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The Road towards Democracy in Libya

The S&D Group's conference on "The Road towards Democracy in Libya" was a chance to exchange views with the Transitional National Council (TNC) and offer full support for Libyan forces fighting for democracy and freedom.

In his introductory remarks Pierre Vimont, Secretary General of the European External Action Service (EEAS), underlined the need for a political follow-up to the military action in order to prepare the next steps for the future.

Martin Schulz, leader of the S&D Group in the European Parliament, said:

"The key message of this conference is to express European solidarity with the Libyan people in their fight against Gaddafi's dictatorship.

We fully support the Libyan forces who are fighting for democracy, freedom and prosperity.

"We need to exchange views with our friends in the Transitional National Council (TNC) on what we can do, as Europeans, to support the political transition and the victory of democracy in Libya".

Ana Gomes, European Parliament rapporteur on Libya, said:

"Gaddafi's future is limited to facing justice or trying to evade it. Once the Libyan forces fighting to liberate their country from dictatorship gain control of Tripoli, the priorities will be to ensure security for all citizens, promote national reconciliation and support a transitional government in preparing the road for democracy.

"The EU can help, must help and is, actually, already helping in preparing for that new phase. The TNC authorities have been very clear in calling for an important role for the EU to assist Libyans in building a democratic state and empowering democratic political and civil society actors, from Disarmament/Demobilization and Reintegration and Security Sector Reform through capacity building programmes and technical support in all fields, including electoral and constitutional reform".