



STATEMENT BY JEAN LAMBERT  
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WITH THE COUNTRIES OF SOUTH ASIA

**Brussels, 21/09/2015**

**Chair of Parliament's South Asia Delegation  
on the Constitution of Nepal**

On behalf of the European Parliament Delegation for relations with the countries of South Asia, I welcome yesterday's promulgation of the Constitution of Nepal. We have watched this at times difficult process unfold over a number of years, and hope that it will now open the way for a new era of stability, peace and development.

I would also like to express our condolences to those who have lost loved ones as a result of the recent violence, and urge utmost restraint from all sides moving forward. Nepal has already suffered greatly following the devastating earthquakes, and the new Constitution can lead the way in driving reconstruction and regeneration.

This Constitution marks a new starting point in Nepal's democratic process. In particular, we congratulate Nepal on being the first country in Asia whose Constitution protects gay rights, and on their recognition of a third gender and trust that heralds a general policy of inclusion for all members of society. We hope that concerns around political representation of minorities and citizenship laws will be addressed within the coming months.

The European Parliament Delegation looks forward to continuing our constructive engagement with Nepal.

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