

**Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of
the Union of Myanmar, H.E. U Shwe Mann regarding changes of the
current constitution**

Your Excellency,

In our capacity as the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, the Speaker of the National Assembly of Hungary, the Marshal of the Sejm and the Marshal of the Senate of the Republic of Poland and the Deputy Speaker of the National Council of the Slovak Republic, we would like to pledge our unanimous support to you, as well as to the government representatives of Myanmar in your striving for implementing democratic reforms, embraced primarily as part of the process of the amendment of the constitution in effect.

On the occasion of the visit of the Member of Parliament and the Chairperson of the National League for Democracy, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic in September and October last year, we were provided with an opportunity to discuss not only this subject, but also the political changes which have been taking place in your country since 2010. During her visit, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi emphasized the necessity of introducing constitutional changes in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar which are considered an indispensable prerequisite for determining the further course of the country.

We are well aware that establishing a strong constitutional and legal framework is a crucial factor at play during any successful transition to democracy. We gained direct experience in 1989 and the following years when our countries had to challenge the communist regime which had governed our countries for more than 40 years. The transformation process required, among other things, changes to our constitutions, creating autonomous democratic institutions as well as removing legislative restrictions. In spite of the difficulties encountered during the transformation process, the adoption of the amended constitution was the cornerstone of founding well-functioning institutions within the governance structure, separating the powers into particular branches – executive, legislative and judicial.

Therefore, we are genuinely pleased to learn that in the context of all political reforms, the constitution change is assigned a major priority by the Parliament of Myanmar, as confirmed by the statement of Daw Suu Kyi during her visits to Europe in September and October last year.

Even though the transformation process in Myanmar is still in its initial stage, we deeply believe that all barriers to democratization will be eliminated, above all the direct influence and participation of the military in the legislative and executive bodies of your country as well as the decision-making powers of high-ranking military officers in political and economic reforms. We acknowledge that in the bicameral Assembly of the Union, more than 75% of votes are needed to amend the constitution, but at the same time we firmly believe that active pursuit of the reform agenda represents the common interest of all stakeholders participating in the transition to democracy occurring in your country, and that you will succeed in getting the changes through. A possible rejection of the constitutional changes might seriously hinder the on-going democratization process in Myanmar, settling of the inter-ethnic relations and Myanmar's full integration into the international community.

Your Excellency, let us hereby reiterate our firm support for reform efforts targeted specifically at amending the constitution, alongside offering assistance in sharing our experience with constitutional and legislative changes or functioning of democratic state institutions. We will be glad to get involved in mutual exchange of experts or to organize further visits of the Members of the House of Representatives to Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic or Slovakia.

Looking forward to your reply we remain.

Sincerely Yours,



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H.E. Milan ŠTĚCH
President of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic



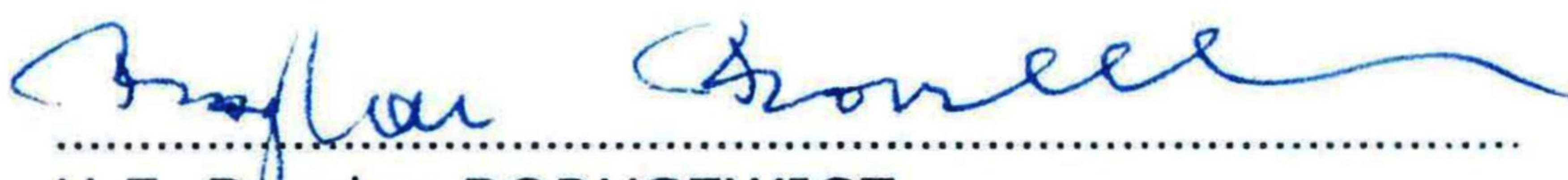
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H.E. Jan HAMÁČEK
Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic



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H.E. László KÖVÉR
Speaker of the National Assembly of Hungary



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H.E. Ewa KOPACZ
Marshal of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland



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H.E. Bogdan BORUSEWICZ
Marshal of the Senate of the Republic of Poland



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Renáta ZMAJKOVIČOVÁ
Deputy Speaker of the National Council of the Slovak Republic

Signed in Budapest, on 28 February 2014