

# EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE



**Head of Division**

ASIAPAC Asia and the Pacific

ASIAPAC.1 *Regional Affairs and South Asia*

Brussels, 6 May 2020

[eeas.asiapac.1\(2020\)](mailto:eeas.asiapac.1(2020))

Mr Raza Syed

[secretariat@kashmircouncil.eu](mailto:secretariat@kashmircouncil.eu)

**Subject: Response to your email of 6 April 2020**

Dear Mr Raza Syed,

Thank you for your letter of 6 April 2020, in which you express your concerns over the situation in Jammu and Kashmir and the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic. High Representative Josep Borrell has asked me to reply on his behalf.

The EU is closely following the situation in the region.

Through public statements and direct active engagements with both India and Pakistan, the EU has highlighted the importance of de-escalating the situation, stressed that it is crucial that Pakistan and India resume dialogue both at diplomatic and political levels and underlined the importance of taking into account the interests of the local population.

Furthermore, in a plenary debate at the European Parliament on 17 September 2019, the EU position on the situation in Kashmir has been outlined and a transcript of the speech is available here: [https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/india/67477/speech-behalf-high-representativevice-president-federica-mogherini-european-parliament-plenary\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/india/67477/speech-behalf-high-representativevice-president-federica-mogherini-european-parliament-plenary_en).

The EU considers that any allegation of human rights abuse should be investigated thoroughly, promptly and transparently, in line with international human rights obligations.

The EU is also committed to working with India and Pakistan as well as the international community to combat terrorism and terrorist threats in all their forms. The EU will continue to combat radicalisation and violent extremism that sustain terrorism.

Yours sincerely,

*signed*

Caroline VINOT