



MEMORANDUM N° 42/2011

15/03/2011

SUMMARY:

- ONE) - **MOROCCAN FOREIGN MINISTER HAILS KING'S 'HISTORIC REFORM'** - Page 2
- EU'S ASHTON HAILS MOROCCO'S 'REFORM'** - Page 2
- U.S. HAILS MOROCCO'S 'REFORM'** - Page 3
- TWO) – **MOROCCAN PRESS ASKS ABOUT CLOSEST KING COLLABORATORS** - Page 3
- THREE) – **ALGERIA BLAMES MOROCCO FOR WESTERN SAHARA IMPASSE** - Page 3
- FOUR) - **JOBLESS GRADUATES PROTEST IN SUDAN OIL AREA** - Page 3
- FIVE) – **REVIVING BUSINESSES IN SOUTHERN SUDAN** - Page 4
- SIX) – **UNICEF ALERTS OF HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCY IN IVORY COAST** - Page 5
- SEVEN) – **GBAGBO ISSUES STERN WARNING TO UN, FRENCH MILITARY FORCES** - Page 5
- EIGHT) – **EU SUMMIT ADOPTS S 'NEW NORTH AFRICA STRATEGY'** - Page 6
- NINE) – **ZIMBABWE COURT UPHOLDS ACQUITTAL OF TSVANGIRAI ALLY** - Page 6
- TEN) – **SARKOZY WANTS IMMIGRANTS TO BE KEPT IN NORTH AFRICA CAMPS** - Page 6
- ELEVEN) – **FRONTEX SAYS IT CONTROLS IMMIGRANTS' FLOW** - Page 7
- TWELVE) – **CONGO BRAZZAVILLE OFFERS LAND TO 14 SOUTH AFRICAN FARMERS** – Page 7
- THIRTEEN) – **U.S. INTELLIGENCE CHIEF THINKS GADDAFI WILL WIN** - Page 8
- FOURTEEN) - **MOST OF LIBYA CUT OFF FROM OUTSIDE AID, SAYS UN** - Page 8
- FIFTEEN) – **EU'S ASHTON WANTS ARAB LEAGUE TO GUIDE ON LIBYA REBELS RECOGNITION** – Page 8
- SIXTEEN) – **DESPITE BELLICOSITY, NO OUTSIDE HELP IN SIGHT FOR LIBYAN REBELS** – Page 9
- SEVENTEEN) - **IN LIBYA'S EAST, REBELS CALL FOR WESTERN HELP** - Page 10
- EIGHTEEN) - **GERMANY FREEZES LIBYAN BANK ACCOUNTS** - Page 10
- SOUTH AFRICA ORDERS FREEZE ON GADDAFI'S ASSETS** – Page 10
- NINETEEN) - **EUROPE AT NO RISK OF GADDAFI OIL "BLACKMAIL", SAYS EU COMMISSION** – Page 11
- TWENTY) - **JOURNALISTS MISSING IN LIBYA** - Page 11

LIBYA FREES THREE CAPTURED DUTCH SOLDIERS - Page 11

TWENTY ONE) - ITALY CALLS FOR EU-NATO MARITIME MISSION OFF LIBYAN COAST - Page 11

TWENTY TWO) - ALGERIA WARNS AGAINST FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN LIBYA - Page 12

TWENTY THREE) - MALTA REFUSES TO MEDIATE WITH LIBYA - Page 12

TWENTY FOUR) - ARAB LEAGUE WON'T LET TRIPOLI ENVOYS ATTEND MEETING – Page 12

TWENTY FIVE) - ITALY'S UNICREDIT BANK SHARES OF LIBYAN OWNERS - Page 13

TWENTY SIX) - LIBYAN OIL INDUSTRY SEEN ON ITS KNEES FOR MONTHS – Page 13

TWENTY SEVEN) - WESTERN SANCTIONS KILL OFF LIBYA'S VITAL SHIPPING TRADE – Page 13

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

ONE) MOROCCAN FOREIGN MINISTER HAILS KING'S 'HISTORIC REFORM'

Reforms announced by Morocco's king represented a historic step that would give all of its people the chance "to live in dignity", Foreign Minister Taieb Fassi Fihri said on Thursday. Fihri said he did not see a "domino effect" in the protests sweeping the Middle East and North Africa and said that comparisons with changes in eastern Europe at the end of the Cold War were overly simplistic. Morocco's King Mohammed announced a planned constitutional reform on Wednesday and appointed a committee to work with political parties, trade unions and civil society groups to draw up proposals by June. Thousands of Moroccans protested last month for constitutional reform and an independent judiciary. The king, speaking in a televised address, said the reform would include plans for an independent judiciary, a stronger role for parliament and political parties and a regionalisation programme to devolve more powers to local officials. "I think it was well received by all political parties, including the youth," Fihri told the Chatham House think-tank. **LEFTIST/INTERNET/ISLAMIST CONSPIRACY** Fihri said that European countries that gained their freedom after the Berlin Wall came down in 1989 had much in common and were all emerging from Soviet rule, whereas different rules applied in the Arab world. "No one country has the same political regime as another," he said. Fihri said there were dangers that the so-called Arab spring would be followed by a dark winter, drawing parallels with Iran after the Shah was deposed in 1979 and replaced by a theocracy. "For the first time in history, an alliance between the extreme Left, Internet surfers and Islamists has happened," he said, adding that Islamists had deliberately played what he called a discreet role so far in regional uprisings. (Reuters)

EU'S ASHTON HAILS MOROCCO'S 'REFORM' La chef de la diplomatie de l'UE, Catherine Ashton, a promis jeudi l'aide des Européens au Maroc pour la mise en oeuvre « des réformes de grande envergure » annoncées mercredi par le roi Mohammed VI du Maroc. C'est « une réponse aux aspirations légitimes du peuple marocain », a estimé Mme Ashton dans un [communiqué](#) également signé par le commissaire chargé des relations avec les pays proches de l'Union européenne, Stefan Füle. Les propositions du roi vont dans le sens de ce que demande Bruxelles pour approfondir les relations entre l'UE et le Maroc, souligne le communiqué. « L'UE est prête à soutenir les efforts du Maroc pour mettre en oeuvre ces réformes de grande envergure », ont écrit les responsables européens. Ces réformes, promises par le souverain marocain, représentent « un engagement en faveur de davantage de démocratie » au Maroc, a ajouté Mme Ashton. Le projet de réforme constitutionnelle va toucher des « éléments clefs de la modernisation comme la régionalisation, l'indépendance de la justice, la séparation des pouvoirs, le renforcement du rôle du gouvernement et l'égalité pour les femmes », a noté la Haute représentante de l'UE pour les Affaires étrangères. (AFP)

