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Delegations will find attached in the annex the conclusions on Libya as adopted by the Council on 16 March 2015.

COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS ON LIBYA

Foreign Affairs Council, 16 March 2015

1. The EU welcomes the resumption of the UN – facilitated political dialogue in Rabat and calls on all Libyan parties to participate constructively to ensure the rapid formation of a Government of National Unity able to take forward the democratic transition and restart the reconstruction of the country. The EU underlines that the dialogue needs to make a decisive breakthrough now as a failure to come to a political agreement would jeopardise Libya's unity and the goals of the February Revolution, including respect for the rule of law and human rights, freedom and democracy.

2. Libya is now at a crossroads. The EU therefore urges all parties to live up to their responsibility to participate constructively to the dialogue, to fully implement a cease-fire and to abstain from actions that may derail the dialogue process. The EU commends those Libyans who have so far actively and constructively participated in these talks in supporting the work towards a political agreement. The EU reaffirms that there is no military solution to this conflict; only a political solution can provide a sustainable way forward and contribute to peace and stability in Libya. The EU calls for an immediate cessation of the ongoing violence and condemns all violations of human rights.

3. The EU reaffirms its full support to the work of the United Nations, and in particular commends the efforts by the UN Special Representative of the Secretary General and the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), which has been instrumental in bringing the parties to the negotiating table. The EU emphasizes the importance of an inclusive and balanced process taking into account the UNSCR1325.

4. At this critical juncture in the dialogue process, the EU calls on all regional actors and neighbours of Libya to use their influence on all domestic Libya actors to ensure a successful outcome of the negotiations and democratic transition in Libya, to support the implementation of the agreements and to refrain from actions that can exacerbate current divisions. All relevant UNSC Resolutions should be respected. The EU looks forward to cooperating with regional actors and neighbours of Libya in order to contribute to peace and stability of Libya.
5. The security and political dimensions reinforce each other. Political and security vacuum, current political divisions and mutual mistrust between the main political stakeholders are helping terrorist groups such as Da'esh to consolidate their presence in Libya, undermining Libya's security and posing serious challenges to its neighbours, the wider region and Europe. The EU is seriously concerned at the increased activity of terrorist and extremist groups and condemns all acts of terrorism. The EU is ready to step up its engagement on counter-terrorism with Libya. It will offer support to neighbouring countries in order to enhance counter-terrorism capacity in full compliance with human rights and rule of law, strengthen border security, disrupt the smuggling of weapons and the flow of foreign fighters. The EU offers support to civil society in Libya to prevent radicalisation and will mainstream counter-terrorism aspects into existing capacity building projects where appropriate. The formation of a National Unity Government would enable the EU to offer its full support to Libya to enhance counter-terrorism capacity in full compliance with human rights and rule of law.
6. The EU condemns actions against Libya's national assets, financial institutions and natural resources, which risk depriving the Libyan people of the benefits of the sustainable development of their country.
7. The EU acknowledges the importance of different agreed parallel tracks of the UN mediation efforts which contribute to the creation of conditions conducive to the finalisation of a political agreement and in this regard welcomes the recent meeting of political parties held in Algiers.

8. The EU will continue carrying out Confidence Building Measures. In this regard, it recalls the support that it is providing to initiatives such as the recent meeting with the Libyan business community and the intention to quickly convene, under the auspices of UNSMIL, a meeting with Libyan mayors and local leaders. EU support continues in other sectors such as reconciliation, civil society, migration and promotion of human rights.
9. The EU calls on all parties in Libya to ensure unhindered humanitarian access and security of humanitarian aid workers in order to facilitate the assistance and protection of civilians in need. The EU calls for further efforts to address the worsening humanitarian situation. The EU stresses the need for a common and coordinated humanitarian action under UN leadership.
10. As soon as there is an agreement on a Government of National Unity and related security arrangements, the EU stands ready to enhance its support to Libya and contribute to the successful implementation of the agreements through the ongoing support to key Libyan institutions and in key areas, including rule of law, economic cooperation and DDR, making full use of all its instruments. In this regard, the Council invites the High Representative to present as soon as possible proposals on possible CSDP activities in support of the security arrangements, in close coordination with the UN, Libya, key partners and regional actors, as part of a wider set of policy options in the context of an updated Political Framework for Crisis Approach, to be developed by the High Representative and the Commission.

The Council also calls on the High Representative and the Commission to develop a comprehensive strategy for Libya, taking into account the regional context.

11. Cooperation with Libya's neighbours and regional bodies such as the League of Arab States and African Union has been, and will continue to be, of crucial interest to the EU and the success of Libya's transition process. The EU will continue to work with these partners to promote political dialogue in Libya and address other issues of common interest and concern, including human smuggling and trafficking and terrorism. Further consideration should also be given to countering illegal arms trafficking.
12. The EU has put in place a legal framework which will allow it to introduce, if necessary and in full coordination with the UNSRSG, restrictive measures against spoilers of the dialogue process in line with UNSCR 2174 which allows for the listing of individuals who threaten the peace, stability or security in Libya, or who undermine its political transition.
13. The EU cannot accept the continuing tragic loss of life at sea of migrants departing from Libya. The irregular movement of people across Libya and through its borders has a dramatic effect on the lives of too many people, and destabilises countries on both shores of the Mediterranean. The challenges posed must be addressed in a comprehensive manner.
14. The EU remains strongly committed to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Libya.