



EUROPEAN UNION



Brussels, 20 March 2012
7911/12
PRESSE 125

**Declaration by High Representative Catherine Ashton on
behalf of the European Union on the need for political
reconciliation in the Maldives**

The European Union remains concerned over continued political unrest in the Maldives. It is important that a process that will lead to political reconciliation and democratic elections is agreed urgently. The EU is ready to support such efforts.

I am glad that the Special Envoy of the Commonwealth, Sir Don McKinnon, has arrived in the Maldives to engage in a dialogue with all parties concerned and would like to extend my fullest support to his important mission.

I believe it is of utmost importance that political parties and authorities abstain from taking any action that could further complicate matters. Moreover, the security of the leaders of political parties has to be guaranteed.

Agreement on the holding of early elections, on the independent investigation of the transfer of power of 7 February and on the reestablishment of the correct functioning of government and parliament is now more important than ever.

The European Union will continue to closely follow events in the Maldives in cooperation with international partners, including the United Nations and the Commonwealth.

P R E S S
