



**EUROPEAN COUNCIL  
THE PRESIDENT**



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**Statement by Herman Van Rompuy,  
President of the European Council  
following his meeting with Mahmoud Jibril,  
Chairman of the Libyan Transitional National Council**

I am pleased to welcome Dr. Mahmoud Jibril, chairman of the Libyan Transitional National Council.

This is our second meeting. Our first meeting (albeit short) took place on March 11 just before an extraordinary European Council which I had called to discuss the then unfolding crisis in Libya. On that occasion the EU's Heads of State and Government paved the way for further international diplomatic efforts, leading to UN Security Council Resolution 1973 a few days later. It was a resolution of historic significance, turning the principle of "responsibility to protect" into actual practice for the first time. Its implementation - with European countries still in the lead - has helped to save thousands of lives.

The European Council was amongst the very first to recognise the TNC as a legitimate political interlocutor. The Union's engagement with the TNC since the beginning has contributed to its recognition and increasing authority both in Libya and abroad. Dr. Jibril's visit today was a further step forward on that road.

Today we have discussed 3 key aspects of the crisis: developments on the ground; the role and mission of the TNC; and the perspectives for a political solution and the post-conflict phase.

Since the beginning of the crisis, the EU has underlined its key objectives: to protect civilians from the brutality of a regime which has lost all its credibility; and to ensure that the aspirations of the Libyan people are met.

**P R E S S**

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On the first point. The announced bloodbath in Benghazi did not take place thanks to the resolute action taken - under the UN mandate - by the international community. The EU has played a key role in implementing Security Council resolution 1973 within the confines of its mandate and its powers, including tough sanctions against Gaddafi and his regime, humanitarian assistance to those in need, and help for economic recovery.

On the new Libya. We are committed to the development of a new, democratic, unified and prosperous country.

The TNC has a key role to play. I agreed with Mr. Jibril that Libyan leadership and ownership remain vital. The EU has opened an office in Benghazi to assist building a new country, providing support to civil society, the media, women and youth. Human rights and the rule of law need to become a part of the DNA of the new Libya. We need the economic recovery to take root quickly. The post-conflict phase has already started in the East, but it needs to embrace the whole country: a divided and unruly Libya is in nobody's interest.

While we have to ensure that the pressure on the regime remains in place, I told Dr. Jibril that the EU is ready to help launching an inclusive transition process for a political solution of this crisis.

We know that it will require a collective and coordinated effort, within and outside Libya. The EU has joined forces with its international partners, through the Cairo Group and the Contact Group which will meet tomorrow.

Even if the end solution is not yet right across the corner, this meeting has strengthened my confidence that we will get there. And the EU will continue to work tirelessly towards this goal.

Thank you for your visit and I hope to see you soon again.

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