



## **EU Election Observation Mission (EOM) to Sri Lanka - 2005**

For the 17 November Presidential Elections

Colombo, 31 October 2005

### **EU EOM delegation meets Election Commissioner**

A delegation from the European Union Election Observation Mission met the Election Commissioner today, at 11h30 am at the Election Secretariat.

After the meeting EU Chief Observer, Mr. John Cushnahan said:

“The meeting was very constructive and cordial during which we raised a number of issues. The Election Commissioner, Mr. Dayananda Dissanayake expressed his concern as to what might happen in the North and East during the election. Although he stressed that he did not want to interfere in our decision making process, he asked that we take into consideration these concerns.

I asked the Election Commissioner where the location of cluster polling stations would be in the North and the East. He informed our delegation that it would be within close proximity to the locations used for the 2004 Parliamentary Election.

On the issue of re-polling certain areas if there was significant electoral malpractice, our delegation inquired as to what timetable he would employ. He confirmed that if he was going to decide to re-poll any area that he would make that decision on the 18<sup>th</sup> of November and that voting would take place on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Both sides agreed to maintain contact throughout the remainder of the election campaign.

Our delegation thanks the Election Commissioner, Mr. Dayananda Dissanayake for the kind and co-operative attitude shown during the meeting”.

Mr. Cushnahan was accompanied by the Head of the EU Delegation to Sri Lanka, Ambassador Julian Wilson, and by the EU EOM Election Expert Ms. Idoia Aranceta.

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