U.S. HAILS MOROCCO'S 'REFORM' Les Etats-Unis saluent les réformes annoncées mercredi par le roi Mohammed VI du Maroc, a annoncé jeudi le département d'Etat américain, qui voit dans ces engagements l'assurance d'un « développement démocratique »(AFP)

TWO) – MOROCCAN PRESS ASKS ABOUT CLOSEST KING COLLABORATORS

La presse marocaine saluait vendredi les réformes démocratiques annoncées par le roi Mohammed VI dans un discours à la nation, les qualifiant d' »historiques », tout en s'interrogeant sur l'avenir de certains proches du souverain. « Mohammed VI a précédé tous les roi arabes en renonçant à une large partie de ses attributions hérités de son père (ndlr, le roi Hassan II) », note dans un éditorial le quotidien arabophone Akhbar Al-Yaoum (indépendant). « Mais est-ce que le roi va répondre positivement aux demandes des jeunes marocains d'éloigner Fouad Ali El Himma et Mohammed Mounir Majidi de l'entourage royal ? C'est la question que se pose aujourd'hui une large partie de l'opinion publique », ajoute le quotidien. Certains proches de Mohammed VI comme Fouad Ali El Himma, l'un des fondateurs du Parti Authenticité et modernité (PAM, opposition parlementaire) et Mohammed Mounir Majidi, le secrétaire particulier du roi, ont été critiqués par les manifestants fin février qui ont demandé notamment leur départ. « La bulle du PAM va-t-elle se dégonfler ? », s'interroge l'Economiste, quotidien proche des milieux d'affaires. « Le PAM a été malmené lors des dernières marches avec des slogans qui réclamaient sa dissolution et le départ de son fondateur Fouad Ali El Himma », ajoute l'Economiste. « Sa Majesté le roi fait entrer le Maroc dans la modernité », titrait pour sa part le quotidien francophone « Aujourd'hui le Maroc » (proche du gouvernement). Mohammed VI a annoncé mercredi d'importantes réformes démocratiques allant notamment vers un renforcement du Premier ministre et l' »élargissement des libertés individuelles », dans son premier discours à la nation depuis les manifestations du 20 février pour réclamer plus de démocratie et moins de corruption. (AFP)

THREE) – ALGERIA BLAMES MOROCCO FOR WESTERN SAHARA IMPASSE

Le Maroc « est d'une certaine manière responsable » du blocage du processus de négociations avec le Front Polisario sur l'avenir du Sahara occidental, a estimé le ministre algérien des Affaires étrangères Mourad Medelci dans un entretien jeudi au quotidien El Khabar. «Le Maroc est d'une certaine manière responsable du blocage du fait qu'il cerne la solution dans son approche tout en rejetant la proposition du Polisario qui est aussi reconnue par le Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU», a déclaré M. Medelci au journal arabophone. Le ministre a ajouté que l'Algérie n'était "3st satisfaite" 3st résultats du processus de négociations entre le Maroc et le Polisario. Ces négociations, selon lui, « n'ont enregistré aucune avancée en dépit des efforts de l'Algérie visant à aider l'émissaire de l'ONU au Sahara occidental, Christopher Ross, à accomplir sa mission dans les meilleures conditions ». «Je pense qu'il y a encore une prédisposition chez les deux parties au conflit outre la volonté de Christopher Ross et du secrétaire général de l'ONU de poursuivre les efforts en vue de parvenir aux résultats escomptés par la communauté internationale», a encore 3stime M. Medelci. Un sixième round de discussions sur l'avenir du Sahara occidental sous l'égide de l'ONU s'est achevé mercredi sans progrès tangible à Malte, selon M. Ross. Une autre réunion informelle est prévue fin mai 2011, a-t-il ajouté. (AFP)

FOUR) – JOBLESS GRADUATES PROTEST IN SUDAN OIL AREA

More than 200 unemployed graduates took to the streets to demand jobs in the main oil-producing state of northern Sudan on Thursday, witnesses said, a rare display of dissent in a politically sensitive area. The police have swiftly crushed a series of small protests in north Sudan this year, some seeking an end to the 21-year-rule of President Omar Hassan al-Bashir and inspired by uprisings in the Arab world. Those demonstrations have not attracted wide public support. Thursday's protest over a lack of jobs in the town of al-Fula in Southern Kordofan state may cause the government concern as the area is dominated by the Arab Misseriya nomads, a well-armed group that has supported Khartoum in the past. Al-Fula lies in Sudan's oil Block 6, controlled by a consortium led by CNPC of China. The unrest in neighbouring Libya and Egypt has come at a sensitive time for the Khartoum government, already facing an economic crisis, the secession of its oil-producing south and an insurgency in the western region of Darfur. Southern Kordofan borders both Darfur and south Sudan. Graduates gathered in the streets on al-Fula on Thursday morning shouting "We need jobs" and "We need to

start our lives”, a witness told Reuters by phone. Police made no immediate move to stop the protest or arrest the graduates, said the witness. There are no official figures for unemployment in Sudan but analysts estimate it at around 20 percent. Graduates, particularly from outside Khartoum, regularly complain about a shortage of jobs. Armed nomads demanding jobs for locals in the oil sector attacked two oil installations and briefly held one worker in Southern Kordofan in December. Khartoum police arrested more than 40 women protesting against rape and rights abuses in the capital’s suburb of Omdurman on Tuesday, a Reuters witness said. On Wednesday, security agents arrested dozens of opposition supporters, including veteran communist leader Mohamed Ibrahim Nugud, minutes after they started a protest in downtown Khartoum against Bashir’s rule. In both cases, activists were released hours after the protests, organisers said. (Reuters)

FIVE) – REVIVING BUSINESSES IN SOUTHERN SUDAN

Its official, Southern Sudan is on the move! After two decades of a devastating war that claimed two million lives, the region’s independence has been voted in January by referendum, and its economy is showing signs of recovery—emerging basically from scratch. A new legal framework for investors is being established, and a number of new institutions are in place to support investors. During a recent visit to the region, Rachel Kyte, International Finance Corporation’s (IFC) Vice President met with the President of the Government of Southern Sudan Lieutenant General Salva Kiir Mayardit and pledged IFC’s support for South Sudan’s first ever investor conference which will be held in Washington before the new country formally declares independence in July.

The World Bank Group’s Investment Climate team, together with Denmark, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway and USAID has been supporting the government’s work on reducing administrative and regulatory barriers to business, and it now looking to attract new investments in sectors such as agribusiness and hydro power, provide small and medium enterprises with management training, and develop access to credit and leasing for MSMEs.

