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Mr. Josep Borrell
EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and
Vice-President of the European Commission
242, rue de la Loi
B-1049 Brussels

Dear High Representative, Vice-President Mr. Borrell,

Re: Pakistan's new Map - deliberate attempt to disturb peace in South Asia

I am drawing your attention to the emerging security situation in South Asia as a result of irresponsible and childish behavior of the Pakistani government, and to request European Union to rethink its various assistance schemes including immediate withdrawal of GSP privilege to Pakistan.

You may be aware that on Tuesday, August 4, Pakistan government published a 'new' political map of the country, which includes several parts of India. The new Pakistani map includes the entire region of Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, the erstwhile princely state of Junagadh in Gujarat and Sir Creek as Pakistan's territories. This "creative art" by Pakistan has no locus-standi, nor it has any takers, but it has the potential to spark a major conflict if Pakistan continues to disrespect international protocol and obligations and does not stop its continuous provocations against India.

Naturally, India has lashed out at Pakistan by terming the release of the map displaying Indian territories as part of Pakistan as "ridiculous assertions" which neither have "legal validity nor international credibility" According to Indian government, this is an exercise in political absurdity, laying untenable claims to territories in the Indian state of Gujarat and our Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh."

This is a fresh round of provocation by Pakistan and this is likely to further escalate tensions which have been rising over the past several months in South Asia. The Pakistani Army has been continuously shelling border areas of India with an aim to push terrorists trained by it into Indian territory. There have been several casualties in the past few weeks. With fresh provocations by Pakistan, this could erupt into an armed conflict. Any such conflict in South Asia will have major consequences for the interests of the European Union and NATO in Afghanistan. EU has key stakes in promoting stability in Asia, where India is a major player, and provocation by Pakistan is in no way conducive to peace and stability. A conflict with India, for which Pakistan shall be solely responsible, will immediately derail EU's vision of an EU Strategy on Connecting Europe and Asia with concrete policy and initiatives to improve connections between Europe and Asia.

The new political map represents desperation of the Pakistan government and in their desperation, they could provoke a major escalation. It is sad to note that while the government in Pakistan should have been busy with handling the novel coronavirus pandemic and the dismal state of its economy, it has chosen to open a new front to confront India. The world is

fighting the impact of COVID-19 and Pakistan is busy satisfying its ego. This map is indeed a ploy by the Pakistan government to divert the attention of the Pakistani population of the deteriorating economic situation and hardship being faced by the population.

Nations make progress when their institutions get stronger and become independent. In the case of Pakistan, other than military no other institution has been allowed to become independent. This is a monumental tragedy for any country. The biggest problem for Pakistan is that it has been trying to manufacture a false identity of itself, ignoring history and geography. This unrealistic desire for a new identity has destroyed the nation and its institutions and has helped fuel religious extremism in the country which in turn has fueled terrorism. More than seven decades of hostility by Pakistan, along with declared and undeclared wars -- with Pakistan losing all the wars - have not changed the boundary even by seven inches. Even after seven decades, Pakistan has not been able to separate Pakistani people from Pakistani establishment; they are being held 'Hostage' by their Army, ISI & Military Intelligence. The new map that Pakistan has published has its root in the army whose agenda has been to thrive on creating tensions and disputes with India.

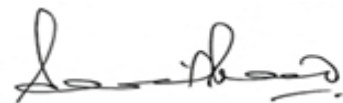
Pakistan constantly seems to be living up to its reputation of being a failed state where the army follows its own agenda and the government look as well as its democratic institutions completely helpless. It is a nation torn from within and is suffering from schizophrenia while it projects itself as a leading player on War against Terrorism. The country has long harbored and trained terrorists to fight a proxy war with India. If there is one parasite that is eating away Pakistan's identity as well as its relevance, it is Pakistan's obsession with India, and the roots of Pakistan's hatred against India lie in its political, civil, and military establishment. Decades of violence and jihad embedded in both population and establishment has turned the country into a "jelly state".

In the past too there have been several provocative actions targeting India but so far India has restrained itself, but its patience may be wearing thin. In our view, it appears that Pakistan is inviting India to undertake the short journey of 30 minutes by road between Amritsar (India) to Lahore (Pakistan) and if India decides to accept this invitation, it would not take the Indian Army even 30 minutes to cover the distance. And should that happen, Pakistani leaders will be left holding their Maps, while India holds their entire territory. It is not a joke or a fanciful, imaginary scenario. If Pakistan continues to provoke India with its actions, India may not hesitate to take appropriate action, including yet another surgical strike, for which only Pakistan shall be responsible.

Europe India Chamber of Commerce (EICC) promotes trade and economic relations between EU and India and since the above development may have impact on the peace and security in Asia, we are voicing our concern with a request that the EU takes appropriate action on its policy towards Pakistan.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



Secretary General