

The Timoshenko case and the rule of law in Ukraine

On 20 December 2010 the Ukrainian prosecutor charged former Prime Minister, Yulia Timoshenko, with abuse of office, and her trial began on 27 June in Kiev. The case is of course highly controversial within Ukraine, and also now has international aspects. Ms Timoshenko asks the European Court of Human Rights to determine whether the charges are politically motivated, at a time when Ukraine occupies the position of chairman-in-office of the Council of Europe. The US and EU have both expressed concern about the apparently political motivation of the charges. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe is concerned by the case: the leader of its Christian Democrat faction declared on 26 May that the 'politically motivated prosecution of the opposition, particularly Timoshenko, is not consistent with European standards...'. The European Parliament adopted on 9 June a resolution on the case of Yulia Timoshenko and other former members of the Ukrainian government (including former Interior Minister Yuri Lutsenko). This resolution expressed concern 'about the increased selective prosecution of figures from the political opposition in Ukraine'.

The international and European ramifications of these cases may increase over the next half year as the trials proceed in parallel with an important agenda for EU-Ukraine affairs. The EU will host a high profile Eastern Partnership summit towards the end of September, at which Ukraine will inevitably be the most prominent partner state by virtue of its size and political significance. In addition the EU and Ukraine are seeking to bring to conclusion an Association Agreement, including as part of it a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (DCFTA), with December appearing to be the target date for signing this Treaty. It should be noted that such treaties have on the EU side to be ratified by both the European Parliament and all 27 national parliaments. Moreover all such agreements now include a so-called human rights clause, which generally use language like 'respect for democratic principles and fundamental human rights constitutes an essential element of this agreement'. This means that if this clause is not respected there are grounds for very serious responses, such as suspension of the agreement.

Some Ukrainian politicians are already expressing their indignation at international 'interference' in these affairs. For example Vadym Kolesnichenko, deputy chairman of the Party of the Regions' faction in the Ukrainian parliament, published on 20 July a press release complaining about double standards, when many countries in the West

have seen cases of high-ranking public figures subject to prosecutions (Dominique Strauss-Kahn, Jacques Chirac, Silvio Berlusconi and others). However President Yanukovich declares Ukraine's ambition for integration with the EU, which will mean much 'interference', as member states of the EU know full well.

The indictment is about Ms Timoshenko having concluded a gas deal with Moscow early in 2009 shortly after an interruption of Russian gas supplies, which led to crisis conditions in parts of the EU. There are other allegations of over-spending for public procurements for ambulances and anti-flu vaccines and for mis-spending Kyoto credits on pensions. It is impossible for the outside observer to have a view on allegations such as those concerning over-spending. However the indictment of abuse of office in doing a gas deal with Moscow merits a more precise comment. The period of the Yushchenko-Timoshenko governance of Ukraine from 2005 to 2010 was chronically dysfunctional at the constitutional (especially inter-institutional) level, with open conflict between President and Prime Minister, and continuous frictions with the Parliament, resulting in a high degree of paralysis in legislation and policy making, and continuous confusion over interpretations of the requirements of the constitution. At the same time the securing of gas supplies into Ukraine both for its own use and for transit through to the EU was and still is a matter of strategic, even existential importance for the economies of both Ukraine and the EU. Deals had to be made, even while the country's system of governing institutions was clearly not functioning properly. The gas deal made by the Prime Minister is reported to have been without the authorisation of the Cabinet of Ministers, while it was the subject of explicit attempts by President Yushchenko to obstruct it. The Prime Minister argued that the President was trying to favour the interests of the (highly non-transparent) Rosukrenergo trading company.

The technical argument being used by the prosecutor is apparently that the Prime Minister's signature of her 'instruction' or 'directive', which could itself be a licit measure on her personal authority, was supplemented by placing the official stamp of the Cabinet of Ministers by her signature. The legal case seems to hang upon whether this stamp was merely authenticating the Prime Minister's signature, or implying incorrectly that that it was a decision of the Cabinet (source: www.ukrainedemocracy.com/?p0=266). The indictment is saying that the mistakes of procedure here amounted to a serious crime.

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On the matter of gas deals and constitutionality President Yanukovich's own record in office may be noted, this including the agreement he made with Moscow within days of taking office, which traded a short-term discount of the gas price for a long-term extension of the lease of the port of Sebastopol to the Russian Black Sea fleet. The gas deal was lacking in transparency both as regards its effective economic value and as regards who were to be the ultimate beneficiaries as between the state, various gas trading entities, and various gas-consuming industrial corporations, several of which have been supporters of the Yanukovich's election and presidency. While Ms Timoshenko is indicted for taking a procedural short cut, President Yanukovich shows himself to be a champion of executive short cuts even on matters of such strategic significance as the long-term lease of the Sebastopol naval base to Russia.

The wheels of Ukrainian justice have now to turn, with possible recourse to the European Court of Human rights if a case of relevance to it needs to be made. Kiev (the government and judiciary) should ensure that the legal proceedings are seen to be both legally correct and politically fair. There is time to do this, before the various rendezvous with the EU between September and December. Much hangs upon this, first of all for the international reputation of the Yanukovich administration. The case will be followed with great attention, and notably the European Parliament which will have in due course to ratify the proposed Association Agreement. The Parliament is capable legally of stopping the Agreement from entering into force, if the criticisms of the case mount in volume and credibility. Escalation of the controversy has not so far reached the point of this becoming a prospect: best make sure that it does not.

Michael Emerson
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Press conference of HRVP following the Foreign Affairs Council
Brussels, 18 July 2011. [Link](#)

Today we began our discussions with the Middle East Peace Process and I was able to debrief Member States on the discussions at the Quartet. From there we had an opportunity to talk about the issues that lie before us in the Middle East and especially my strong desire to see the two parties return as quickly as possible to talks and to get those moving as quickly as we possibly can.

We then talked about the report I have put before Member States on CSDP, Common Security and Defence Policy. This is a real opportunity to try and fulfil what the Lisbon Treaty is all about - which is to bring together the different ways in which Europe operates in the world and to put a framework around that.

I often give the example of what we are doing off the coast of Somalia in support of the World Food Programme. We are ensuring that 12 million people are able to get food, by protecting shipping against piracy and joining the international efforts to make sure that trade routes are kept open and people are kept safe.

That is part of a much bigger plan to try and support the development in Somalia, with all the challenges that we are well aware of, and to work collaboratively with other nations beyond the European Union, not least in those states that surround Somalia who are able to offer that kind of support. I use that example to describe the work we need to do to make sure that our missions fit into a broader strategy and a broader plan as part of what Lisbon was all about, to make things fit together.

In that connection, this morning before the Council began, I went to see the new EU Situation Room which itself is bringing together different ways in which we monitor crisis, we support our missions and delegations. We have got a new and better operation and I am pleased to say at no extra cost, all being done within existing resources.

We also talked today about the Southern Neighbourhood and our growing concern regarding the situation in Syria. We all had hopes that the national dialogue could bring the opposition on board and lead to real and fulfilling conversations. That does not appear to have happened. As you know, we have continued to look at sanctions, the kind of pressure to put on Syria. We also had the Syrian ambassador come and see the EEAS last week because of our concerns of what was happening with embassies in Syria, not least the embassy of France.

We talked as well about Libya. We had the Contact Group meeting on Friday in Istanbul and the focus of that meeting was about how we deal with a post-conflict Libya, what we do on Day One and how we make sure that the international community works together.

For my part I have been engaged in working with the United Nations, the African Union, the Arab League, the Organisation

of the Islamic Conference - what we call the Cairo Group - to try and develop that work. Last week I also had conversations in Washington with the United States and with Turkey. This is all under the umbrella of the United Nations and the Special Representative al-Khatib. We want to make sure that the UN, in pursuit of Resolution 1973, is making headway in thinking through the planning that will need to take place. And that builds on my visit to Benghazi and the opening of the EU office there.

Then we talked about the importance of stability in Egypt and Tunisia and the need to move forward on both the political side, helping to support the elections, helping to support the building of the political process - what I keep calling 'deep democracy' - and also the economic issues that confront the neighbourhood, particularly in the context of the Neighbourhood Policy that I have put together with Stefan Füle, the Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy.

Over lunch, we talked about Afghanistan and Pakistan. I was pleased to invite Secretary General of NATO Anders Fogh Rasmussen to join us for that discussion. This is part of the EU-NATO cooperation that goes on all the time. It was important to have him participating in a discussion on how the EU can move forward in support of the people of Afghanistan and support of the people of Pakistan.

You will know that that covers a number of different elements. We discussed the importance of our police mission in Afghanistan, the importance and significance of supporting the development of police service for civilian use in Afghanistan and development projects. Andris Piebalgs has just returned from the region and was able to update us on that. And on Pakistan, we discussed our continuous desire to see ways in which we can support them through trade and through the economy, so significant after the floods they suffered last year.

