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S&D Group fully supports calls to assist the new Libyan authorities

The S&D Group and the European Parliament call on the new Libyan authorities to build a unified, democratic and pluralist state in which human rights, fundamental freedoms and justice will be guaranteed.

In a resolution adopted today MEPs stress that "the credibility of the interim government will rest on its capacity to address the most pressing issues while at the same time creating conditions for democratic institutions". They also expect the National Transitional Council (NTC) "to fulfil its responsibilities and deliver on the commitments made to build a tolerant, unified and democratic state, protecting universal human rights for all Libyan citizens, as well as for migrant workers and foreigners".

The National Transitional Council is urged to launch a national reconciliation process without delay and to include women and young people in all decision-making bodies. The text underlines the importance of investigating all human rights violations — on both sides of the conflict. European Parliamentarians also call on the NTC to respect international humanitarian laws on prisoners of war and to protect the rights of minority and vulnerable groups, including thousands of sub-Saharan African migrants facing harassment, as well as migrants and refugees stranded in camps in the region.

The resolution welcomes the fact that the EU quickly established an office in Tripoli soon after the city was liberated, and urges the member states to swiftly release the Libyan assets that are still frozen. It also calls on the EU to assist Libya in Security Sector Reform (SSR), Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) of former combatants, and in strengthening control of the borders.

S&D MEP Ana Gomes, the Parliament's rapporteur for Libya, called on the High Representative for External Policies and the European External Action Service (EEAS) *"to be ready to respond to Libyan requests for assistance in the interim governance and in the transition towards democracy, ensuring the necessary coordination among member states, so that national agendas do not overshadow a coherent EU political strategy, so that there are no doubts about the European respect for the sovereignty of the Libyan people and to enable the UN's role of coordinating international assistance to help Libya rebuild its economy and institutions"*.