For five years, the Investment Climate program has supported the following reforms:

- **Legal framework.** Eight laws have been enacted enabling business entry, operations, and exit. Another nine that allow basic registration, contract, agency, property rights, and insolvency are ready to enact.
- **Business entry.** The business registry was strengthened and registration reinstated following suspension in December 2005. Businesses can incorporate within a day. About 8,000 businesses—most domestic and small or medium-size—have been registered since July 2006. A business-registration campaign resulted in an additional 1,100 businesses within the first six months of 2010.
- **Investment policy and promotion.** The new Investment Promotion Act 2009 established the Southern Sudan Investment Authority, resulting in the targeted, proactive pursuit of potential investors and re-investors.
- **Public-private dialogue.** The establishment of the Southern Sudan Business Forum enables consensual policy development. Through its working groups, the forum has helped revise the Micro Finance Policy being developed by the Bank of Southern Sudan and drafted and promulgated the Investment Promotion Act 2009.
- **Trade logistics.** As a result of improvements in the Customs Chamber since 2008, Sudan has significantly reduced the number of days traders need to complete import-export procedures. The time needed to import was reduced from 83 days in 2007 to 46 days in 2010, and the time to export from 56 days in 2007 to 32 days in 2010. The 2009 Customs Amendment Act was approved by the Council of Ministers. The customs clearing system has been automated and this will lead to even greater time and cost reductions. The system links 21 regional offices and the Tax Chamber, and it allows for electronic approvals and the submission of electronic manifests.

Development impact. The joint World Bank/IFC program has led to significant improvements in the legal and regulatory environment for investors, helping revitalize commercial activity and secure investment. At least three large producers, including Southern Sudan Beverages Limited (a subsidiary of SAB Miller), form a manufacturing base non-existent in 2005. Five new commercial banks serve all of Southern Sudan’s ten states. At least four commercial airlines offer daily flights from East Africa, and five cellular phone

operators—all new market entrants since 2006—serve an estimated 5 million Southern Sudanese subscribers.

SIX) – UNICEF ALERTS OF HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCY IN IVORY COAST

Le Fonds des Nations unies pour l'enfance ([Unicef](#)) s'est inquiété jeudi de voir la « situation d'urgence » humanitaire en Côte d'Ivoire « occultée » par les bouleversements dans le monde arabe, estimant à environ 400.000 le nombre de déplacés et à 75.000 les réfugiés au Liberia. « Nous sommes face à une situation d'urgence un peu occultée par les différents mouvements au Maghreb », a estimé Jacques Hintzy, président de l'Unicef France, lors d'une conférence de presse à Paris. Il a estimé à 75.000 le nombre de personnes ayant fui la Côte d'Ivoire au Liberia voisin, reprenant les chiffres du Haut commissariat de l'ONU pour les réfugiés (HCR), et à 400.000 le nombre de personnes déplacées dans le pays, dont 200.000 autour d'Abidjan. « Jusqu'à présent, il y a très peu de financement pour la crise humanitaire en Côte d'Ivoire et au Liberia », a déploré Grant Leaity, chef des urgences à l'Unicef pour l'Afrique de l'ouest et du centre, qui a passé deux mois en Côte d'Ivoire et s'est rendu au Liberia. « Les bailleurs ont dû dépenser des sommes d'argent très importantes en 2010 », notamment pour Haïti et le Pakistan, a-t-il expliqué. Il a indiqué que les priorités de l'Unicef pour les déplacés et les réfugiés étaient l'assainissement de l'eau et la construction de latrines, ainsi que la réponse aux problèmes de malnutrition qui risquent d'« empirer ». Grant Leaity a par ailleurs souligné le recrutement d'enfants par les deux parties opposées dans l'ouest du pays et à Abidjan, sans pouvoir fournir de chiffre. La guerre civile menace en Côte d'Ivoire, avec une situation insurrectionnelle dans plusieurs quartiers d'Abidjan et la reprise des hostilités dans l'ouest entre forces loyales au président sortant Laurent Gbagbo et ex-rebelles alliés à Alassane Ouattara, reconnu président élu par la communauté internationale. M. Leaity a également dénoncé la déscolarisation des enfants dans le nord et l'ouest du pays. « Depuis deux mois 800.000 enfants sont hors de l'école (...) en raison d'une campagne de désobéissance de la part du parti d'Alassane Ouattara », a-t-il déploré. « Ce n'est pas acceptable », a-t-il ajouté. L'Unicef a estimé ses besoins à 28 millions de dollars pour répondre à cette crise humanitaire en Côte d'Ivoire dans les trois prochains mois et à 19 millions de dollars ses besoins pour le Liberia. (AFP)

SEVEN) – GBAGBO ISSUES STERN WARNING TO UN, FRENCH MILITARY FORCES

Le camp du président ivoirien sortant Laurent Gbagbo a menacé jeudi la mission de l'Onu en Côte d'Ivoire (Onuci) et la force française Licorne de « sanctions » après leur refus de respecter une interdiction de vol du territoire ivoirien. Cette montée des tensions entre le camp Gbagbo et les forces internationales intervient au moment où l'Union africaine tentait de trouver une solution négociée à une grave crise post-électorale qui menace de dégénérer en guerre civile. « Ils ont décidé de violer la loi. Lorsqu'on viole la loi, on s'attend à des sanctions. Qu'ils ne soient pas surpris des sanctions qui vont arriver », a indiqué à l'AFP le porte-parole du gouvernement Gbagbo, Ahoua Don Mello, sans préciser toutefois la nature et la date d'éventuelles sanctions. L'Onuci a poursuivi jeudi ses activités dans le pays, ignorant l'interdiction de vol décidée par le camp du président sortant, a-t-on constaté. En milieu d'après-midi, un journaliste de l'AFP a vu un hélicoptère de l'Onuci survoler le quartier de la Riviera, à Abidjan. L'Onuci « maintiendra » ses vols dans le pays et juge « inacceptable » leur interdiction décidée par le camp Gbagbo, a dit jeudi le secrétaire général de l'ONU Ban Ki-moon, cité par un porte-parole. « Nous continuerons de mener nos activités au bénéfice du peuple ivoirien », avait déclaré un peu plus tôt le porte-parole de l'Onuci, Hamadoun Touré. La France avait également récusé jeudi comme « nulle et non avenue » la décision du camp Gbagbo d'interdire à sa force Licorne de survoler et d'atterrir dans le pays, une résolution de l'ONU garantissant sa « liberté de mouvement ». « Je vous rappelle que l'Onuci et l'opération Licorne tiennent leur mandat du Conseil de sécurité des Nations unies et notamment de la résolution 1962 qui leur garantit une totale liberté de mouvement », a dit le porte-parole du ministère des Affaires étrangères. Bernard Valero a souligné que les « autorités légitimes de Côte d'Ivoire (le camp d'Alassane Ouattara, selon Paris) ont confirmé à nouveau hier (mercredi) que l'Onuci et Licorne sont toujours autorisés à survoler et atterrir ». (AFP)

