Priorities

The European Union’s primary objective is to support Sri Lanka’s efforts to become a democratic, stable, secure and prosperous country.

This includes the proper functioning of the rule of law and protection of human rights; providing an inclusive and sustainable political settlement with the full participation of all ethnic and religious communities to allow for genuine reconciliation; the further reduction of poverty.

Did you know?

Sri Lanka was known as Ceylon before 1972.

Sri Lanka won the T20 Cricket World Cup 2014.

Sri Lanka is the world’s largest tea exporter.

Top 3 Facts

Sri Lanka’s economic, educational, cultural, social and historical ties with the European Union remain strong.

The EU is Sri Lanka’s number one trading partner and its main export market: €2.5 billion exported to the EU and €1.3 billion imported from it in 2012. Sri Lanka benefits from the EU’s Generalised System of Preferences. The EU is a significant investor in Sri Lanka and its main source of tourism revenue.

The EU has provided substantial humanitarian and development aid, especially to the areas hit by the 2004 tsunami and the long civil war. Together with loans, the EU assistance over the 2005-2013 period totaled some €670 million, mainly in support of conflict-affected people, including so-called “humanitarian plus” projects on housing, livelihoods, water and sanitation, green energy and support to small and medium-size enterprises. The EU’s housing programmes will have financed up to 20,000 houses by 2015.

The official languages of Sri Lanka are Sinhala and Tamil.

With Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike in 1960, Sri Lanka was the first country in the world to have a democratically elected female head of state.

Over 90 percent of Sri Lanka’s population is literate boasting the highest literacy rate in South Asia.
Main links:
EU Delegation website:  
http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/sri_lanka/

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