

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



**MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES**

20 December 2020

Excellency,

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to both the European Union and you personally, for the close dialogue you have maintained with the Government of Maldives and for your unwavering commitment and support to strengthening our relations.

The Government of Maldives highly appreciates the instrumental role the European Union continues to play in our journey towards democracy consolidation, our governance and judicial reform programmes, as well as our initiatives on promoting socio-economic development. Since President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih assumed office, we have seen this partnership heighten, with increased dialogue and high-level interactions and we are eager to further our discussions on exploring ways to solidify our partnership. I am also delighted to note that the Government of Maldives and the European Union are currently in discussions to formalize and upgrade our partnership to one that is even more structured under a Framework Agreement.

It is in this spirit, that I would like to extend an invitation to you to visit the Maldives at a time of mutual convenience. I am confident that such a visit would help reinvigorate our already close relationship and would signal the faith and confidence that you and the members of the European Parliament have in our developmental and ambitious reform agenda.

I look forward to welcoming Your Excellency in the Maldives and continue our friendship to forge a stronger partnership between the Maldives and the European Union in the years ahead.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Abdulla Shahid

His Excellency Thomas Zdechovsky
Member of European Parliament