



**THE EMBASSY OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA
TO BELGIUM, LUXEMBOURG AND THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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Comment by Ambassador Ravinatha Aryasinha to Rupavahini News 13 May 2011 on the
outcome of the 'Urgency' debate on Sri Lanka held in the European Parliament on 12 May
2011

“The objective of the Greens and the Socialists who introduced this resolution in the first place, and later the Socialists who moved an oral amendment to seek the ‘immediate establishment of an international justice mechanism on Sri Lanka’, was largely to use the Darusman Report to try to build political opinion within Europe, in a bid to seek to operationalize this report and set up an international mechanism. Now by defeating this particular sinister move, what the European Conservatives, British Conservatives and European Liberals, who together hold a majority of seats in the European Parliament have done, is realizing that it is the diaspora elements supportive of the LTTE who are behind this move and who lobbied heavily to have their way, they have said enough is enough. They have shown that while they do keep a very watchful eye on Sri Lanka, and human rights and good governance issues, that they are not ready to become a cat’s paw in the games of such a diaspora. Infact several who spoke in this debate made the point that the bigger problem in Europe is this diaspora, that is pro-LTTE, which we know continues to advocate separatism in Sri Lanka, while espousing the ideology of the LTTE, using its money and being manipulated by its surviving military leaders. I think this could be an important ‘turning point’ in Europe in relation to the discussion on Sri Lanka, and we should use this moment to reach out to governments, political groups, civil society groups and individuals within Europe who continue to be misled by those who oppose Sri Lanka due to various vested interests.”

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