(Acts adopted pursuant to Title V of the Treaty on European Union)

COUNCIL COMMON POSITION
of 29 October 2001
extending and amending Common Position 96/635/CFSP on Burma/Myanmar

(2001/757/CFSP)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Article 15 thereof,

Whereas

(1) Common Position 96/635/CFSP of 28 October 1996 on Burma/Myanmar [1] expires on 29 October 2001.

(2) There continue to be severe and systematic violations of human rights in Burma/Myanmar.

(3) Member States have an obligation, under the Charter of the United Nations (UN), to grant certain privileges and immunities to the representatives of other UN Member States for the purpose of attending UN meetings held on the territory of EU Member States.

(4) Common Position 96/635/CFSP should therefore be amended and extended for a further six months,

HAS ADOPTED THIS COMMON POSITION:

Article 1

Point 5(b)(i) of Common Position 96/635/CFSP shall be replaced by the following:

'(i) in order to prevent the entry into, and transit through, the territory of the Member States by senior members of the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), Burmese authorities in the tourism sector, senior members of the military, the Government or the security forces who formulate, implement or benefit from policies that impede Burma/Myanmar's transition to democracy, no visas for entry or transit shall be issued to any persons, whose names are listed in the Annex and their families.

A visa for entry into or transit through the territory of any Member State may be issued to a person listed in the Annex for the purpose of attending an official meeting of a UN organ or a conference convened by the UN and held in the territory of a Member State. Any such visa shall be issued only for the duration of the UN meeting or conference.

In the case of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the ban on the issue of a visa for entry into or transit through the territory of any Member State may, by agreement of all Member States, be waived where it is in the interests of the European Union.'

Article 2

Common Position 96/635/CFSP is hereby extended until 29 April 2002.

Article 3

This Common Position shall take effect on the date of its adoption.

Article 4

This Common Position shall be published in the Official Journal.

Done at Luxembourg, 29 October 2001.

For the Council

The President

L. MICHEL

[1] OJ L 287, 8.11.1996, p. 1. Common Position as last extended by Common Position 2001/284/CFSP (OJ L 99, 10.4.2001, p. 1).