**Meeting with officials of the Libyan Ministry of Interior**

**14:30 23 September 2021**

**NOTES**

The meeting with representatives from the Department of Relations and International Cooperation of the Libyan Ministry of Interior was part of their trip to a number of European capitals (including Rome, Berlin, Geneva and London). The focus of the discussion was elections security, countering organised crime, SSR/DDR, border management with an emphasis on the south, and issues related to the deployment of the Joint Police Force.

During the visit, the Libyan officials indicated areas where they would appreciate EU support:

* **Election security:** MoI has developed a detailed strategic plan for securing the upcoming elections that they can share. While the MoI has the tools and work force necessary to implement the security measures, *they asked for EU support to support in the delivery of the media plan developed as part of election security efforts, and indicated they will need training and capacity building on election security as well.*
* **Border management and the South:** The MoI officials stressed the importance of securing the country’s southern borders and indicated that they are in talks with their southern neighbours to cooperate on this issue. They are also providing additional support to southern police directorates close to the borders that are present on the ground. There is both a political and security component of this issue. *On the security side, they asked for EU support in capacity building and provision of equipment for border management (including drones). On the political side, they asked for EU support in reaching agreements with their southern neighbours and working together on a joint strategy to address border management in the south. Emphasis was placed on the diplomatic support which could be provided by the EU to facilitate cooperation with neighbouring countries. Tchad, Sudan, Niger, Mali were mentioned.*
* **Ceasefire implementation:** The MoI officials were very appreciative of the (FPI-funded) EULEAD project and *asked that the project be continued.* As part of the implementation of the ceasefire, the MoI has been tasked with demining the coastal road. *They asked for EU technical support on demining, in particular further east towards Tobruk and with regard to the provision of equipment to locate plastic mines (potentially as part of the EULEAD project).*
* **SSR/DDR:** MoI has undertaken broad DDR efforts, taking in over 60,000 ex-combatants. The main challenge now is providing training and capacity building. *They asked for EU support in rebuilding MoI training facilities damaged during the war, including with the rebuilding of the women’s police academy.*
* As part of DDR efforts, the MoI is also trying to build its capabilities in weapons management and disarmament, purchasing the IBIS ballistic identification system on the recommendation of INTERPOL. The eventual goal is to improve investigations on criminal cases, and develop a national weapons management system as part of the DDR programme. *They indicated that they are open to EU support to this effort as it progresses.*
* **Organised crime:** MoI created a new department as part of their efforts to combat organised crime linked to human trafficking and illegal migration. *They asked for EU support on capacity-building linked to the use of OSINT to identify and track down criminal networks.*
* As part of efforts to combat organised crime, the MoI also aims to build up a criminal database, and a DNA database. While they already have the forensics labs and experts needed, *they asked for the EU to help by providing technical support and materials necessary for the effective use of DNA analysis.* This is also relevant in identifying deceased migrants and deceased fighters. They also requested for support in enhancing their capacities in the area of human intelligence.
* The delegation also mentioned the Libyan wish to further develop community policing approach and practices, as well as further enhance the capacities of the National Safety Agency.

There was also a brief exchange on the status of the MoU between EUBAM and the Libyan MoI. The invitation to sign the MoU in Brussels has already been delivered from the EU side. The Libyans indicated that the MoU is in the final stages and is being refined. The EU to follow up on this issue.

**PARTICIPANTS**

*From Libyan side:*

1. Brigadier Salaheddin Ben Sulieman - Head of the Central Committee and Director General of the Department of Relations and International Cooperation of the Ministry of Interior
2. Brigadier Yousef Rabti – Head of Criminal Investigation Department
3. Col Aburabie Sulieman Elbaruni from the Central Committee of the Ministry of Interior
4. Khaled Elkannuni, coordinator/advisor of the group

*From the EU side:*

1. Brice de Schietere (HoD - ISP1)
2. Souad Abbes (ISP3)
3. Jonas Claes (ISP2)
4. Mirka Mouwes (FPI)
5. Mattia Toaldo (MENA3)
6. Christophe Goussot (MENA3)
7. Matyas Szilvasi (ISP1)