Commission launches new Neighbourhood Transport Action Plan
Brussels, 07 July 2011. [Link](#)

The European Commission today published a new Neighbourhood Transport Action Plan to strengthen transport links with neighbouring regions to the East and South of the EU. The plan proposes more than 20 concrete measures, in the short and longer term, to make transport connections smoother, safer and more reliable. At the same time, it will deepen market integration to the advantage of both the EU and its neighbouring regions. The plan was presented on 7 July 2011 by Vice President Siim Kallas responsible for Transport and and Commissioner Stefan Füle, Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood policy.

Vice-President Kallas said: "Freedom of movement is something we all tend to take for granted in Europe, but it shouldn't stop at the border. Today if we are serious about a relationship with our neighbours we need to provide the infrastructure which is

essential for flows of goods and people across borders and cut away the bureaucracy and bottlenecks.”

Commissioner Füle said: “In the new and ambitious European Neighbourhood Policy launched on 25 May of this year, we offer a deeper economic integration to our neighbours in the East and South. This action plan proposes the concrete transport measures that we aim to put in place for the benefit of citizens and companies both in the neighbourhood and in Europe.”

Transport cooperation with the EU’s neighbouring regions¹ has so far taken place under a number of bilateral and regional initiatives -there is already, for example, a transport regional initiative for neighbours to the South. This new action plan² builds on the results achieved so far, strengthens in particular connections to the east and brings together regional transport cooperation into a single policy.

Key measures for connecting the transport systems of the EU and its neighbours include:

- Extending the EU’s internal aviation market and Single European Sky to neighbouring regions;
- Joining up the Trans-European Transport Network with infrastructure of the EU’s neighbours through priority transport projects;
- Making better use of rail freight potential by opening markets and by alleviating technical barriers such as differences in rail gauge sizes;
- Streamlining the implementation of regional transport cooperation, by establishing an Eastern Partnership Transport Panel to oversee cooperation with neighbours to the east;
- Making sea transport with the neighbouring countries more efficient, including in the longer term, through their inclusion in the “Blue Belt” of free maritime movement in and around Europe;
- Helping neighbouring countries to improve road safety;

For full details of more than 20 measures set out in the Action plan see MEMO/11/488.

These actions up to 2013 will be financed with existing resources through better prioritisation of projects and measures. In its recent Communication on a Budget for Europe 2020, the Commission proposed adding flexibility to possible financing for strategic infrastructure projects linking the EU and its neighbours. This will be followed up in the negotiations on the future financial framework.

What are the next steps?

The Commission’s plan will next be presented to the Council and the European Parliament. In October 2011, the new Eastern Partnership Transport Panel which will oversee the implementation of the measures to the East, will be launched at a ministerial conference organised under the Polish EU Presidency (24-25 October 2011 in Krakow.)

European Union allocates new funding to boost higher education projects and improve teaching across the European Neighbourhood and Russia
Brussels, 05 July 2011. [Link](#)

Today, the Commission announced it would allocate EURO 47 million to support higher education projects in the European Neighbourhood countries and Russia under the Tempus Programme. The new funding will improve teaching, learning methods and teaching material, as well as boost quality assurance and management of higher education institutions in the partner countries.

Today’s decision will also enable enhanced networking and joint projects and partnerships to be set up between higher education institutions in the EU and European Neighbourhood countries. The money allocated under the Tempus Programme will support approximately 60 multilateral partnerships, aiming at modernising curricula, teaching methods and management of the colleges, schools and universities in the neighbouring countries.

Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy, Štefan Füle, underlined: “Investing in people is a key objective of the EU Neighbourhood Policy. Fruitful cooperation between higher education institutions in the EU and European Neighbourhood countries will be continued, helping to share knowledge, experience and ideas. The significant increase of funding to this programme illustrates the renewed commitment of the EU to support higher education in this region.”

Overall, more than 450 institutions from these countries will have new opportunities to collaborate in a structured way with a similar number of institutions from the EU in two to three-year projects which will commence in 2012. Public and private companies and NGOs will be involved as well, to improve relevance and reinforce the links between society and education.

This allocation represents an increase of almost EURO 17 million in comparison to last year’s programme.

Background

Tempus promotes the development of higher education in the EU’s neighbouring partner countries and provides mechanisms to offer new learning opportunities for students and new career perspectives for academic staff

Launched in 1990 and now in its fourth phase, Tempus IV (2007-2013) supports the modernisation of higher education in particular in Eastern Europe, North Africa and the Middle East. It promotes academic cooperation and networking and encourages long-term structural collaboration among institutions. Academic and curricula development, the introduction of quality assurance mechanisms, the modernisation of infrastructures and teaching methods as well as the acquisition of management skills by academic and administrative staff are among the most important achievements of the programme.

100 different higher education institutions from the ENPI region have so far been awarded funding under Tempus IV, enabling students, academics and administrative staff to benefit from sources of new knowledge, teaching and learning. This represents more than 170 projects and thousands of people being exposed to the EU experience and the European Higher Education Area.

EC President 'Partners in Freedom: the EU response to the Arab Spring'
Cairo, 14 July 2011. [Link](#)

Ladies and gentlemen,
It is a great honour to be here today, in the great country of Egypt, during such an historic time. Egyptians have shown their courage and their determination to forge a better life. A life of dignity today, and a better future for the next generations. So it is a heart-felt pleasure for me to be in Cairo and to speak to you – Egypt's young people, civil society and future leaders.

Throughout the ages, Egypt has been a cradle of civilization and remains the intellectual centre of Arab cultures and countries. From the ancient library of Alexandria to modern showcases like the Aswan Dam and this opera house, it is with good reason that your history gives rise to the expression "Egypt - Misr Umm ad-dúnnia", or Egypt, mother of the world.

For many centuries Europeans and Egyptians have connected through art, literature and trade. Egypt's ports, and later the Suez Canal, have further linked us together and to the wider world.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
It is in this tradition of exchange that I come here today. But I come to look at the future, not the past. To listen, not to lecture. To understand from you the new reality of Egypt. I come to understand your struggle to secure the Revolution's ideals.

As someone who has once fought for freedom in his country, I come here to pay tribute to those who have made the revolution. I come here also to pay my respect to the innocent blood that has been shed. As your neighbour, I come here to offer a vote of confidence in the people and the future of Egypt. And as President of the European Commission, I come here today to gain a better sense of your expectations of the European Union, and to say that Europe, is your partner for the long term.

Let me now expand on those statements.

To listen, not to lecture.

The whole world has watched with great hope as you and your compatriots risked your safety to demonstrate for a better future; a future of freedom and dignity. The Egyptians have shown they know what they want and that they are ready to take their destiny in their own hands. European Union has no wish to interfere in Egypt's internal decisions. We will cooperate with Egyptian society in all its diversity in support of your own aspirations.

In the past too many have traded democracy for stability. But recent events have only proven that lasting stability can only be achieved through democratic and accountable governments. As Egypt embarks upon this journey, democracy, freedom and openness are the fundamental values that will bind Europe and Egypt together in the future. The wish to live a dignified life, free from corrupt leaders, in a community that respects us, is something that all human beings have in common.

The courage you have demonstrated fundamentally changes our relationship, and affirms as universal, the values you have pursued.

We recognise there are many risks still to be faced. We recognise that the revolution is not finished. The expectations are high and the potential for frustration is considerable. Deep change takes time. The road to democracy is not a peaceful stream of water but rather an unpredictable river very much like the Nile used to be before the Aswan Dam. But we fundamentally affirm the spirit that has ignited the revolution thus far. And throughout we remain acutely aware that democracy must come from within. While external assistance may help the flowers of democracy bloom, it is only you who have planted the seeds that can ensure democracy takes root.

As you take this journey, be assured that there is no single template for transition to democracy, and no such thing as a perfect or complete democracy. Each transition is unique.

Democracy is about more than freely electing one's government, and just as there are many ways to practice faith, there are many ways to practice democracy. So the European Union does not ask its neighbours to copy our models. We simply offer our experience and our assistance, should you think it can help in your search for new institutions, new opportunities and a new social contract.

We recognize that there is no single Arab world, any more than there is a single Muslim world, or a single Christian world for that matter. No two countries are the same. In the end, a one-size-fits-all approach fits no-one. So the European Union is committed to responding to the individual needs of each country. We will treat each transition as unique. This comes not only out of respect but also out of a genuine concern for achieving results.

A fellow democracy activist

I pay tribute to those who have made Egypt's 25 January Revolution, and I express my deep sorrow for those whose lives were taken. To witness the determination in Tahrir Square earlier this year took me back to my youth. I too grew up in a country long deprived of democracy. As a young law student in Lisbon I knew that only democracy could fulfill my rights and those of my countrymen. And with others I rejected the idea that democracy was suited only to a certain type of culture. We fought for freedom in our country and later to become members of a peaceful and democratic Union of nations, today the European Union. It was a similar story in post-Franco Spain and Greece after the colonels' regime.

