

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 the situation in Sri Lanka**

The European Union warmly welcomes the entry into force on 8 January 1995 of an agreement on the cessation of hostilities signed by the Sri Lankan Government and the LTTE.

It supports the measures adopted to improve the condition of the population.

It hopes very much that this important step forward will be followed by the speedy opening of negotiations to find a political solution to the present conflict.

This is an exceptional opportunity which should be taken fully advantage of as soon as possible.

It expresses its readiness when the time comes to collaborate with all partners, including international organizations, in the work of economic reconstruction in the areas affected by the conflict.

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