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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
No. prev. doc.:	6121/18
Subject:	The Maldives - Council conclusions (26 February 2018)

Delegations will find in the annex the Council conclusions on the Maldives, as adopted by the Council at its 3598th meeting held on 26 February 2018.

Council conclusions on the Maldives

1. The Council has followed with concern the recent deterioration of the situation in the Maldives, and calls on all in the country, in particular law enforcement forces, to act with restraint.
2. The Council takes note of the decision of the Supreme Court of the Maldives, in full bench, on 1st February 2018 to call into question the validity of criminal proceedings against leading political figures and to order their immediate release. The Supreme Court has also decided on the reinstatement of 12 members of Parliament.
3. The Council underlines that the Parliament and the Judiciary should be enabled to return to their normal functioning in accordance with the Constitution.
4. The Council expects the competent Maldivian institutions to immediately lift the State of Emergency, and restore all constitutionally guaranteed rights. The Council calls upon Maldivian authorities to respect the rule of law, and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of expression and the right to fair trial. The Council condemns politically motivated arrests and calls for the immediate release of all political prisoners. The Council also condemns any interference with the work of the Supreme Court of the Maldives and actions taken against the judiciary and the judges.
5. The Council is concerned about the possible impact of the current situation also on the security of foreign residents and visitors, including tourists.
6. The current situation is not in accordance with the principles of democratic rule and separation of powers. If the situation does not improve, the Council may therefore consider targeted measures.
7. The Council calls on the Government of the Maldives to engage with the leaders of the opposition in a genuine dialogue that paves the way for credible, transparent and inclusive Presidential elections. The EU is ready to support UN facilitation of such a dialogue.