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Asem meet: Myanmar issue can be resolved

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - The issue of the European Union barring Myanmar from attending the Second Asia-Europe Meeting in London next April can be resolved through open, frank and honest negotiations.

British parliamentary secretary in the Cabinet office Peter Kilfoyle said he hoped any difficulties would be resolved.

Kilfoyle, who is on a three-day visit, was commenting on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement yesterday that Asean might decide to boycott the Asem meeting because of Myanmar's exclusion.

The Prime Minister was responding to British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook's statement at a meeting of business leaders in Singapore that the EU's recent decision to deny visas to senior Myanmar officials made their inclusion at the Asem impossible.

Cook had condemned the Myanmar Government for profiting from the drugs trade and said it would not be admitted to the summit of European and Asian nations.

The main purpose of Kilfoyle's visit was to look at Malaysia's initiative to implement the Multimedia Super Corridor with its seven flagships especially the electronic Government.

Britain, he said, would like to publish and outline views on how its people could enjoy better government through modern technology.

"We want a more efficient, accountable and responsible government," Kilfoyle said.

"We hope to package microelectronics in business to help the MSC, which would be of great assistance in the seven flagships especially research and development.

"From my visit here, the lesson we have learnt has been the commitment and determination of the Government and the private sector who have been able to achieve so much in such a short time," he said.

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