

Sri Lanka: Declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the European Union on the latest developments

The European Union (EU) and its 27 Member States are monitoring closely developments in Sri Lanka. The EU condemns the recent vicious attack against peaceful protestors in Colombo, which triggered further violence after a month of peaceful demonstrations had shown, despite some isolated incidents, that Sri Lankans are able to exercise peacefully their right to freedom of expression. The EU deplores the loss of life, including of a Member of Parliament, and the high number of injured people.

The EU calls on the authorities to initiate an investigation into the events and to hold accountable those instigating or perpetrating violence. The EU urges all parties to refrain from violence and to show restraint.

The EU recalls the importance to safeguard the democratic rights of all citizens, and to focus on solutions that will address the significant challenges currently faced by the Sri Lankans.

Over the last few months the EU has provided humanitarian assistance, including for handling the COVID crisis and the ensuing challenges, and is actively looking at ways to further mitigate the impact of the economic crisis on the most vulnerable people.

The Candidate Countries North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania¹⁾, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Republic of Moldova and Georgia align themselves with this declaration.

¹⁾ North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

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