

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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*Delegation for relations with the countries of South Asia*

## **EXPLANATORY STATEMENT**

Brussels, 4/12/2008

The final version of the Delegation's Report on its July 2008 Mission to Sri Lanka was discussed at the meeting of the Delegation which took place on 2/12/2008.

M. ARYANSINHA, Ambassador of Sri Lanka, had the opportunity to make comments on this final version, and while noting that several earlier observations had been incorporated, stressed that, in particular, as to the -aborted- visit to the Eastern province several clarifications, from the point of view of the Sri Lankan authorities, would still be welcome.

Taking this into account, and in order to dispel any previous impression of the contrary or misinterpretation, the EP Delegation would like to stress categorically that:

- It is convinced that both the Mission of Sri Lanka to the EU and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka, at various levels, as well as other senior members and representatives of the Government, genuinely deployed every effort to facilitate safe and secure air passage for the Delegation to the East during the July visit.
- It is also convinced that the EC Delegation in Colombo, in the same vein, made a similar and equally conscientious effort to provide logistical support.

While the Delegation deplores the fact that this particular aspect of the visit did not materialise, it hopes that these clarifications will help putting an unfortunate episode finally behind EP/Sri Lanka relations.

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*This explanatory statement should be seen as an integral part of the Report submitted by the Delegation on its July 2008 mission to Sri Lanka (PE 409.319).*