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**Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Republic of Maldives**

MEDIA RELEASE

**European Commission Praises Government of the Maldives on Peaceful and Successful
Election Process**

9 November 2008, Brussels; The Ambassador of the Republic of Maldives to the European Union, H.E. Dr. Mohamed Asim, called on representatives of the European Commission's Directorate General for External Relations in Brussels, on the 7th of this month.

The Ambassador met with the new Head of Unit for the Maldives at the European Commission, Mr. David Turr. Ambassador Asim was able to provide an overview of various issues such as the ratification of the Constitution, details of the first and second rounds of the Presidential elections, and finally the ongoing preparation for the formation of a new government.

The Ambassador also welcomed the support given by the EU in an expert and observatory capacity for both election rounds, and expressed hope that EU would also support the 2009 Parliamentary elections to be held next year in the Maldives.

Mr. Turr welcomed the information provided and restated the Commission's praise for the recent elections. He also noted the positive cooperation between the Commission and the Maldives government and hoped for this to continue. He confirmed that the Commission had earmarked support for the Parliamentary elections next year.

Prior to the meeting with Mr. Turr, Ambassador Asim had attended an event following an invitation from the President of the European Commission, Mr. José Manuel Barroso, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the European Commission and the 120th anniversary of Jean Monnet's birth. Mr. Monnet was one of the "Founding Fathers" of the European project. The Presidents of France, Mr. Nicolas Sarkozy, the European Parliament, Mr. Hans-Gert Pötinger, and the European Commission were all present.

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09 November 2008