EIGHT) – EU SUMMIT ADOPTS S ‘NEW NORTH AFRICA STRATEGY’

Voici les principaux points de la nouvelle stratégie que vendredi l'Union européenne a adopté lors d'un sommet pour aider les pays de la rive Sud de la Méditerranée à bâtir des régimes démocratiques. NOUVELLES PRIORITES Accusée jusqu'ici d'avoir été trop complaisante avec les régimes autoritaires, la nouvelle politique est basée sur une proposition de « partenariat pour la démocratie et la prospérité partagée » élaborée par la Commission européenne. Les 27 veulent soutenir les réformes démocratiques et socio-économiques dans la région, encourager le commerce et la croissance partagée. Concrètement le projet propose d'offrir aux voisins de l'UE des avantages commerciaux supplémentaires –notamment pour les produits agricoles et de la pêche, au risque de susciter des résistances en France ou en Espagne--, d'établir une « communauté de l'énergie » euro-méditerranéenne, et aussi d'encourager la mobilité légale en échange d'une lutte plus efficace contre l'immigration illégale. A ce propos les 27 veulent d'ici à juin élaborer des propositions de gestion des flux de migrants et de réfugiés. UNE AIDE CONDITIONNELLE L'UE veut distribuer ses aides « en fonction des résultats », récompenser les pays engagés sur la voie des réformes, quitte aussi « à retirer son soutien » quand les engagements ne sont pas tenus. De même, l'approfondissement des relations commerciales devrait être lui aussi lié aux réformes politiques et économiques. L'UE a déjà des accords de libre échange avec tous ses voisins méditerranéens, à l'exception de la Libye et de la Syrie. L'UNION POUR LA MEDITERRANEE Chère à Paris qui a poussé à sa création en 2008, elle est restée paralysée du fait du conflit israélo-palestinien. Les 27 ont décidé de « tirer les leçons » du passé, de « revoir ses missions » dans le but d'encourager la démocratie et la stabilité et à ces fins d' « envisager de donner un nouvel élan » à des projets concrets. MOYENS FINANCIERS Quatre milliards d'euros de fonds européens sont programmés entre 2011 et 2013 en faveur de la région. L'UE a souligné vendredi que son aide doit être coordonnée avec les « grands donateurs internationaux ». La Commission a proposé aux 27 de porter l'enveloppe de prêts de la Banque européenne d'investissement (BEI) de 5 milliards à près de 6 milliards d'euros à la région dans les trois ans à venir. Ils ont accepté d'étudier une augmentation de l'enveloppe, sans en préciser le montant. Les 27 ont aussi accepté d'envisager un élargissement de la zone d'intervention de la Banque européenne pour la reconstruction et le développement (BERD, jusqu'ici essentiellement active dans l'est de l'Europe), au sud de la Méditerranée. Elle serait en mesure d'accorder à la région près d'un milliard d'euros par an. (AFP)

NINE) – ZIMBABWE COURT UPHOLDS ACQUITTAL OF TSVANGIRAI ALLY

Zimbabwe's Supreme Court has upheld the acquittal of Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai's ally Roy Bennett on terrorism charges but he now faces new allegations of contempt of court, his lawyer said on Friday. The decision comes as members of Tsvangirai's Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) say they are increasingly being targeted by rival and governing partner, President Robert Mugabe's ZANU-PF, further straining their uneasy power-sharing arrangement. On Thursday, police arrested an MDC minister on suspected fraud charges, while the Supreme Court nullified the election of the speaker of parliament, a Tsvangirai ally, after a court challenge from a senior ZANU-PF member. Bennett, a white former farmer and senior MDC member, was arrested in February 2009 and charged with illegal possession of firearms for purposes of committing acts of terrorism, banditry and insurgency. He could have faced the death penalty if found guilty. The High Court last May ruled that state prosecutors had failed to prove the case against Bennett but the state appealed. "The Supreme Court ruled that there was no chance of the state appeal succeeding. But they have also brought up other allegations of contempt of court against him," his lawyer Beatrice Mtetwa told Reuters. Bennett, who is believed to be in South Africa, faces a fine or six month jail term if convicted on the contempt charges. Tsvangirai has accused Mugabe's ZANU-PF of cranking up tensions as the party seeks elections this year, which the MDC has warned could lead to bloodshed and economic chaos. (Reuters)

TEN) – SARKOZY WANTS IMMIGRANTS TO BE KEPT IN NORTH AFRICA CAMPS

Nicolas Sarkozy a réaffirmé vendredi à Bruxelles qu'il souhaitait la création de « zones humanitaires » en Afrique du Nord pour « gérer les flux migratoires » consécutifs aux révoltes arabes. Selon le président Sarkozy, qui s'exprimait à l'issue du sommet, les Vingt-sept se sont « mis d'accord sur le principe de zones humanitaires ». Selon M. Sarkozy, ces zones pourraient, « dans un premier temps », être installées « en Tunisie et en Egypte, mais nous souhaiterions qu'elles le soient rapidement en Libye pour traiter la question des dizaines de milliers de personnes déplacées ». « Si on veut que les révolutions arabes ne provoquent pas

de peurs, il faut qu'avec franchise nous parlions des flux migratoires (...) On peut considérer qu'il y a 200.000 personnes déplacées, entre l'Egypte, la Libye et la Tunisie. Si on ne traite pas l'accueil de ces personnes déplacées, dans des conditions humaines et décentes, quelle va être leur tentation : elles n'auront pas d'autre choix que de traverser la Méditerranée », a-t-il mis en garde. Or, « nous ne pouvons pas les accueillir dans ces conditions-là. Donc, il faut organiser des zones humanitaires », a-t-il insisté. **UN MUST DEAL WITH EU-BOUND IMMIGRANTS** Selon lui, « ces zones devraient être gérées par les Nations unies » et « l'Europe devrait participer à leur financement et leur organisation ». « C'est la seule façon de gérer tranquillement la question des flux migratoires », a-t-il estimé, en ajoutant qu'il fallait « organiser des zones humanitaires décentes avec des écoles pour les enfants, avec des moyens sanitaires de manière à maîtriser cela ». Il a annoncé que les ministres européens de l'Intérieur et d'Afrique du Nord allaient se réunir « pour voir ce dont ils ont besoin » car « la politique migratoire doit évoluer et doit être maîtrisée des deux côtés ». « On va essayer de gérer ensemble. Profitons de cette crise pour jeter les bases non seulement d'une politique d'immigration européenne mais d'une politique d'immigration concertée entre pays de départ et pays d'arrivée », a-t-il dit. Dans une déclaration adoptée à l'unanimité à l'issue de leur réunion, les dirigeants européens se sont contentés d'appeler « toutes les parties concernées à autoriser l'accès des organisations et acteurs humanitaires à tous les endroits où l'aide est nécessaire ». L'UE est « disposée à soutenir le travail » des humanitaires, ajoute le texte sans plus de précisions. (AFP)

