

## **Southern neighbourhood**

The Council discussed the situation in the EU's Southern neighbourhood, in the light of the latest developments in the region.

### **– *Libya***

The Council discussed the situation in Libya and adopted the following conclusions:

1. "The EU welcomes the Declaration of Liberation of Libya made on October 23, which marks the beginning of a new era for the country and its people. It also welcomes the appointment of Abdurrahim al-Keib as Libya's new Prime Minister and looks forward to the rapid appointment of a Transitional Government. It recognises the legitimate aspirations of the Libyan people expressed during the revolution, and encourages the continuation of reconciliation efforts. It also reiterates its call for this transition to be inclusive and to pave the way for the establishment of a state based on the rule of law and democratic principles to which Libyan people aspired during the revolution, such as fundamental freedoms, respect for human rights, gender equality, including participation of women in the political process, and non discrimination.
2. The EU encourages the National Transitional Council to pursue its calls for justice and respect for human rights in line with its Constitutional Charter. It notes with concern reports of violations of human rights and international humanitarian law including revenge attacks and summary executions. It welcomes the commitment of the Libyan authorities to take action to bring an end to such acts, to carry out thorough and impartial investigations into any such incidents and ensure that those responsible for violations of human rights are held accountable. The EU welcomes the promise of cooperation between the Libyan authorities and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Commission of Inquiry of the UN Human Rights Council, as well as the International Criminal Court.
3. The EU notes the end of Operation Unified Protector in Libya and expresses appreciation for the critical role it has played in the protection of civilians. It also recalls that it has taken swift action to implement the provisions on UNSCR 2016 (2011) on the termination of the No-Fly Zone.
4. The EU underlines its concerns regarding the proliferation of all arms and related materiel of all types in line with UNSCR 2017 (2011), in particular Man-portable air defence system (MANPADS) and chemical weapons stockpiles in Libya and the danger of their dissemination across the region. It stresses the need for a response based on close coordination with international partners and countries of the region, and it recalls the relevance of the EU Sahel Strategy in this regard.

5. In full respect of the principle of Libyan ownership and in cooperation with the UN, the EU is ready to combine all its instruments, including CSDP if appropriate, in order to provide further assistance to the new Libya across a range of sectors, as already set out in the FAC Conclusions of 10 October. Together with the Libyan authorities and the international community, the EU will continue to work to lift restrictions on Libyan assets frozen abroad in conformity with the wishes and needs of the Libyan people and the relevant UNSCRs. A quick re-launch of the Libyan economy is needed to support the transition process. The EU will continue to respond to requests for humanitarian assistance.
6. The Council reaffirms its readiness to support Libya during the transition and welcomes the inauguration of an EU Delegation to Libya by High Representative Ashton.
7. The EU is committed to deepening and strengthening its relationship with the Libyan people and looks forward to the participation of Libya within the European Neighbourhood Policy and regional initiatives such as the Union for the Mediterranean."

– *Syria*

The Council discussed the situation in Syria.

In view of the gravity of the situation, the Council suspended further disbursements of project loans to the Syrian government from the European Investment Bank as well as the bank's technical assistance contracts for sovereign projects in Syria. It also added 18 persons responsible for human rights violations to the list of those targeted by an asset freeze and travel ban pursuant to decision 2011/273/CFSP and regulation 442/2011. For more information, see press release [16724/11](#).

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

"The European Union continues to be deeply concerned by the deteriorating situation in Syria where according to the United Nations more than 3,500 people have been killed since March. The EU again condemns in the strongest terms the ongoing brutal repression and widespread human rights violation.

The Council discussed today the situation in Syria as well as the outcome of the Arab League meeting that took place last Saturday in response to the failure of the Syrian government to implement the Arab League plan to which Syria committed on 2 November. The EU deplors that once again the Syrian government has not lived up to its own commitments, pursuing instead the repression against its own people.