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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
on Sri Lanka**

The EU strongly condemns the terrorist attack which killed the Minister for Industrial Development, C.V. Gooneratne, 21 other innocent people and injured 60, near Colombo on 7 June. The EU strongly condemns terrorism in all its forms and extends its sympathy to the Government of Sri Lanka and the families of those who were killed and injured. The EU fully supports the Government of Sri Lanka in preventing those committing terrorist crimes from deriving any benefit whatsoever from their acts.

The EU reiterates its deep concern about the increasing conflict in Sri Lanka and the serious effect that it is having on the country and its people.

The EU appeals to the LTTE to put an end to their indiscriminate acts of violence and agree to take part in negotiations with the Sri Lanka Government. The EU urges the Sri Lanka Government and the LTTE to begin negotiations immediately with a view to securing a peaceful resolution to the conflict in the framework of Sri Lanka's territorial integrity and reminds them of their responsibility to ensure the safety of the civilian population in the conflict.

Furthermore the EU reiterates its support for Norway as mediator of the talks.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and the EFTA countries Iceland and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this declaration.

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