

Brussels, 14 January 2011

Commission provides €2 million for flood victims in Sri Lanka

Today, the European Commission decided to provide emergency funding of €2 million for humanitarian assistance to flood victims in Sri Lanka. Some of the heaviest rains in Eastern and North Central Sri Lanka in recent weeks have resulted in significant flooding affecting close to 1 million people. This action will be implemented through international aid agencies to provide primarily emergency food assistance, water and sanitation, and emergency relief items.

Kristalina Georgieva, European Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response, said: "*when I see the images of devastation by the floods in Sri Lanka, I feel that it is EU's duty to make it possible for thousands of people to receive emergency relief. Our humanitarian assistance aims to help the most vulnerable victims of these severe weather conditions.*"

Over 300,000 people have been displaced to temporary relocation centres or host families. Many more are affected as the floods have caused major damage to infrastructure, making access to many communities impossible.

My main concern for the future concerns the livelihood of those affected by the floods. These will affect their crops, and with some many other natural disasters affecting fields and paddies throughout the world, I fear the humanitarian impact of increasingly erratic weather.

For information on Commission's humanitarian aid:

http://ec.europa.eu/echo/index_en.htm