ELEVEN) – FRONTEx SAYS IT CONTROLS IMMIGRANTS' FLOW

Le contrôle des frontières européennes est maîtrisé malgré les importants mouvements migratoires liés aux soulèvements dans les pays arabes, a déclaré vendredi l'Agence européenne de surveillance des frontières [Frontex](#). « Pour ce qui concerne le contrôle des frontières (européennes), la situation est tout à fait maîtrisée », a déclaré le directeur exécutif de Frontex, le Finlandais Ilkka Laitinen. Mais, a-t-il ajouté, « c'est la situation à l'heure actuelle, personne ne sait ce qui peut arriver demain ». M. Laitinen s'exprimait à Helsinki au cours d'une conférence sur « l'Afrique du Nord et les frontières de l'Europe ». Il a précisé qu'environ 8.500 immigrants avaient débarqué dans l'île italienne de Lampedusa depuis le début de l'année et que « 99% étaient des Tunisiens ». La plupart de ces migrants tunisiens sont le fait d'une « immigration illégale traditionnelle faite d'opportunité et motivée par des raisons économiques », selon M. Laitinen. « Moins de 20% d'entre eux ont présenté une demande d'asile ou (manifesté) un besoin de protection internationale », a ajouté le directeur de Frontex. Il a précisé que les autorités frontalières cherchaient à « renvoyer ces gens en Tunisie » et que cela était « déjà en cours ». Dans le même temps, a-t-il dit, le conflit libyen entraîne d'importants mouvements de ressortissants étrangers résidant en Libye vers d'autres pays de la région, dont 150.000 vers la seule Tunisie et « presque autant vers l'Egypte ». (See [Frontex statement](#)) (AFP)

TWELVE) – CONGO BRAZZAVILLE OFFERS LAND TO 14 SOUTH AFRICAN FARMERS

Le Congo va concéder 80.000 hectares de terres exploitables à un groupe de fermiers sud africains dans deux régions du sud-ouest du pays, a appris l'AFP vendredi auprès du ministre des Affaires foncières. « Nous avons signé hier (jeudi) un accord nous permettant de concéder 80.000 hectares à quatorze fermiers sud africains » se répartissant entre 63.000 hectares dans le Niari (sud-ouest) et 17.000 hectares dans la Bouenza (sud-ouest), a déclaré le ministre congolais des Affaires foncières, Pierre Mabiala. « C'est une autorisation expresse d'occupation des terres à durée indéterminée », a ajouté M. Mabiala qui a signé l'accord jeudi à Pointe-Noire (sud) en compagnie de son collègue de l'Agriculture, Rigobert Maboundou, avec l'ambassadeur d'Afrique du sud au Congo, Genge Manelisi. « Le Congo attend d'une telle initiative de l'investissement, la création d'emplois et surtout de la nourriture en abondance parce que ces fermiers vont produire des cultures vivrières et faire de l'élevage », a poursuivi Pierre Mabiala. Fortement dépendant du pétrole, le Congo pratique une agriculture restée embryonnaire avec seulement 2% des 10 à 12 millions d'hectares de terres arables exploitées, selon les estimations du ministère de l'Agriculture. Environ 70% de Congolais vivent en-dessous du seuil de pauvreté et l'agriculture est pratiquée essentiellement avec des moyens rudimentaires par des paysans itinérants utilisant la technique du brûlis. La situation alimentaire au Congo a été qualifiée de « grave » dans le rapport 2010 de l'Institut international de recherche sur les politiques alimentaires (Ifrpi). Actuellement, les importations de denrées alimentaires du Congo sont évaluées à 198 millions d'euros par an (130 milliards FCFA) par l'Organisation de l'ONU pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (FAO), soit l'équivalent de la masse salariale annuelle du pays. (AFP)

THIRTEEN) – U.S. INTELLIGENCE CHIEF THINKS GADDAFI WILL WIN

Libyan rebels have lost momentum and are not likely to dislodge Muammar Gaddafi from power, top U.S. intelligence officials said on Thursday as Washington backed further away from any military action. The top U.S. spy official, noting Gaddafi's forces were better equipped and disciplined than the opposition, said eventually "the regime will prevail." [National Intelligence Director](#) James Clapper's comments at a [Senate hearing](#) caught the White House off guard and led one Republican lawmaker to call for his dismissal for "undercutting" U.S. efforts to remove Gaddafi. President Barack Obama's national security adviser, Tom Donilon, criticized Clapper's analysis as "a static and one-dimensional assessment." He said it placed too much emphasis on Gaddafi's military strength and did not take into account other factors, such as the international efforts to isolate him. Clapper said without a decisive victory by either side, it was possible the North African oil-producing country could break into two or more semi-autonomous states, with Gaddafi retaining control of the capital, Tripoli, and its environs, and the rebels holding on to the eastern city of Benghazi. Testifying at the same hearing, the head of U.S. military intelligence, Lieutenant General Ronald Burgess, said Gaddafi "seems to have staying power, unless some other dynamic changes at this time." (Reuters)

FOURTEEN) – MOST OF LIBYA CUT OFF FROM OUTSIDE AID, SAYS UN

The U.N.'s deputy emergency relief coordinator said Thursday that three-quarters of Libya remains cut off from humanitarian assistance as international concern mounted about the lack of access to areas of heavy fighting. Catherine Bragg told more than 100 diplomats at a briefing on the Libyan crisis that the United Nations is urgently working to establish dialogue with all parties to gain access to all areas of the country and assess the humanitarian needs of civilians. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon got an initial green light over the weekend from Libyan Foreign Minister Musa Kusa to send a U.N. team to assess humanitarian conditions and followed up Wednesday to try to speed up arrangements, she said. Bragg said Ban's new special envoy to Libya, Abdelilah Al-Khatib, and the U.N.'s new humanitarian coordinator for Libya, Rashid Khalikov, will travel to Tripoli, possibly this weekend. She said the U.N. is preparing humanitarian assessment teams to be deployed as soon as possible. "Inside Libya, we have scanty information on the humanitarian fallout from the intense fighting in the past few days," Bragg said. "Medical needs are a major concern, particularly as we are receiving reports of hospital closures at a time when people most need medical care. We need nurses, and wounded civilians need to reach these facilities." Red Cross President Jakob Kellengerger said in Geneva that "it's unacceptable that, 24 days after the fighting started, a major part of the country remains effectively cut off from humanitarian aid." "Our greatest challenge right now is to reach the areas hardest hit by the fighting in order to help treat the war-wounded and follow up on people who have gone missing, as we've been doing in the east of the country since we arrived on Feb. 27," he said. Kellenberger said local doctors over the past few days saw a sharp increase in casualties arriving at hospitals in Ajdabiya, in the rebel-held east, and Misrata, in government territory. Bragg said almost 250,000 people have left Libya, over 137,000 to Tunisia, about 108,000 to Egypt and smaller numbers to Niger and Algeria. She said the U.N. is especially concerned about the conditions for foreigners remaining in Libya, particularly those from sub-Saharan African "who may fear persecution" and must be allowed to leave the country if they wish. Gadhafi has reportedly recruited mercenaries from sub-Saharan Africa, which has led to the targeting of black Africans working in the country. (AP)