At the time many negative voices were saying that Southern Europe because of its level of development or cultural reasons

would not be able to establish stable democracies. And just look at how strong democracy has consolidated and the inspiration that this was for other regions of the world such as Latin America. I also remember that some people said that post-communist countries would never be able to embrace a new democratic culture and just look at the thriving democracies and open societies of these countries who also joined the European Union in 2004.

So I firmly reject the idea that because of cultural differences Muslim majority countries cannot be at one with democracy. Such prejudices reveal deep ignorance, and a deeper disregard for human aspiration. All countries and peoples are fit for democracy and to think otherwise is an unacceptable moral prejudice. Men and women choose freedom time and again when given the choice.

To all those who refuse to believe that Arab streets and squares can be filled with the peaceful call for freedom and dignity: I point to the people of Cairo and to the people of Egypt. Your moral fortitude can continue to defeat the forces of hatred and fear.

As neighbours, securing the future

As a good neighbour we wish to show solidarity with a just cause and a great people.

Solidarity is a basic value of the European Union, enshrined in our Lisbon Treaty. It is a value we practice not only inside our Union but towards all countries and regions. So I come here to show my confidence in the people of Egypt and their commitment to a better present and a better future.

With over 80 million talented people – especially an educated and ambitious youth – tremendous natural resources and a world-class tourism industry, there is everything to hope for. But democracy alone will not eradicate poverty, nor will it create the jobs that Egypt needs. Indeed, democracy cannot fulfill its promise if delivered without economic growth and employment.

To ensure a majority remains happy with the progress of the revolution – to truly secure the revolution, fair economic opportunities must go hand in hand with democratic ones. The gap between raised political expectations and shrinking economic capacity must be closed.

But as a friend and partner, the European Union knows from experience that hard economic decisions do not go away by ignoring them.

The people of Egypt have shown themselves to be the nation's greatest resource. That is why you must be invested in, education and health, for example. And that it is why it is also urgent to stamp out corruption.

A serious debate seems to be in order about how a stronger private sector could lift millions from poverty. A debate about which subsidies really help the vulnerable and which fail to do so. Such debates will feed answers to the challenge of creating satisfying jobs for the young people so crucial to the revolution. Not to mention linking into the opportunity to make use of the millions of members of the Egyptian Diaspora.

Partners in peace, prosperity and democracy.

As President of the European Commission, I am proud that the European Union was the first to react with details of concrete support for Egypt's transition to democracy. This is part of our wider Neighbourhood Policy – a policy predicated on the idea that human rights and democracy are the best basis for inclusive growth and shared prosperity.

With new thinking and new money in hand, it is time to take action focused around money, mobility and market access. Our financial commitments will rise to EURO 7 billion in the coming three years for our neighbourhood, with another EURO 6 billion in loans available. Much of this will come from the European Investment Bank, whose President Philippe Maystadt is joining me on this trip. The bank is the biggest development lender in North Africa. Already there are nine Egyptian projects in the pipeline for the coming 12 months, worth well over EURO 1 billion.

This sits within the overall package of EURO 20bn agreed at the G8 in May. Egypt is in a good position to access these amounts, as it is a leading country in the path to democracy. Like any sound partnership, this support is based on shared accountability. In addition to increasing assistance, we are increasing the flexibility of our commitment. A stronger commitment to the principles of the Arab Spring will mean more support from the European Union.

There are three priority areas, which naturally coincide with the demands put forward by Egyptians:

1. Democratic transformation and institution building, with a particular focus on fundamental freedoms, constitutional reforms, reform of the judiciary and the fight against corruption
2. A specific emphasis on support to civil society. We want this to be a broad partnership. That means a partnership not just with governments but with the grassroots directly, with a particular focus on the younger generation.
3. Sustainable and inclusive growth and economic development especially to support to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), vocational and educational training, improving health and education systems and development of the poorer regions. These priorities are embodied in three examples I want to share today.

The first one is a programme that the European Commission is preparing entitled "SPRING" (Support for Partnership, Reform, and Inclusive Growth). This programme will be launched in September with an initial amount of 350 million euros in grants and will have a specific focus on democratization and economic growth and thus address core issues of the transition. It is our intention to extend this to 500 million euros for the period 2011-2013.

Next is the European Endowment for Democracy. The details are still to be finalized, but this endowment will be a beacon of hope; a new independent body dedicated to helping people find their authentic democratic voices.

Finally, the European Union will massively increase support for the participation of Egypt and other partner countries in our Erasmus and Marie Curie education programmes. Overall there will be a 40% increase in funds starting from September 2011.

750 additional students will win life-changing scholarships that further enrich the links between us.

The EU is also proposing to establish Partnerships with a few selected Southern Mediterranean countries. One of those countries is Egypt. We want to allow for Egypt's young people to have the chance to travel and study in Europe, for businessman to trade, for artists to interact. The Mediterranean must be a sea that unites us and not separates us. But we have to manage these flows in an organized and safe way. And all must be done to offer opportunities at home.

As I have touched upon, we recognize that transitions to democracy also depend on new jobs and economic growth. Increasing trade and foreign investment important can be crucial in this regard. Egypt is already our biggest trading partner in the region. Bilateral trade has almost doubled since the entry into force of the Association Agreement in 2004. The entry into force of an ambitious agreement on agricultural trade will further boost exchanges. But we want to go even further: In the short to medium term, we want to intensify on-going negotiations on the liberalisation of trade in services and investment. And in the long term, we should work on a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) that firmly ties Egypt into the world's largest market – the EU, with its half-billion investors, businesses and consumers. And we should not lose sight of our long-term vision of a full free trade zone between the European Union and the Southern Mediterranean.

Let me also say that inclusion is a critical aspect of the revolution. It makes good sense to use the talents of all your people to complete the revolution. To give a practical example: women have helped make your new freedoms possible. Surely they must now have every chance to make further contributions. In a democracy this is self-evident. Respect for difference and freedom from harassment is part of the foundation of any successful democracy.

Around the region

The Arab Spring has been a momentous chain of events. However, the steady progress of Tunisia and Egypt to a democratic path has not been mirrored in other countries in the region. These neighbours, with the same aspirations but a harder journey, deserve our joint support.

Let me salute from here the people of Libya and their determination to build a democratic future. Europe strongly supports the United Nations Security Council resolutions which aim at protecting civilians through the imposition of a no-fly zone. We have also stepped up sanctions, to stop money and arms reaching the regime.

Defending the Libyan revolution in this way was a matter of courage and human necessity. The alternative would have been forgetting everything from our recent past and allowing a massacre. So the European Union and its member states have acted. We have acted on the basis that regimes that shoot at their own people have no place in the community of nations.

As the turmoil continues, the European Union flag flies proudly in Freedom Square, Benghazi. This flag and the office beneath

it is a tangible and symbolic sign that the European Union is ready to support the people of this region. Just yesterday I met with members of the Transitional National Council in Brussels and I have supported their quest for a politically inclusive Libya.

We have worked to increase the flows of humanitarian assistance. We continue to cooperate closely with international organizations to prepare for life after Gaddafi. We will seek the return of stolen billions, not just in Libya but around the region. I have faith in the people of Libya, and they can have faith in the support of the European Union.

We have grave concerns for the people of Syria. Nearly 2,000 dead and 10,000 detained – this is an intolerable toll. We condemn without reservation these acts of violence and repression. We have increased our sanctions twice, but President Assad's promises of reform and dialogue are weak and have yet to be fulfilled. Our EU Delegation remains on the ground in Damascus – meeting every day with individuals and groups. I welcome the recent presence of the French and American ambassadors in Hama, and offer solidarity to the citizens of that city. We will continue to push for urgent change.

I want also to acknowledge the progress and reform that Morocco and Jordan are undertaking. The leadership in Algeria has also made commitments to reform. This is important but we look to our Algerian partners to ensure that words now turn into action. In Bahrain too promises of reform must translate into real reforms steps. In Yemen it is clear that President Saleh must begin the transfer of power now.

Finally a word on a conflict that has fuelled so much resentment throughout the years. As the Arab Spring advances, we must seize the opportunity for a permanent resolution of the conflict between Israel and Palestine. Democratic Arab States – and Egypt foremost among them – will have a strong role to play in making peace, and securing the aspirations of all people in the region, including the inalienable right of Palestinians to have their own State. Egypt was already at the forefront of the Palestinian reconciliation and can give an important contribution to Israeli and Palestinian peace.

The Arab Peace Initiative is one of the references on which peace must be achieved, along with United Nations Security Council Resolutions. Underlying these efforts is the knowledge that peace can only be achieved through negotiation. As we have learnt from the Arab Spring, peaceful action has a force more powerful and more lasting than violence.

Conclusion

Ladies and gentlemen, as a European, and as your partner I wish to congratulate you on your success so far in securing the freedom and dignity you deserve.

