessor, Mr Straw, expressing my concerns about the situation in Burma.

I was pleased to note from the reply I received that the UK played an active role in the shaping of the EU's Common Position on Burma. As a review of this Common Position is now due (having last been renewed for the period of 1 year in April 2005), I would urge the UK Government to again push for the strongest possible position on Burma in order to increase pressure on the regime. Here I would refer you to the European Parliament's resolution on Burma of 17 November 2005, in which the Parliament insists that the EU's Common Position on Burma be strengthened by:

- a) officially stating that the EU will not accept any outcome of the military's National Convention unless the minimum conditions laid down at the sixth ADEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting are met, due democratic process is guaranteed and the NLD and other representative pro-democracy parties are free and able to attend;
- b) encouraging a blanket prohibition in Council Regulation (EC)No 1853/2004 of 25 October 2004 concerning additional restrictive measures in respect of Burma and amending Regulation (EC) No. 798/2004 on EU-registered companies making new investments or extending loans to all Burmese state-owned enterprises.

It is essential that the EU use this opportunity to send a strong signal to the military Junta that their systematic violations of even the most fundamental human rights, their oppression and exploitation of the Burmese people and their refusal to transfer power to the democratically elected government are simply unacceptable.

I would also urge you to ensure that the UK Government continues to raise their concerns about the situation in Burma at every appropriate opportunity, both with members of the International Community, and with representatives of the military regime.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Caroline Lucas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'C'.

Caroline Lucas MEP