FIFTEEN) – EU'S ASHTON WANTS ARAB LEAGUE TO GUIDE ON LIBYA REBELS RECOGNITION

If the Arab League decides the movement fighting to overthrow Muammar Gaddafi is legitimate, the European Union may also recognise it, the EU's foreign affairs chief said on Thursday. France became the first Western nation to give its full backing to the Libyan National Council on Thursday, saying it now regarded it as the legitimate representative of Libya's people, a move that adds pressure on Gaddafi to go. But at a meeting of EU foreign ministers in Brussels, no other EU member state was willing to follow France's lead. Britain said its policy was to recognise states, not groups within states, and Italy said the EU should act with one voice. Ashton, who is in charge of forging a common foreign and security policy for the 27-nation EU, said France had every right to recognise the rebel movement, but said that she would rather wait to see if the Arab League recognises it when it meets to discuss the situation in Cairo on Saturday. "My view is that we should decide our position as the 27 in conjunction with the Arab League and the importance of them giving us a lead from the Arab world on what's happened," she told reporters. "If the Arab League said that this was the group of people that they thought would be the appropriate interlocutors that would help us to do decide what to do next... I do

think the Arab League have a role to play in this for sure.” Ashton said she had no reason to believe the same two members of the Council she met this week were anything other than Libyans committed to a democratic state without Gaddafi. But European officials have raised some concerns that the group may harbour militant Islamists and say they have no evidence of its legitimacy or commitment to democratic values. (Reuters)

SIXTEEN) – DESPITE BELLICOSITY, NO OUTSIDE HELP IN SIGHT FOR LIBYAN REBELS

Rebels trying to topple Libya’s Muammar Gaddafi have so far fought alone. Help is not in sight, even as he strikes back with tanks, artillery and warplanes. Gaddafi is widely reviled in the Arab world, even by his fellow autocrats. Nor is he loved by the Western powers that had courted him for his oil until the revolt against him. Yet with the military momentum appearing to shift in his favour, the Libyan leader of 41 years may succeed where Egypt’s Hosni Mubarak and Tunisia’s Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali failed, in clinging to power. Public calls are growing for some action to save rebels and civilians from the firepower of pro-Gaddafi forces, now regaining ground near Tripoli and along the eastern coast. Yet nothing has been done beyond sanctions in the form of an asset freeze and arms embargo, threatening prosecution for war crimes, and French-led moves to recognise a rebel national council. The rag-tag Libyan fighters battling Gaddafi’s military cannot fathom what the world is waiting for, even as the leader’s son Saif al-Islam declares that they face a full-scale assault to crush their three-week-old uprising. “I am disappointed as we have asked for air and sea blockades,” Mustafa Abdel-Jalil, head of the opposition national council in Libya, told the BBC on Friday, saying that delaying action further “might allow Gaddafi to regain control and remain in power against the will of the Libyan people”. Yet there is no international consensus on robust action. Judging by Thursday’s meetings of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), the African Union and NATO, none will emerge soon. European Union leaders were meeting on Friday to discuss Libya. **FEAR OF SOMALIA-STYLE FIASCO** Many fear [mission creep](#) if, say, a no-fly zone were imposed. “What happens if it is not the Libyan air force that is gaining ground, but their armour ... and heavy artillery?” asked Timur Goksel, a former U.N. peacekeeping adviser in Beirut. “Then what do you do, attack those? Because that’s not a no-fly zone, it’s war. It’s a very complicated decision. The Western countries have to think very hard,” Goksel said. For all their anti-Gaddafi rhetoric, Western powers are wary of plunging into another conflict in a Muslim nation in the absence of any simple way to remove a leader bent on survival. The United States is hamstrung by its costly and contentious military campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan. Russia and China, along with Arab nations such as Algeria and Syria, are queasy about any precedent for meddling in another country’s affairs. So it is hard to get the UN Security Council to authorise military action –no-fly zones or sending military advisers or weapons to rebels are arguably acts of war- and no nation or alliance is yet ready to step in without such approval. **PERILOUS TALK** The International Crisis Group has argued instead for a ceasefire and negotiations to end a burgeoning Libyan civil war. “Western calls for military intervention of one kind or another are perilous and potentially counter-productive. There are no quick or easy fixes,” the conflict resolution group says. “Insisting that Gaddafi step down will not make it happen. Imposing a no-fly zone, bombing airfields or arming the rebels could tilt the balance of power in the rebels’ favour, but is unlikely to swiftly bring down the regime.” The African Union, rejecting any military intervention, plans to send five heads of state to Libya to seek a truce. The Arab League has suspended Libya’s membership. Saudi Arabia and its five partners in the GCC have voiced support for a no-fly zone and declared Gaddafi’s rule illegitimate. The Arab League was due to meet in Cairo on Saturday and officials said it would not let a delegation from Tripoli attend. But decisive action from the League would be a surprise. **WISHFUL THINKING** “The Arab League has become an entirely emasculated body that is essentially capable of doing nothing except rhetoric and speeches,” said Karim Makdissi, who teaches international relations at the American University of Beirut (AUB). He said most Arab regimes remained intact despite the overthrow of leaders in Egypt and Tunisia and popular unrest against others. None of them wanted the Arab League to lead the way in intervening against the government of a member state. NATO is also skittish about proposals to crimp Gaddafi’s military with a no-fly zone. This would require evidence of war crimes against civilians, a clear legal basis and firm regional support, said its secretary-general Anders Fogh Rasmussen. U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has signalled that her country will not go solo in imposing a no-fly zone on Libya. “Absent international authorisation, the United States acting alone would be stepping into a situation whose consequences are unforeseeable,” she said on Thursday, belittling the effect of past no-fly zones in Iraq and Serbia. Gaddafi, like Iraq’s Saddam Hussein, would portray any Western intervention as a selfish, colonial venture –rhetoric that for many Arabs is grounded in decades of bitter reality. **ENEMIES OF MY ENEMIES NOT NECESSARILY MY FRIENDS** “What we fear most is this European and Western eagerness to take control of Libya’s oil,” said Omar Nashabe, an editor at Beirut’s al-Akhbar newspaper. Many Arabs feel outraged by Gaddafi’s bloody strikes against his foes, but might also mistrust Western action, especially if an air embargo produced unintended civilian casualties. “There is no belief that