I say again that Europe rejects the idea that democracy is only for some. You are doing the right thing, and it matters. If you can continue to succeed, the Egyptian example will give others new momentum to secure their own freedom. Soon you may inhabit a region of democratic states.

And I affirm the view that freedom, security and jobs must go hand in hand. There is no real freedom without security. And

there is no real security without an economy that provides job opportunities.

Europe is united with you throughout this journey. We have a common destiny, that of a Euro-Mediterranean Community based on Democracy and Shared Prosperity. Because Europe's place is at the side of those who aspire to dignity, democracy and freedom.

Council conclusions on Libya

Brussels, 18 July 2011. [Link](#)

1. Firmly committed to the full implementation of UNSCRs 1970 and 1973, the EU remains unwavering in its commitment to protecting Libyan civilians, including through the intensification of pressure on the Kadhafi regime.

2. The EU condemns the grave violations of human rights and the breaches of international humanitarian law perpetrated by the regime. It reiterates the importance of accountability, justice and the need to fight against impunity. It takes note of the decision of the International Criminal Court's Pre-Trial Chamber I on 27 June to issue arrest warrants against Muammar Kadhafi, Saif al Islam Kadhafi and Abdullah al-Sanussi in connection with alleged crimes against humanity in Libya and calls for full co-operation with the International Criminal Court. It also welcomes the extension of the mandate of the International Commission of Inquiry by the UN Human Rights Council.

Kadhafi has lost all legitimacy and must relinquish power immediately. Noting continuing defections from the Kadhafi regime, the EU calls on its remaining followers to disassociate themselves from its crimes.

3. The EU remains concerned about the humanitarian situation. It is pursuing its efforts to deliver humanitarian assistance to all Libyans and people in need in an impartial and nondiscriminatory manner and calls for unlimited humanitarian access in western Libya and full respect of international humanitarian law. If requested by UN OCHA, the EU will conduct a CSDP operation "EUFOR Libya" to support humanitarian assistance in the region.

4. The EU welcomes the commitment expressed once more by the international community at the Contact Group meeting held in Istanbul on 15 July to support the Libyan people in their ongoing transition process, from the Kadhafi era and towards the creation of a united, sovereign and democratic Libyan state. In particular the EU endorses the shared and overarching principles identified to guide efforts towards a political transition, as well as the common approach to supporting the Libyan people in rebuilding their country. To that end, the EU welcomes the presentation by the NTC of their plans for the post-conflict stage.

5. The EU is dedicated to helping shape the conditions for a monitored cease-fire linked to a genuine and inclusive political process clearly committed to national reconciliation and to the unity of post-Kadhafi Libya. Under the leadership of the UN and with UNSG Special Envoy for Libya as focal point, the EU will pursue its work with other international and regional

partners, notably the Cairo Group, which brings the EU together with the UN, the Arab League, the African Union, the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation. In this regard, the EU acknowledges the useful contribution made by the African Union at the July 2011 Malabo Summit.

6. The EU considers the NTC as a legitimate political interlocutor. It acknowledges the essential role and responsibilities of the NTC as a representative of the aspirations of the Libyan people, including for the transition process. As such, the EU welcomes the visit to the EU institutions, on 13-14 July, of the Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the National Transitional Council (NTC), Mr. Mahmoud Jibril. The EU acknowledges the urgent financial needs of the NTC to allow it to serve the Libyan people. The EU and Member States will continue to explore all options in that respect, including, where possible, through the use of Libyan frozen funds, *inter alia* as a guarantee for providing financial assistance, and the resumption of exports, in compliance with the provisions of the relevant UNSCRs. Recalling the commitments made by the NTC in its "Road to Democratic Libya", the EU also stands ready to provide further assistance to the NTC in order to enable it to assume its responsibilities, including upholding the rule of law throughout the areas under its control. In this context, the NTC must also continue its commitment to address alleged violations of international law, including of human rights.

7. The EU is committed to support the emergence of a new, stable, prosperous, sovereign and democratic Libya through a peaceful, transparent and inclusive transition process. The EU is already implementing activities in support of the Libyan civil society, and is preparing further assistance including for human rights defenders, youth, women, local authorities and media. The EU underlines the importance of the UN-led support of the international community for Libya in the weeks and months following a cease-fire. The transition should be a Libyan driven process to which the EU will contribute together with key partners as soon as conditions allow.

Council conclusions on Syria

Brussels, 18 July 2011. [Link](#)

1. The EU deplores the fact that the Syrian leadership has chosen to ignore repeated calls made by the international community and continues its policy of deliberate violent repression of peaceful protestors. The EU reiterates its condemnation of this policy in the strongest terms. The violence must be stopped immediately in order to prevent further bloodshed.

2. In this context, the EU calls for a political process leading to rapid and concrete implementation of substantial reforms, addressing the legitimate demands of Syrian people on their way to a peaceful, genuine and irreversible transition to democracy.

3. The EU salutes the determination and courage of the growing number of Syrian people who continue to voice their

legitimate aspirations by peaceful protests. They do so despite the increasing number of casualties and reported cases of torture and other flagrant human rights abuses, some of which have been alleged by independent sources to be crimes against humanity. This must be subject to an independent, transparent and effective investigation, as requested by the UNSG, and the perpetrators of such acts must be held to account. The EU extends its sincere condolences to all victims and their families.

4. The EU condemns the crackdown by the Syrian security forces in a number of cities, most recently in Hama. The EU urges Syria's leadership to call off such security operations immediately and refrain from the continued use of force against civilians.

5. The EU recalls that President Al-Assad promised to launch a National Dialogue and notes that the first meetings took place. However, the Syrian regime still has to fulfil all legitimate demands to immediately stop violence and release prisoners as a prerequisite for a credible national dialogue leading to genuine transition to democracy. The EU emphasises that, if a dialogue is to be credible and genuine, it must be truly inclusive and conducted in an environment without fear and intimidation. For a dialogue to be inclusive and meaningful, the participation of the opposition with the full freedom of assembly is essential.

6. The EU further recalls that the Syrian government adopted reforms, notably the lifting of the state of emergency and guaranteeing the right to peaceful protest, which have never been put into practice. The EU reiterates that by choosing a path of repression instead of fulfilling its own promises on broad reforms, the Syrian regime is calling its legitimacy into question. The reforms should be fully implemented without delay.

7. The EU strongly deplores the fact that despite the amnesties announced by the President thousands are still held in detention. All prisoners of conscience and those arrested in connection with peaceful protests should be released urgently. The EU calls on the Syrian leadership to halt its far-reaching persecution, including arbitrary arrests, abuse of detainees in custody and intimidations, to respect human rights, allow unhindered access by human rights monitors, and cooperate with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights including by granting its mission access to Syria.

8. The EU notes with extreme concern the deteriorating humanitarian situation of many Syrians. Thousands of people continue to be displaced, including in the neighbouring countries, as a result of the violence. Provision of basic goods and services has been interrupted repeatedly. The Syrian authorities must ensure that no further interruptions occur. The EU stresses that the Syrian authorities bear responsibility for the humanitarian situation of the Syrian people and strongly urges them to allow safe and unhindered access by humanitarian agencies to all affected areas.

9. Noting that some limited access was given to international media, the EU urges the Syrian authorities to allow independent and international media to operate in Syria without restrictions.

The Syrian people should not be deprived of access to free media, including the Internet.

10. The EU strongly condemns the attacks directed against diplomatic representations, including of one of its Member States, and the totally inadequate response of the Syrian authorities. It further reminds the authorities of their obligation to protect diplomatic representations in Syria.

11. The situation continues to affect neighbouring countries and constitutes a threat to regional peace, security and stability. Therefore, the EU persists in its efforts to ensure that the UN Security Council assumes its responsibility in this respect, including by condemning the ongoing violent repression. The EU acknowledges the efforts by Turkey and other regional partners on the different aspects of the crisis, in particular the humanitarian aspects, and will work with them to address the situation in Syria. The EU continues to stand ready to assist in addressing the humanitarian implications of the crisis in the region.

12. Until the unacceptable violence against the civilian population is halted and decisive progress achieved towards fulfilling the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people for a democratic transition, the EU will pursue and carry forward its current policy, including through sanctions targeted against those responsible for or associated with the violent repression.

MEPs push for a UN resolution on Syria and a refugee corridor
Brussels, 7 July 2011. [Link](#)

A humanitarian border corridor should be set up between Syria and Turkey for refugees, and the UN Security Council should condemn Syria's "increasingly brutal" regime, said Parliament on Thursday. MEPs also urged EU Member States to release some of Libya's frozen assets to Libyan opposition leaders for emergency aid.

Parliament's political groups reviewed the latest developments in the Arab world, with special emphasis on the conflicts in Syria, Libya, Yemen and Bahrain, in a joint "Arab spring" resolution adopted on Thursday. In a debate with EU foreign policy High Representative Catherine Ashton on Wednesday, all the groups unanimously condemned acts of violence by the Syrian regime.

