

P R E S S R E L E A S E

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**DECLARATION BY THE PRESIDENCY
ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION ON SRI LANKA**

The European Union condemns the attack carried out at dawn on 19 April against members of the Sri Lankan navy in the port of Trincomalee and deplores the loss of human life caused.

That act constitutes a serious violation of the ceasefire agreement between the Sri Lankan government and the LTTE, which nothing in the conduct of the current peace negotiations between the two sides can justify. It can only set back the hopes for peace of the population groups concerned and hinder the necessary quest for a negotiated solution.

The European Union calls on the LTTE to refrain from initiating an escalation of hostilities and also condemns the bombardments of 20 April. It calls on the LTTE to respond to the Sri Lankan Government's peace initiatives by entering into negotiations with it on the elements of a political solution.

The European Union expresses its sympathy to the Government and to the families of the victims.