

Maldives urges increased European Member State involvement into the Global Climate Change Alliance

02nd April 08: H. E. Dr Mohamed Asim, High Commissioner of the Republic of Maldives to the United Kingdom, today spoke at the European Parliament's Committee on Development.

The hearing, entitled "Building a Global Climate Change Alliance between the EU and Developing Countries" was organised by Swedish MEP Mr Anders Wijkman to inform his forthcoming report on this initiative launched by the European Commission's Directorate General for Development. The Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA) aims to act as a link between the EU and poor developing countries most vulnerable to climate change, in particular the Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States.

The Maldives interest and input into the Alliance has included participation of the President of the Maldives, H.E. Mr. Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, at the EU Development Days event in Lisbon in November 2007, and request by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, H. E. Mr. Abdulla Shahid, for Maldives to be included as one of the initial pilot countries for the GCCA.

High Commissioner Dr Asim provided his reflections on the GCCA as well as informing MEPs in the Development Committee on the various and complex issues facing the Maldives as regards the necessary adaptation to climate change ongoing in the country. Dr Asim was particularly keen to welcome the creation of the GCCA but urged MEPs present to assist Small Island States such as the Maldives by persuading their own national governments to further input, whether in a financial sense or a technical sense, to the Alliance.

The MEPs were also informed about the 28th March 2008 United Nations Human Rights Council resolution on the subject of human rights and climate change.

In response to the Ambassador's statement, Mr Wijkman further highlighted the plight faced by the Maldives if global warming increased.

ENDS

Patrick McMullan
Maldives Ministry of Foreign Affairs
E-mail: pmcmullan@maldivesmission.eu

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