The ALDE and Greens/EFA groups also criticised Brazil, Russia and China for blocking a UN resolution condemning Syria. The GUE/NGL group announced that it would not vote for the resolution, since it believes that the UN mandate to protect Libyans has been exceeded with an excessive military intervention.

Syria: need for a humanitarian corridor

Besides calling on the UN Security Council to pass a resolution condemning Syria, MEPs urged the other EU institutions to press the UN to help the Turkish and Lebanese authorities to set up a humanitarian corridor at their borders with this country. The Red Crescent estimates that 12,000 Syrians have crossed the Syrian-Turkish border and 17,000 more are waiting to cross.

MEPs also urge Syria to investigate reported cases of arrest and torture of children and to allow the international press into the country to investigate all claims that armed gangs of extremists are firing at the security forces first, "which is the regime's justification for the unacceptable bloodbath that is taking place".

Libya: use frozen assets for emergency aid

To remedy the shortages of food, medical aid and cash faced by the Libyan population, Parliament urges EU Member States to make part of the frozen Libyan assets available to the opposition forces led by the Transitional National Council.

MEPs reiterate "the commitment of the international community to protect civilians through the intensification of pressure on the Libyan regime" and call on the Council to take into account the warrant issued by the International Criminal Court for the arrest of Colonel Gaddafi

EU provides new assistance for Palestinians affected by water restrictions in the occupied territory

Brussels, 13 July 2011. [Link](#)

The European Commission has allocated EURO 4 million to address water scarcity which is affecting people in the occupied Palestinian territory. Rainfall in the area is 59% down from the rainy season average and the drought is testing the resilience of many Palestinian communities with water and fodder shortages.

"The rainfall deficit by itself puts at risk the livelihoods of many Palestinians, for instance those who make a living by herding," said Kristalina Georgieva, European Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response.

"But the drought is particularly painful when it hits people whose access to water is already very limited by the occupation in the West Bank and by the Gaza Strip blockade. While many wells and other water sources are drying out, the occupation prevents Palestinian herders and their livestock from accessing some water points which have not been as badly affected. The problem is particularly acute for the Bedouin communities in Area C which I visited in May," the Commissioner explained.

The EU funding will provide water for around 50,000 people and their livestock in the West Bank. Special attention will be paid to those most affected by the combination of drought and Israeli-imposed restrictions – in southern Hebron, the Northern Jordan valley and other parts of Area C (which contains the

Israeli settlements, buffer zones and includes the Judean Desert and much of the Jordan Valley). The Commission's humanitarian aid will provide food assistance to 4,000 herders and their families – around 25,000 people. Herders' livelihoods will be protected by the provision of fodder for their animals.

Background

The control over water sources is one of the issues at stake in the conflict between Israeli and Palestinians in the occupied territory. Israeli settlements are usually built around the main water sources which restrict substantially the access of Palestinians to water.

Commissioner Kristalina Georgieva visited the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in May 2011 with UN Under Secretary General Valerie Amos. The Commissioner strongly reiterated the legitimate right of the Israeli people to live in peace and security, but reminded that this right does not relieve Israel from its obligation to respect international humanitarian law. Commissioner Georgieva also confirmed that the EU will continue its unwavering humanitarian support to the most vulnerable Palestinians.

Between 2000 and the beginning of 2011 the European Commission provided EURO 600 million in humanitarian aid for Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, as well as for Palestinian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. In 2010, the Commission's assistance supported the nutrition of 700,000 people, provided healthcare for 355,000 vulnerable Palestinians, made clean water available to 340,000 people in Gaza and the West Bank and contributed to the protection and care of children and adult Palestinian refugees.

Council conclusions on Middle East Peace process

Brussels, 18 July. [Link](#)

The EU continues to believe that urgent progress is needed towards a two state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The EU reiterates its concern at the continuing stalemate in the Peace Process and calls on the parties to show the highest sense of responsibility and to resume direct and substantive talks.

The EU stresses the central role of the Quartet and fully supports the High Representative in her continued efforts for the Quartet to create a credible perspective for the re-launching of the peace process.

The EU has set out and will continue to promote actively its position with regard to parameters as contained in Council Conclusions of December 2009, December 2010 and May 2011.

Related Document:

- Middle East Quartet Statement . [Access here.](#)

Deauville partnership and Tunisia: new EUR 140 million commitment in support of economic and social development

Brussels, 12 July 2011. [Link](#)

Today in Brussels, Philippe de Fontaine Vive, Vice-President of the European Investment Bank (EIB), and Abdelhamid Triki, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, announced a EUR 140 million (TND 275 million) loan promoting economic development and employment in Tunisia in a further demonstration of the EIB's specific commitment to supporting the Mediterranean countries in transition, which was strongly reaffirmed at the G8 summit in Deauville.

The large-scale industrial project financed consists of the construction of a fertiliser plant on the Mdhilla site (in the Gafsa mining region) by the Tunisian Chemicals Group, the world's fourth biggest phosphates producer, with the following key objectives:

- The production of sulphuric acid (capacity of 600 kt/year) and phosphoric acid (capacity of 200 kt/year) to increase the output of the existing triple superphosphate (TSP) fertiliser plant but also to make flexibility gains and be able to switch between TSP and phosphoric acid, meeting market demand better;
- Creation of a substantial number of jobs (estimated at around 1 400 during the construction phase then 400 permanent direct jobs on site, plus the indirect jobs generated, in a disadvantaged region with high unemployment);
- Environmentally friendly industrial development: the new plant will be built closer to the phosphate mines and to the highest environmental standards.

Of particular importance for economic development and social cohesion in Tunisia, this signature was described by EIB Vice-President Philippe de Fontaine Vive in these terms: "This second post-Deauville loan – which comes shortly after the first signed in Tunis on 24 June – reflects our firm commitment to helping the people of Tunisia with swift and practical action. Job creation is our top priority, especially in disadvantaged regions like Gafsa, in order to provide young people with hope for the future. This is why we are supporting projects with strong industrial potential that act as genuine levers of economic growth and social integration in Tunisia."

This loan demonstrates the EIB's ability to take quick and effective action in a strategic sector for Tunisia's economy: the phosphates industry accounts for more than 2.6% of the country's GDP, providing additional export revenues into the bargain. It is further evidence of the EIB's concrete support for the Mediterranean countries' democratic transition. It is only four months since the Deauville G8 summit and two loans totalling EUR 300 million (nearly TND 600 million) in support of employment and economic development in Tunisia have been signed already.

True to its undertaking at the G8 summit in Deauville, the EIB will continue to provide a sustained practical response to

the aspirations voiced in the Arab spring: by giving increased backing to projects that create jobs, the number one priority in these countries faced with high unemployment; fostering an entrepreneurial culture by supporting small businesses and encouraging research, development and innovation; and assisting economic and social integration with the aim of achieving balanced development focusing particularly on isolated regions with no infrastructure or effective means of communication. The EIB has decided to dedicate EUR 6 billion to the Mediterranean region by 2013, including EUR 3.5 billion for Egypt and Tunisia.

New protocol for the fisheries agreement between the EU and Morocco

A new protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and financial compensation provided for in the fisheries partnership agreement (FPA) will be signed by the EU and Morocco (11225/11).

This protocol defines the fishing opportunities offered to EU vessels based on the surplus available in the fisheries resources in the Moroccan fishing zones, as well as the financial contribution due, separately, for access rights and for contribution in development aid for Morocco's sectoral fisheries policy. The new protocol seeks essentially to extend the provisions of the expired protocol for one year.

This FPA is among the EU's three biggest FPAs; the EU paid EUR 144 million for fishing rights during the previous protocol's four-year period of validity. This protocol is important for the EU's long-distance fleets as it allows vessels from 11 member states to operate in Moroccan waters. The EU has had in recent years about 100 vessels operating in Moroccan waters with a broad economic and social impact on the fishing sector in the member states involved.

However, for some member states, one of the issues to consider is whether or not the local population of Western Sahara has been benefitting from the agreement. For the expired protocol, the Moroccan authorities provided the relevant information to the Commission in December 2010 establishing that the population of this region has been benefitting from the agreement.

In order to try to address these concerns, a specific provision has been introduced in the new protocol indicating that before the expiry of the protocol, Morocco shall submit a report on the planning of the sectoral support provided for by this protocol, in particular including its anticipated economic and social impact and its geographical distribution.

Some concerns were also expressed about potential poor economic performance of the previous protocol with Morocco.

The Council concluded in 2006 the FPA between the EU and Morocco. The agreement itself does not have any expiry date. However, the 4-year protocol on fishing opportunities and financial compensation attached to the said agreement expired on 27 February 2011. The new protocol was initialled on 25 February 2011 and covers the period of 28 February 2011 to 27 February 2012, with the allocation key remaining unchanged.

Together with this new protocol, the Council requested also the consent of the Parliament on the conclusion of the protocol itself (11137/11), and adopted a regulation concerning the allocation of the fishing opportunities between the EU Member States (11229/11).

