



European Union

Colombo, 20 January 2012

PRESS RELEASE

STATEMENT BY EU HEADS OF MISSION IN COLOMBO

European Union Heads of Mission based in Colombo and accredited to the Maldives view with concern recent developments in that country, including the arrest of a criminal court judge by members of the security forces.

EU Heads of Mission reiterate their support for the process of democratic transition in the Maldives and note the importance of the principles underlying that transition, including respect for the constitution, due process, independence of the judiciary, the rule of law and freedom of expression are central to this process.

EU Heads of Mission call on all parties in the Maldives to act in accordance with these principles and to refrain from inflammatory language or other action which could incite hatred.

The Royal Norwegian Ambassador in Colombo, accredited to the Maldives associates herself with this statement by EU Heads of Mission

END

Notes:

1. This statement has been issued by the Delegation of the European Union to Sri Lanka and the Maldives on behalf of the EU Heads of Mission based in Sri Lanka.
2. Contact for this press release : European Union - Press and Information Section (+94-11-267 4413)