



**THE EMBASSY OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA
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EU Parliamentary Delegation issues an "Explanatory Statement"

The European Parliamentary Delegation led by MEP Robert Evans who visited Sri Lanka in July 2008 and at a press conference in Colombo alleged that the Government prevented them from visiting the Eastern Province, in an 'explanatory statement' to the Mission's report tabled today (21 January 2009), acknowledged that "it is convinced that both the Mission of Sri Lanka to the EU and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka, at various levels, as well as other senior members and representatives of the Government, genuinely deployed every effort to facilitate safe and secure air passage for the Delegation to the East during the July visit".

They added that "it is also convinced that the EC Delegation in Colombo, in the same vein, made a similar and equally conscientious effort to provide logistical support". The Delegation said "while it 'deplores the fact this particular aspect of the visit did not materialize, it hopes that these clarifications will help put an unfortunate episode finally behind European Parliament/Sri Lanka Relations".

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Brussels, Belgium

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