U.S. intervention will be brief, in the interests of Arabs, or serve the interests of stability,” said AUB’s Makdisi. Many Arabs would see it as oil-motivated or as a U.S. bid to get ahead of the curve after failing to respond adequately to the pro-democracy revolts in Egypt and Tunisia. “The wider context is the abysmal failure of the Obama administration to have any coherent U.S. policy toward the Middle East,” Makdisi said, citing its past support for Arab strongmen and its ill-starred Israeli-Palestinian peace drive. (Reuters)

SEVENTEEN) – IN LIBYA’S EAST, REBELS CALL FOR WESTERN HELP

Libyan rebels fighting Muammar Gaddafi called for more foreign backing to help end his 41 years in power, as thousands held Friday prayers on the seafront in Benghazi, the epicentre of their revolt against him. Some 15,000 worshippers gathered outside the courthouse that has become the headquarters of the rebel council which is urging foreign states to set up a “no-fly” zone to help them in their fight to overthrow Gaddafi. “Help us to become a democratic country,” said one banner strung between lampposts and written in English and Arabic. “Save Zawiyah from bombing: no food, no medicine, no baby formula,” read another. Zawiyah is a town in the west of the country where Gaddafi’s forces have been battling rebels for control. Mustafa Abdel Jalil, the head of the National Libyan Council, has called for a no-fly zone to protect the rebels from Gaddafi’s air force. Speaking to the BBC, Abdel Jalil also called for a sea embargo and said the rebels needed weapons and humanitarian assistance. Foreign leaders remain divided over whether or how to intervene in the turmoil. According to a sombre assessment by U.S. President Barack Obama’s national intelligence chief, James Clapper, Gaddafi is “in this for the long haul” and was likely to prevail. In Benghazi, one banner thanked France and Nicolas Sarkozy. In Benghazi, some expressed concern that Gaddafi, better armed and equipped, had the upper hand. “We worry that (Gaddafi) has a force that our young people cannot face,” said Ali Mahmoud, 52, a businessman. “We are not fighting an army, we are fighting a gang,” he said. “They are human beings in Europe and America and eventually they will have to intervene on behalf of the Libyan people,” said Mustafa Gheriani, media officer for National Libyan Council. “This is not an overnight revolution. But if we get the help of a no-fly zone and tactical air strikes then (Gaddafi) won’t last two or three days,” he said. Najim Bawi, a 32-year old banker, said: “I can’t believe I am saying this but as soon as I finish this coffee I am going to fight.” I have never held a gun in my life ... We can do it on our own but we need weapons, if the United Kingdom gives us weapons to defeat Gaddafi, I know the souls of its people will be with God.” (Reuters)

EIGHTEEN) – GERMANY FREEZES LIBYAN BANK ACCOUNTS

Germany froze the assets of the Libyan Central Bank and other state-run agencies Thursday in an attempt to cut off funding to Moammar Gadhafi’s embattled regime. Economy Minister Rainer Bruederle said in a statement the total amount of assets blocked is “in the billions.” Also affected are accounts belonging to the Libya Africa Investment Portfolio, the Libyan Foreign Bank and the Libyan Investment Authority. Bruederle further said that, in addition, no money from Germany could be paid to those institutions. Bruederle said the “measures are a clear reaction to the developments in Libya – the brutal suppression of the Libyan freedom movement can now no longer be financed from funds that are in German banks.” The move comes after Bruederle’s ministry provisionally blocked a bank account worth â2 million (\$2.8 million) held by one of Gadhafi’s sons. (AP)

SOUTH AFRICA ORDERS FREEZE ON GADDAFI’S ASSETS South Africa’s President Jacob Zuma has ordered the Treasury to freeze assets linked to Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi and his associates, a government official said on Friday. “The process is underway and we are writing letters informing them that no money will be allowed to leave South Africa,” foreign ministry spokesman Clayson Monyela, said without offering further details. Local daily Business Day said the money is invested through the \$5 billion Libya Arab Africa Investment Co (Laaico), through Libya Oil Holdings, Libya African Investment Portfolio and Libyan Foreign Investment Company (Lafico). In South Africa, it owns Ensemble Hotel holdings, including the luxury Michelangelo Hotel in Johannesburg. Libya holds billions of dollars in assets in Africa through subsidiaries of its \$70 billion sovereign wealth fund. The South African presidency said on Wednesday that Gaddafi called Zuma “to explain his side of the story”. The statement said: “South Africa has openly condemned the loss of life and attacks on civilians and reported violations of human rights in Libya.” (Reuters)

NINETEEN) – EUROPE AT NO RISK OF GADDAFI OIL “BLACKMAIL”, SAYS EU COMMISSION

The European Union is in no danger of oil shortage caused by the fighting in Libya and cannot be blackmailed by leader Muammar Gaddafi, European Energy Commissioner Guenther Oettinger said on Thursday. “In the entire European market ... we get only two percent of our oil from Libya, so we are not vulnerable to blackmail from Gaddafi,” he told Deutschlandfunk radio. “We have considerable resources – many months ago we started stocking oil in Europe, and the market is flexible. He depends on us, not us on him.” Saudi Arabia, the world’s top oil exporter and the OPEC kingpin, said late in February that it would fill in any supply shortage caused by the unrest in Libya, where Gaddafi is trying to put down a rebellion. (Reuters)