The new protocol will be signed by the parties on 13 July 2011.

EP: "Real obstacles to political pluralism" in Russian Duma elections
Strasbourg, 7 July 2011. [Link](#)

The Russian authorities' decision not to allow the People's Freedom Party to stand in the December 2011 parliamentary elections was condemned in a resolution passed on Thursday. MEPs also urged the Russian government to allow an international long-term election observation mission. MEPs objected to "cumbersome registration procedures" for political parties in Russia. These procedures do not comply with the European Convention on Human Rights" and show "that there are still real obstacles to political pluralism in the country", they say.

The European Parliament urges the Russian authorities to allow an OSCE/Council of Europe long-term election observation mission in the country and calls on EU foreign policy High Representative Catherine Ashton to get involved in this mission.

Eastern Dimension of Mobility Conference Conclusions
Warsaw, 6-7 July 2011. [Link](#)

1. The conference on the "Eastern Dimension of Mobility", which was organised by the Polish Presidency of the EU Council and the European Commission, was held in Warsaw on 6 and 7 July 2011. It was dedicated to the reinforcement of mobility, including the issues related to broader access of participants from six Eastern Partnership countries to EU programmes in the field of education, youth, science, culture and sport.

2. The conference was attended by representatives of institutions of the European Union, high level officials from the EU Member States and the partner countries, representatives of universities, research centres, national agencies of the EU programmes, cultural and educational institutions, sport organisations, nongovernment organisations as well as youth, students and representatives of foundations, associations and trade unions.

3. Participants of the conference:

a) welcomed the adoption of key documents in 2011 by the EU institutions with respect to the European Neighbourhood Policy (conclusions of the Council of 20 June, joint communication of the European Commission and the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of 25 May), which support facilitating the partner countries' participation in the EU programmes and agencies;

b) underlined with satisfaction that the conference provided a unique opportunity to exchange views on existing mobility tools at both European and national levels as well as measures undertaken to improve mobility, but above of all it was the first such forum to discuss future prospects and possibilities for further development of contacts between people;

c) appreciated the current achievements of the Eastern Partnership in the area of Platform 4 "Contacts between people" and existing instruments, projects, and initiatives of the European Union and specific Member States as well as other international organisations, including the Council of Europe;

d) called for reinforcing the participation of entities from the partner countries in the programmes of the European Union, including in particular the ones which support mobility, further using of existing EU instruments and opening of successors of current programmes aimed at strengthening people-to-people contacts between the European Union and the partner countries, such as Lifelong Learning, Culture, Europe for Citizens and Media in the New Financial Perspective.

e) expressed the view that further development of cooperation of the European Union with the partner countries has to be supported by an appropriate form of new generation programmes in the fields of culture, education, youth, science, research and sport as well as adequate funding for their implementation. Simultaneously, European programmes in the new financial perspective 2014-2020 should take into consideration the perspective and needs of the Eastern Partnership countries in these fields;

f) expressed the belief that the conference constitutes an important element of the preparations to the 2nd Eastern Partnership Summit to be held in Warsaw. Proposals made at the conference with respect to further development of people-to-people contacts between the EU and the partner countries should be taken into account when producing systemic solutions.

4. The conference proved that furthering contacts between people as well as cooperation between institutions and organisations contributes to strengthening civil society in the partner countries, promoting democracy at all levels and encouraging the creation of an open, and creative society that is ready to cooperate. Reinforcement and further expansion of activities in this respect will influence the alignment of standards between the countries. It will facilitate building close relations and understanding between the peoples and will strengthen actions taken with the aim to integrate the partner countries with the European Union. Simultaneously, it will give a new stimulus to regional development and will reduce social and economic differences in the partner countries.

5. Increasing the number of people-to-people contacts, particularly at the level of civil society, is one of the priorities and directions of rapprochement between the European Union and the Eastern Partnership countries as specified in the Declaration of the Prague Eastern Partnership Summit, which was adopted in May 2009 in order to deepen political affiliation and economic integration of these countries with the European Union and to promote European values, including democracy, rule of law, and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Statement by the High Representative, Catherine Ashton, on executions in Belarus
Brussels, 16 July 2011. [Link](#)

I strongly condemn the execution, reported by the state media, in Belarus of Mr. Aleh Hyrshkawtsow and Mr. Andey Burdyka, who were sentenced to death in May 2010.

I am aware of the terrible crimes that these two men committed, and my thoughts are with the victims and their families.

Nevertheless, the European Union opposes the use of capital punishment under all circumstances, and calls on Belarus to join a global moratorium as a first step towards its universal abolition.

Related Document:
- HRVP Spokesperson on Belarusian authorities' brutal handling of silent protesters. [Access here.](#)

European Union allocates new funding to boost energy and justice reform in the Republic of Moldova
Brussels, 13 July 2011. [Link](#)

Today, the Commission adopted the Annual Action Programme 2011 for the Republic of Moldova, worth EURO 78.6 million. The funding will contribute to the country's development in the energy and justice sector. On energy, the programme will promote for instance theresearch into renewable energy potential in Moldova and support public awareness campaigns on energy efficiency and renewable energy. In the justice sector, the adopted assistance package will contribute to improve efficiency of the justice system for example through providing advice and expertise on the creation of a Justice Sector Coordination Body.

Štefan Füle, Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy, commented: "Today's decision confirms our full commitment to continue supporting the efforts of the Republic of Moldova to achieve concrete results in its reform process and to help the country move closer to the European Union".

Background

On the programme:

The Annual Action Programme 2011 for the Republic of Moldova is composed of the following four components:

1) A Sector Policy Support Programme on Energy, focussing on the reform of the energy sector. It will support the government's efforts towards further progress on the implementation of a Moldovan energy strategy. It will support research into renewable energy potential in Moldova and public awareness on energy efficiency and renewable energy.

2) A Support programme to the justice sector, which aims to accelerate sustainable reform of the justice sector and to increase the efficiency of the justice system.

3) A Confidence Building Measures programme intended to facilitate the resolution of the Transnistrian conflict through ensuring the economic and social development of local communities. Furthermore it will contribute to economic rapprochement between the two banks of the Nistru River and to empower local actors and to foster civil society in Transnistria.

4) A Framework Programme to support the Republic of Moldova in the preparation and implementation of new contractual relations with the EU (Association Agreement, Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area and Visa Liberalisation Dialogue).

Deep and comprehensive free trade areas (DCFTA) are a new generation of Free Trade Agreements providing for the fullest possible liberalisation of not only trade in goods, but also trade in services and investment, as well as extensive regulatory convergence on issues like technical standards, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, protection of intellectual property, public procurement, energy-related issues, competition, customs etc. These DCFTAs also foresee deep regulatory approximation with the trade-related EU acquis.

Funding

This EURO 78.6 million allocation is provided through the EU's European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI), which sets aside assistance funds annually to the Republic of Moldova and 16 other partner states along the EU's Eastern and Southern borders. The overarching aim of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) is to create an area of shared values, stability and prosperity, enhanced cooperation and deeper economic and regional integration by covering a wide range of cooperation areas.

In addition to ENPI assistance funds, the Republic of Moldova also receives further support from the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights and other thematic programmes.

Related Document:

- Remarks by Herman Van Rompuy President of the European Council following the meeting with Vladimir Filat Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova. [Access here.](#)

European Union provides EURO 30 million for institutional reforms in Ukraine
Brussels, 13 July 2011. [Link](#)

Today, the Commission adopted an assistance package to support the Ukrainian government in their institutional reform efforts in several key areas, including the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade area, sanitation, state aid and migration. The Annual Action Programme 2011 is worth €30 million.

Štefan Füle, Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy, said: "With today's decision we are supporting the efforts of the Ukrainian government to progress in key reforms, particularly in public administration. This is an important step towards concluding negotiations on the Association Agreement and the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area, which hopefully will happen in the course of this year. These agreements will bring substantial benefits for both Ukrainian and EU citizens."

Assistance will be provided for instance through targeted capacity development support, enabling a limited number of (core) institutions to better perform their roles and functions. The EURO 30 million assistance package has been committed from the 2011 EU Budget for the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument, which is the main source of EU support for the partner neighbouring states along the Eastern border of the EU and the Mediterranean.

Background

On the programme:

The National Indicative Programme (NIP) 2011-2013 for Ukraine identifies three priority areas of co-operation:

- 1) Good Governance and the Rule of Law
 - 2) Facilitation of the entry into force of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement (including a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area)
 - 3) Sustainable Development
- The Annual Action Programme (AAP) 2011 part 1 adopted today deals primarily with priority two, in particular with the sub-priorities related to the facilitation of the entry into force of the Association Agreement and the establishment of a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area.

Deep and comprehensive free trade areas (DCFTA) are a new generation of Free Trade Agreements providing for the fullest possible liberalisation of not only trade in goods, but also trade in services and investment, as well as extensive regulatory

convergence on issues like technical standards, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, protection of intellectual property, public procurement, energy-related issues, competition, customs etc. These DCFTAs also foresee deep regulatory approximation with the trade-related EU acquis.

