

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 REGARDING SRI LANKA**

The European Union sincerely hopes that direct talks can be started as soon as possible to seek a political solution to the present conflict.

The European Union wishes a political settlement to be found as early as possible. On these conditions, it states its readiness to cooperate with all the partners to rebuild the areas affected by the conflict.