

On 24 May 2016, at 18:47, [REDACTED] (DEVCO)  
[REDACTED]@ec.europa.eu> wrote:

Dear all,

In agreement with [REDACTED], you will find below the internal flash note following today's meeting between the Special Envoy Jan Figel and Cardinal Bo of Myanmar.

Many thanks to [REDACTED] for his input too.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

**Internal flash note**

**Meeting with EU Special Envoy Jan Figel and Cardinal Bo of Myanmar – freedom of religion or belief (FORB) in Myanmar**

**Date and place:** COMECE, Brussels, 24 May 2016

Regarding access to EU project funding, **COMECE** and **Aid to Church in Need** deplored that the EU cannot fund churches. DEVCO clarified that EIDHR can fund Catholic/faith-based organisations if they are registered as NGOs/associations. **CSW** flagged that they will publish an in-depth report on FORB in Myanmar this autumn and have brought an initiative to organise an international inclusive conference on FORB in the country to the attention of the EUD Ambassador. The latter had reportedly expressed some interest. DEVCO stressed that while support to seminars like this can in theory be funded under the EIDHR it would need to be an EUD-led and -approved process, adding that attention should preferably be given to long-term capacity building projects.

**Figel** concluded with the recommendation to civil society/church representatives to maintain strong links with the EUD and to invest in mid- to long-term project actions. Finally, he expressed his willingness to visit the country one day as it deserves more attention.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

<image001.png>

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