Funding

The EURO 30 million assistance package has been committed from the 2011 EU Budget for the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument, which is the main source of EU support for the partner neighbouring states along the Eastern border of the EU and the Mediterranean.

European Neighbourhood Policy

The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) was developed in 2004, with the objective of extending the area of prosperity, stability and security to EU's neighbours, based on cooperation and built upon a mutual commitment to common values.

Building on the successful work already accomplished within the ENP, the Eastern Partnership offers Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine the prospect of political association and economic integration with the EU.

Commissioner Füle addresses the EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Club
Strasbourg, 5 July 2011. [Link](#)

Honourable Parliamentarians,

Thank you for inviting me to address you today. I attach a very high priority to establishing and maintaining links with members of both the European Parliament and the Verkhovna Rada: both houses have a vital role to play in taking forward the ambitious agenda which has been established for EU-Ukraine relations. It has never been more important that the two parliaments should establish close links with each other, not only through formal structures such as the Parliamentary Co-operation Committee, but through more informal groupings as well.

I think you have chosen the right moment to deepen your co-operation. 2011 is a critical year for EU-Ukraine relations. The 25th anniversary of the Chernobyl accident, the 20th anniversary of Ukraine's independence, and, I hope, the finalization of our Association Agreement, are all putting Ukraine in the spotlight. We need to seize the opportunity provided by this attention and accelerate our work on political association, economic integration and sustainable reform – I count on your support for that.

Of course it is for you to determine the priorities of your joint activities in the year ahead, but I would like to signal a few areas that are especially important from my own perspective: The first area is reform: by encouraging an open and transparent approach to the most important reforms in Ukraine, such as those of the constitution, the election system and the judiciary, we believe that we can improve the chances of getting it right with the new legal and institutional frameworks. This means that all political forces, as well as civil society, need to be involved in the process.

At the same time we also need to listen to trusted outside bodies with experience and useful advice to give: an example of this would be the Venice Commission in the case of the new electoral law, or the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) for anti-corruption legislation. In the case of public procurement, where effective legislation also helps to fight corruption, we also hope that outside advice has been taken and that the legislation finally adopted by Parliament will meet international standards.

Rapid progress on these critical reforms, with broad public understanding and support, will create the right atmosphere for the endgame of our negotiations: as far as I am concerned it is our top short-term priority. And let me add that an active and well-informed parliament is a critical tool for delivering the ambitious and realistic set of reforms we want.

The second area I want to signal is sharing information and impressions. We have of course a number of important “set piece” encounters with Ukraine every year, from the Summit all the way down to the various technical subcommittees where officials discuss issues such as Research, Home Affairs and Transport. But formal dialogues only take us part of the way towards understanding each other, and especially towards understanding the most important ambitions and anxieties on each side. For this reason, I would urge you to keep your contacts open and also to share your impressions with other stakeholders, including of course me and my staff.

The third area is communication to the public. Members of the European Parliament and members of the Verkhovna Rada will share the heavy responsibility of ratifying our new Agreement, including the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area. At the same time you are accountable to your voters and will need to persuade them that the Agreement makes sense for both sides. This is a process that needs to begin now, but it is for you to prepare the arguments according to your own political vision. I would simply identify three key aspects of the Agreement – firstly, that it will anchor Ukraine to a solid programme of reforms built around the EU acquis; secondly that it will create new opportunities for economic development and investment, and thirdly that it will help to meet some of the most important shared aspirations of Ukrainian citizens in areas such as mobility and the modernisation of public services.

I know that there are issues where parliamentarians from different backgrounds will not agree, and we should not pretend these do not exist. We are all aware of the differences of opinion which exist now regarding judicial measures against members of the former government in Ukraine. You are in particular aware of our serious concern at reports that the judiciary is being used for political ends. On these differences of opinion, I would ask you to use all your influence to encourage the most transparent and open approach from all actors, and to guarantee that the judiciary operates in an impartial way. Ukraine needs an inclusive approach if long-lasting reforms are to be established, but as a counterweight it also of course needs a constructive approach from opposition forces: both sides have rights but they also have responsibilities.

Let me end by saying that Ukraine and the EU will need champions of our close relationship, both in Strasbourg and in Kyiv, and also in the 27 EU capitals. In Strasbourg, we need voices to keep up interest in the ratification and implementation of our Agreement, our Visa Action Plan, and other essential steps. In Kyiv, we need friends who lend their full support to the reform agenda and who will speak up for the underlying advantages for Ukraine of political association and economic integration with the EU. They will also remind citizens that deepening relations with the EU does not mean closing the door to other strategic partners. I hope you will continue working together and that you will share with us the lessons you learn from your dialogue.

Thank you very much for your attention.

European Union promotes Justice Reform and support to Internally Displaced People in Georgia
Brussels, 13 July 2011. [Link](#)

Today, the Commission adopted the Annual Action Programme 2011 for Georgia, which will provide €50.73 million in assistance. EU support for the criminal justice system, conflict resolution and Internally Displaced People (IDP) in Georgia will build on previously successful work in these areas over the past few years.

Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy Štefan Füle underlined: “Georgia has already made significant progress in reforming its criminal justice system and in assisting its internally displaced populations. Important results have already been achieved, but more still needs to be done. The Programme adopted today will provide further assistance to help achieve these objectives.”

Background

The EU Support Programme for Criminal Justice started in 2008. Sectoral reforms have intensified under the leadership of the Criminal Justice Inter-Agency Coordinating Council and will be further supported by this Annual Action Plan for 2011. The programme aims to improve juvenile justice in line with the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child and to enhance detention conditions in penitentiary institutions. Other measures include support to improve compliance of the Georgian probation service and to strengthened capacity of the legal aid service.

In the past, EU support to the Justice sector helped to successfully establish a comprehensive juvenile justice system, including introduction of early release through parole and education for all juveniles in prison. Moreover a penal strategy has been adopted and criminal legislation reviewed, introducing among others a stronger probation system. The institution of a Public Defender Office has been introduced and its capacities gradually enhanced (e.g. 4 new offices have been established), including the establishment of a National Preventive Mechanism for torture – thus meeting the obligations under the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against torture.

On the programme:

The Annual Action Programme (AAP) 2011 for Georgia consists of the following four actions:

Action 1: Support to the criminal justice sector

In recent years, Georgia has made significant progress in reforming its Criminal Justice System, also thanks to the support of a first EU-funded Sector Policy Support Programme (SPSP) in criminal justice in 2008. Further impetus is now expected in the areas addressed by this 2011 programme.

Action 2: Support to conflict affected/displaced population and host communities

After the August 2008 conflict, EU-funded programmes in Abkhazia and neighbouring areas in Western Georgia have continued to provide assistance to local populations. Currently, the EU remains the largest donor in this region of Georgia, where the humanitarian and development needs of populations on both sides remain high.

Action 3: Framework programme in support of EU-Georgia agreements

This action will among others contribute to the preparation of Institutional Reform Plans for the institutions selected for support under the Comprehensive Institutional Building Framework Document. It will furthermore support the implementation of selected components of institutional reform plans.

Action 4: Support to conflict settlement

At present, there are still some 250,000 Internally Displaced People in Georgia. The Government has started a policy to re-integrate them into mainstream Georgian society and the first IDP Strategy and Action Plan was developed. Recent EU programmes focussed mainly on addressing IDP housing issues by rehabilitating apartments or building new accommodation, but this Action Plan will also address socio-economic and livelihood needs.

Funding

The EURO 50.73 million allocation is provided through the EU's European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI), which is the main source of EU assistance for Georgia and the other 16 partner states along the Eastern border of the EU and the Mediterranean. The aim of this assistance is to promote enhanced cooperation and progressive economic integration between the European Union and its partner countries. Furthermore, the assistance shall also encourage partner countries' efforts to promote good governance and equitable social and economic development. In addition to ENPI assistance funds, Georgia also receives further support from the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights, the Instrument for Stability and other thematic programmes.

European Union allocates EURO 19.1 million for institutional reforms in Armenia
Luxembourg, 13 July 2011. [Link](#)

Today, the Commission adopted the first part of the Annual Action Programme 2011 for Armenia, which will help to strengthen the technical and administrative capacity of key Armenian institutions responsible for the implementation of future Armenia-EU cooperation on trade, visa liberalisation, socio-economic reforms and improved quality of governance.

"The 'Arab Spring' led to increased expectations of governance reforms across the European Neighbourhood," Štefan Füle, Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy, emphasised. "The impact that the changes had on the Eastern neighbourhood, Armenia included, cannot be ignored. Today's adoption of the Annual Action Programme shows that the EU remains strongly committed to empowering societies in the neighbourhood partner countries to take ownership of these reforms, which are very much needed for the well-being of their people."

