



EUROPEAN UNION

Brussels, 18 November 2011  
A 460/11

## **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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**P R E S S**

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

Michael Mann +32 498 999 780 - +32 2 299 97 80 - [Michael.Mann@eeas.europa.eu](mailto:Michael.Mann@eeas.europa.eu)

Maja Kocijancic +32 498 984 425 - +32 2 298 65 70 - [Maja.Kocijancic@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Maja.Kocijancic@ec.europa.eu)

Sebastien Brabant +32 498 986 433 - [Sebastien.Brabant@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Sebastien.Brabant@ec.europa.eu)

[COMM-SPP-HRVP-ASHTON@ec.europa.eu](mailto:COMM-SPP-HRVP-ASHTON@ec.europa.eu)

[www.eeas.europa.eu](http://www.eeas.europa.eu)

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