



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



**Council conclusions on Sri Lanka**  
*2939th EXTERNAL RELATIONS Council meeting*  
*Luxembourg, 27 April 2009*

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

"The EU reaffirms its statement of 24 April 2009 expressing deep concern about the mass civilian casualties and deteriorating humanitarian situation in Northern Sri Lanka.

The Council reiterates its concern for the civilians in the conflict zone who are in extreme peril. While reaffirming its policy towards the LTTE, it notes the LTTE's announcement of a unilateral cease-fire. It urges an immediate humanitarian cease-fire to allow for a UN-assisted evacuation of those still trapped in the conflict zone. In this context, the Council welcomes the reported announcement by the Government of Sri Lanka of an end to heavy military operations as a first step.

The EU welcomes the visit to Sri Lanka by Sir John Holmes, UN Commissioner for Humanitarian Affairs. The Council urges the Government of Sri Lanka to cooperate fully with the mission, to release UN staff members detained in the camps and to allow international oversight of all Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) as soon as they have left the conflict zone. It should also fulfil the commitments it has made to improve the condition in the IDP camps including: better access to medical facilities; transparent registration processes; international monitoring; and freedom of movement in and out of the camps.

The EU repeats its call on the Government of Sri Lanka to proceed urgently towards an inclusive and peaceful political process. The EU believes this is the only way in which lasting peace in Sri Lanka will be achieved. It encourages all stakeholders in Sri Lanka to urgently engage in a responsible way to enable progress to be made in finding a lasting political solution to the concerns of all communities in Sri Lanka. The EU also repeats its earlier calls for the LTTE to renounce terrorism and violence."

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