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Mission in Libya (EUBAM)

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Delegations will find attached document EEAS(2025) 363.

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European Union

51. Throughout the period covered by this review, the EU has continued its efforts to assist Libya in its transition towards a democratic, stable, peaceful and prosperous country. In the context of the persisting *status quo*, the EU has consistently advocated for a lasting political solution based on an inclusive dialogue among all Libyan stakeholders. The EU continues to support the UN-led facilitation to renew the legitimacy and viability of Libyan institutions through elections. It has continued and enhanced funding for UNSMIL activities in support to the intra-Libyan political dialogue. The EU has reiterated several times its readiness to mobilise all the tools at its disposal to provide the technical assistance needed to consolidate the Libyan political, economic and social institutions.

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52. **CSDP** actions in Libya and in the Central Mediterranean contribute to the EU's support to peace and stability in Libya. Support initially focused on border management with the launch of EUBAM Libya in 2013, and then to address migratory flows in the Central Mediterranean with the launch of Operation SOPHIA in 2015. From 2016, CSDP support has been widened to include in Operation SOPHIA's mandate the contribution to the implementation of the UN arms embargo and the gathering of information on oil smuggling. Those tasks remain part² of the mandate of Operation EUNAVFOR MED IRINI launched in 2020, following the Berlin Conference on Libya.

Cooperation-financial support

DG NEAR

Support to governance and rule of law

53. Between 2021 and 2024 new bilateral/geographic programmes worth EUR 122 million in total were adopted under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI), in areas such as Economic Development/Investment, Governance and Stabilisation, Rule of law and Justice, Climate change and environment, Health, water, skills, Recovery and Development. This includes a new action of EUR 8 million aiming to support the Justice and Rule of Law systems in Libya, adopted in November 2024. The implementation of a project aiming to build Libya's national capacity to prevent and combat corruption and money laundering also started in early 2025.

Support in the area of migration and border management

54. Under NDICI-Global Europe (2021-2027), Libya is benefitting from bilateral and regional actions on migration, including border management, adopted between 2021 and 2023, amounting to around EUR 125 million. In 2021 and 2022, the Commission adopted actions to increase protection and resilience of migrants, forcibly displaced persons and host communities (EUR 55 million) and to step up voluntary humanitarian returns of migrants to their countries of origin (indicatively EUR 30 million, out of a regional programme currently worth EUR 68 million). For 2024, additional funding (indicatively EUR 75 million) has been foreseen to enhance protection assistance and border management activities.

² Implementation of the UN arms embargo is a core task of EUNAVFOR MED IRINI.

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55. More specifically on Border Management, EUR 59 million from the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa have been invested to support Libyan authorities (Libyan General Administration for Coastal Security and Libyan Coast Guard) in search and rescue and fighting migrant smuggling, via the “Support to the Integrated Border and Migration Management in Libya” (SIBMMIL), which also includes the support to the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC). Two NDICI-funded programmes for an additional EUR 10 million were initiated in January 2023, in support to Libyan training institutions for border management and to the Libyan MRCC.

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FPI

57. Under the NDICI rapid response pillar, FPI has an ongoing portfolio of six actions worth about EUR 21.5 million for the stabilisation of Libya, including: support to the UN-led peace process, national elections, mediation & peacebuilding, security sector reorganisation/reunification, clearance of explosive devices & risk awareness education.

58. FPI’s actions continue to facilitate the implementation of the 2020 Ceasefire Agreement, through the EULINK project, which provided training, equipment and the deployment of joint security units (West and East) along the coastal road under the Security Arrangement Committee of the 5+5/Joint Military Commission.

59. FPI’s global and trans-regional facilities such as EU CBRN Centre of Excellence Initiative, CT INFLOW, EU Global AML/CFT Facility & CT JUST can foster new strands of cooperation in the fight against terrorism, terrorism financing and money laundering.

60. In addition, Libya is a member of the EU CBRN CoE initiative (in the North Africa and Sahel region). Libya has recently received ad hoc support to assess its CBRN mitigation capacities and draft its national CBRN National Action Plan and Libya has participated in exercises for cross-border detection of CBRN materials with Tunisia. However regional projects are not including Libya in activities up to now with the exception of MediLabSecure which aims to improve the diagnosis of vector-borne diseases.

DG HOME

61. DG HOME is involved in the above mentioned joint COM/EEAS technical dialogue on migration where, in close coordination with MS and the UN agencies on the ground, a number

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of key priorities on migration, border management, protection and anti-smuggling are addressed with the Libyan authorities. DG HOME is also providing funding for projects in the area of protection under the Regional Development and Protection Programmes (RDPPs) in North Africa, as well as for actions under the Migration Partnership Facility. Training opportunities for Libyan operational authorities are also available under the regional programs managed by CEPOL and EU Agency for Asylum.

Member States

62. Many EU MS cooperate bilaterally with Libya, either directly, or in partnership with third countries (US/Switzerland) or via implementing partners such as UNDP, IOM, UNICEF, INGOs or EU MS agencies (i.e. AICS, MIASIT, Expertise France, GIZ, SIDA). Italy is particularly active, building on the 2008 Friendship Agreement and on the Memorandum of Understanding of 2 February 2017, by which IT and Libya agreed on cooperation to combat irregular immigration, human trafficking and smuggling, and on reinforcing border security.
63. Other MS that are active include AT, BE, CZ, DE, DK, FR, HU, MT, NL, and SE, with projects on state building, stabilisation, electoral preparedness, strengthening public institutions and domestic security, economic development, cultural heritage, promoting democratic dialogue, protection of people in need, de-mining, counter-terrorism, senior leader dialogue, policing and security programs or naval training.
64. In addition, several MS have cooperated with EUBAM on activities such as trainings, study trips and workshops for relevant Libyan counterparts.

United Nations

65. The United Nations – through the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) – has been attempting over the last months to relaunch the Libyan political process, which had been hostage to delaying tactics, parallel initiatives and conflicting agendas of both domestic and international actors.
66. Following UN Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) Abdoulaye Bathily's resignation in mid-April 2024, the appointment of Hanna Serwaa Tetteh of Ghana as the Special Representative for Libya and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya was announced on 24 January 2025.

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67. The agreement over the next SRSB is a positive development as it not only allowed for a 9-month extension of the UNSMIL mandate, but it also coincided with the launch of the new UN mediation initiative with the creation of the “Advisory Committee” as part of a multi-track plan. As strongly underlined by the UN, the Advisory Committee, composed of 20 Libyan experts in legal, constitutional, and/or electoral issues, is not a decision-making body. Its role is rather to develop technically sound and politically viable proposals for resolving outstanding contentious issues to enable the holding of elections, building on existing Libyan framework and laws. Next to the political process, UNSMIL has recently also launched work on securing Libya’s borders, notably via establishing a joint centre for communication and information exchange to support institutions securing Libya’s borders, combating terrorism, and irregular migration.

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