Background

For the period 2011–2013, the EU's priority areas of cooperation with Armenia focus on improving democratic structures and good governance and facilitating trade and investment and socio-economic reform, in line with the recently-released European Neighbourhood Communication.

On the programme:

The National Indicative Programme (NIP) 2011-2013 for Armenia identifies three priority areas of cooperation:

- 1) Democratic structures and good governance;
- 2) Trade and investment, regulatory alignment and reform;
- 3) Socio-economic reform and sustainable development.

The Annual Action Programme (AAP) 2011 part I deal primarily with the Eastern Partnership Comprehensive Institution Building (CIB) programme, which is central for preparing the foundations for the AA and DCFTA.

The support package will address three key reform challenges in Armenia: (1) preparing for the negotiations of the Association Agreement between the EU and Armenia, (2) advancing reforms in justice, liberty and security and (3) preparing for the negotiations of the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area. In this respect, the government of Armenia has already identified institutions that require reform. The EU will therefore support the creation and implementation of Institutional Reform Plans in each of the selected entities.

HRVP's speech on Nagorny Karabakh
Strasbourg, 6 July 2011. [Link](#)

Honourable Members, Ladies and Gentlemen,
I am grateful to have this opportunity to exchange views on the Nagorny Karabakh conflict.

When I – along with Presidents Van Rompuy and Barroso – met with President Medvedev at the EU-Russia summit in Nizhny – Novgorod on 9 June, he was optimistic about the possibilities for a breakthrough at the Kazan meeting.

Much work had been done by the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs and the parties to make progress towards an agreement on the Basic Principles, the first step in a process leading to the drafting of a formal peace agreement, and then its implementation.

We made clear to President Medvedev that we fully support his personal mediation efforts, and the work of the Minsk Group.

The Deauville statement of Presidents Obama, Medvedev and Sarkozy made clear that the time had now come for an agreement, failing which the parties' commitment to a solution would be questioned.

Regrettably, despite strong messages at the highest level, the expected breakthrough at Kazan on 24 June did not materialise.

President Aliyev of Azerbaijan and President Sargsyan of Armenia did not take this opportunity to reach a compromise.

Admittedly, relations between the two countries are difficult. I recently met the Foreign Ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan in Bratislava, and I have no illusions about the complexity of the negotiations. The Co-Chairs keep me and the EEAS fully informed of their work and the many difficulties they face.

I was also briefed in Vilnius last Friday by the Lithuanian Foreign Minister, Audronius Azubalis, who is now the Chairman in Office of the OSCE.

Nevertheless, efforts to find an agreement on the Basic Principles must continue, and I welcome the fact that both parties have re-committed themselves to the diplomatic process and to finding a peaceful solution.

But we need to see more than that in the coming months. The parties need to redouble their efforts to find an agreement before the end of this year. This would then happen before domestic priorities take over in 2012: elections in Armenia in 2012, and in Azerbaijan in 2013.

Indeed, a continuation of the status quo is unacceptable, as is any effort to resolve the conflict or influence the negotiations by using force, or even the threat of force. The peaceful settlement of the Nagorny Karabakh conflict is a key strategic interest of the European Union.

A settlement of the conflict would transform the South Caucasus region.

It would pave the way towards political and regional stability, and new economic opportunities.

Borders could open not only between Armenia and Azerbaijan, but also between Armenia and Turkey.

Roads, railways and pipelines could take the shortest route, and tie the countries of the region more closely together.

And the South Caucasus could finally become what it should have been already – a gateway between Europe and Asia.

All of this is clearly in the interest of the European Union, too. The EU is ready and committed to step up its efforts in support of the work of the Minsk Group Co-Chairs.

The negotiations have been going on since 1994 in the current format. An agreement on the Basic Principles is within reach.

The nature of the additional support that we can provide is of course a matter for consultation with the Minsk Group Co-Chairs and the parties.

And I can assure you that we are holding regular consultations with them on this subject.

Let me be very clear, however. What happens in these final negotiations matters greatly to the European Union, and will play a role in the way we shape our policy towards the two countries concerned.

On my behalf, Miroslav Lajcak travelled to both countries last month, and made this point very clearly.

We hope to see progress by the time of the planned Eastern Partnership Summit in September in Warsaw.

I also see clear possibilities for enhanced EU engagement outside the negotiations themselves.

We are already supporting confidence building and outreach activities to people on both sides, often through civil society organisations who promote people-to-people contacts, including in the framework of the Council of Europe. But we can do more here.

I also believe that the European Union should be prepared to take on significant responsibilities in the implementation of a settlement, once we reach this stage, in close co-operation with other parts of the international community.

There will much to do, from reconstruction, mine clearance and refugee and IDP returns to the promotion of economic recovery and security support.

I also recognize that there are other partners who play a significant role in the South Caucasus region. For instance, the EU needs to work closely with regional actors like Turkey.

I have proposed the appointment of a new Special Representative for the South Caucasus to take these different

work strands forward, in close consultation with the Minsk Group co-chairs.

Perhaps our most important contribution, however, will be to continue strengthen our bilateral relations with both Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The new European Neighbourhood Policy communication that we just discussed sets out an ambitious agenda for the countries of the South Caucasus:

New Association Agreements,
Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas, including improved access to the EU's internal market;

- Increased and facilitated mobility, especially for students and business;
- Increased sectoral co-operation and participation in EU programmes;
- increased support for civil society and the open society.

Our overall objective is to help our neighbouring countries build a comprehensive reform agenda.

In this context, we will of course be looking at ways in which our bilateral co-operation can be geared to support conflict settlement.

Stefan Füle recently visited Armenia to discuss how to take our relationship forward and build a common, positive and forward-looking agenda together.

More generally, I also believe more confident, attractive and modern countries with ambitious reform agendas are in a stronger position to overcome the difficult legacies of the past.

Ultimately this is a choice that the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan need to make themselves, in the best interests of the people they represent.

We know which choice we would like them to make: it is the choice of compromise and peace.

EU facilitated Serbia-Kosovo talks postponed

Brussels 19 July 2011. [Link](#)

The EU facilitator for the dialogue foreseen in UN General Assembly Resolution 64/298, Mr Robert Cooper, has today decided to postpone the next meeting of the dialogue, foreseen for 20 July.

At this occasion he said: "I have just informed the two parties that I have decided to cancel the next meeting of the dialogue. I took this decision as it became clear that no agreement would be reached tomorrow. This is of course regrettable. We have now reached a stage in the dialogue where agreements are part of the process. There are a few issues that are ready or very close to agreement. Agreements that would be fully in accordance with EU *acquis* and in line with international standards. This does not mean that the process is stopped. The dialogue will continue in September. We will continue

our efforts together with the two parties in order to move forward.

HRVP Ashton, Presidents Van Rompuy and Barroso on the arrest of Goran Hadzic

Brussels 19 July 2011. [Link](#)

The European Union strongly welcomes the arrest of Goran Hadzic by Serbia's authorities. This is a further important step for Serbia in realising its European perspective and equally crucial for international justice. We salute the determination and commitment of Serbia's leadership in this effort.

Following the capture of Ratko Mladic, this arrest sends a positive signal to the European Union and to Serbia's neighbours, but most of all on the rule of law in Serbia itself. The Serbian nation is in the process of confronting the past and turning the page to a better European future.

We expect Mr. Hadzic to be transferred to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague without delay. Full cooperation with the ICTY continues to be essential on Serbia's way towards the European Union.

Global Matrix: A conceptual and organisational framework for researching the future of global governance

Authors: Michael Emerson, Nathalie Tocci, Richard Youngs, Jean-Pierre Cassarino, Christian Egenhofer, Giovanni Grevi , Daniel Gros

In: Foreign and Security Policy, CEPS Working Documents 19 July 2011. [Link](#)

[Abstract]

Conceptually, Global Matrix advances in a systematic and structured inter-disciplinary (matrix) framework a research agenda for examining the stance of major world actors on the key policy dimensions to world politics (political ideologies, economics, migration, climate change, security and world view); drawing out evidence of cross-cutting linkages (between sectors and among major actors); and evaluating the evolution and adequacy of existing multilateral institutions in relation to the emerging multi-polarity, and formulating recommendations.

As a matter of organisation, Global Matrix has assembled a network of teams of scholars from think tanks in China, the EU, India, Russia and the US, with participation to be extended to other G20 states (Brazil, South Africa, Korea, Japan). The objective is to create a semi-permanent network as part of the emerging structures of the global civil society. It will serve as a continuing 'track-2' initiative to monitor major developments in global governance, including at the G20, and at other global fora as appropriate. It is a capacity-building venture at global level, with the leading think tanks intending to work together for a sustained effort, while precise participation can evolve over time.

The network consists initially of the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS) in Brussels, Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI) in Rome, Fundacion par las Relaciones Internacionales y el Dialogo Exterior (FRIDE) in Madrid, Fudan University in Shanghai, Johns Hopkins University in Washington, D.C., the Delhi Policy Group and Carnegie Moscow Center.

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