TWENTY) – JOURNALISTS MISSING IN LIBYA

Le quotidien britannique The Guardian a annoncé jeudi être sans nouvelles depuis dimanche de l’un de ses journalistes en reportage en Libye et d’un reporter brésilien qui l’accompagnait. « Des efforts urgents sont en cours pour établir où se trouve le journaliste Ghaith Abdul-Ahad qui travaillait dans l’ouest de la Libye depuis deux semaines », a indiqué le quotidien dans un communiqué. Ghaith Abdul-Ahad, de nationalité irakienne et qui travaille pour The Guardian depuis 2004, voyageait avec « Andrei Netto du journal brésilien O Estado de Sao Paulo, qui est aussi porté disparu », selon le journal. Il était entré en Libye depuis la Tunisie et « avait été en contact pour la dernière fois avec le journal dimanche, par l’intermédiaire d’une troisième personne, alors qu’il se trouvait dans les environs de Zawiyah », ajoute le quotidien, dont le siège est à Londres. Zawiyah, située à 40 km à l’ouest de Tripoli, a été le théâtre de très intenses combats depuis la fin de la semaine dernière entre forces fidèles au président Mouammar Kadhafi et les insurgés. La ville, qui était tenue la semaine dernière par les insurgés, était jeudi aux mains des forces gouvernementales, selon un habitant de Zawiyah joint par téléphone par l’AFP. The Guardian ajoute « être en contact avec les autorités libyennes à Tripoli et à Londres et leur a demandé d’agir instamment pour savoir où il (Ghaith Abdul-Ahad) se trouve, s’il est sain et sauf et s’il est détenu par les autorités ». Trois journalistes de la BBC en reportage en Libye ont été « arrêtés et battus » par des soldats et des policiers libyens cette semaine à proximité de Zawiyah, et ont subi un simulacre d’exécution, selon la chaîne de télévision britannique. Les journalistes ont été remis en liberté après 21 heures de détention. (AFP)

LIBYA FREES THREE CAPTURED DUTCH SOLDIERS Trois soldats néerlandais, deux hommes et une femme, faits prisonniers en Libye lors d’une opération d’évacuation de civils qui avait mal tourné, ont été libérés dans la nuit de jeudi à vendredi, après douze jours de captivité. « L’équipage a quitté Tripoli », a annoncé à l’AFP un porte-parole du ministère néerlandais de la Défense, Otte Beeksmas, ajoutant que les soldats, deux hommes et une femme faits prisonniers par des soldats du colonel Kadhafi, « sont en forme ». Les militaires néerlandais, équipage d’un hélicoptère de la marine, ont quitté vers 01H00 GMT la capitale libyenne à bord d’un avion de transport de l’armée grec à destination d’Athènes où ils sont arrivés tôt vendredi matin. « Nous avons d’abord informé les familles et félicité les membres de l’équipage pour leur libération », a raconté à l’AFP le porte-parole du ministère néerlandais de la Défense. « Nous remercions tous ceux qui ont aidé à obtenir leur libération ainsi que la population néerlandaise parce que nous avons reçu de nombreux soutiens », a-t-il ajouté. Les soldats ont été pris en charge à leur arrivée à l’aéroport international d’Athènes par une délégation du ministère néerlandais des Affaires Etrangères qui assurera les détails de leur rapatriement aux Pays-Bas, selon le ministère grec des Affaires Etrangères. Les trois militaires ont rencontré à Tripoli des membres de l’ambassade des Pays-Bas, toujours ouverte, selon M. Beeksmas, avant de s’envoler pour Athènes à bord d’un C-130 en compagnie d’une quinzaine de ressortissants grecs évacués de Libye. (AFP)

TWENTY ONE) – ITALY CALLS FOR EU-NATO MARITIME MISSION OFF LIBYAN COAST

European Union and NATO ships should patrol the international waters off the coast of Libya to prevent arms smuggling and check on migrants trying to enter into the EU, Italy proposed Thursday. In an informal “non-paper” seen by the German Press Agency dpa, Italian officials called for “a joint EU-NATO maritime surveillance operation off the Libyan coast to implement the arms embargo,” declared by the United Nations Security Council. Italy, which is at the receiving end of migratory waves from North Africa, said such an “operation could be useful also for monitoring human beings across the Mediterranean Sea.” The proposal was circulating at a meeting of EU foreign ministers in Brussels focused on Libya. On the same day, NATO defence ministers were also set to start parallel discussions on the subject. The NATO naval base in Naples, Italy, would

likely play an important role in the proposed mission. But it was unclear how it could be launched, as formal EU-NATO cooperation is blocked due to a conflict between NATO-member Turkey and EU-member Cyprus. (dpa)

TWENTY TWO) – **ALGERIA WARNS AGAINST FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN LIBYA**

Le ministre algérien des Affaires étrangères Mourad Medelci a indiqué vendredi que l'Algérie était « contre une intervention étrangère » en Libye, qui nourrirait le terrorisme, mais qu'une « médiation » entre le régime du colonel Kadhafi et l'opposition armée était « souhaitable ». « Nous sommes inquiets parce qu'il y a une opposition armée entre une partie de la population et une autre, et parce que l'usage des armes est devenu incontrôlable », a déclaré le ministre dans un entretien au Monde. « Nous sommes contre une intervention étrangère, mais nous ne sommes pas seuls et je peux comprendre que les messages de la communauté internationale deviennent de plus en plus fermes. Si la situation devait durer, on sait très bien qu'à un moment ou à un autre le Conseil de sécurité (de l'ONU) prendrait des décisions. Laissons-lui l'appréciation de la situation, mais espérons qu'il n'y aura pas d'intervention », a ajouté Mourad Medelci. **MEDIATION THE ONLY SOLUTION** « Nous sommes en présence de deux camps, comme en Côte d'Ivoire. Le climat est peut-être favorable pour tenter une médiation. Je ne sais pas si elle est possible, mais elle est souhaitable. Vous connaissez les résultats de précédentes interventions étrangères, n'est-ce pas ? Nous ne pouvons pas nourrir le terrorisme », a-t-il souligné. Le ministre algérien a aussi estimé que la situation de son pays était très différente de celle de la Tunisie ou de l'Égypte, où des soulèvements populaires ont renversé des régimes autoritaires ces dernières semaines. « L'Algérie est un pays pluriel, aucun parti n'est capable de faire adopter une loi tout seul. Cela fait quand même une grosse différence. Ensuite, l'Algérie a déjà fait sa mutation en 1988 mais cette révolution a été masquée par le fait qu'ensuite nous avons vécu dix ans de tragédie nationale », a-t-il expliqué. Interrogé sur l'annonce par le roi du Maroc d'une réforme constitutionnelle, Mourad Medelci s'est montré prudent. « Le discours de Sa Majesté Mohammed VI nous a semblé apporter des éléments extrêmement importants sur le terrain politique marocain », a-t-il dit. (AFP)

TWENTY THREE) – **MALTA REFUSES TO MEDIATE WITH LIBYA**

Malta has refused to act as a mediator in the Libya conflict, Prime Minister Lawrence Gonzi was quoted as saying on Friday, while the island state also refused to trade two Libyan defectors' jets for the release of three Dutch soldiers. Gonzi held a meeting with European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso in Brussels late on Thursday ahead of an EU summit intended to increase the pressure on Moamer Gaddafi's regime. The Maltese prime minister revealed that during the past days both Libyan Prime Minister Mahmudi Bagdadi and Gaddafi's emissary Mohammed Taher Siyala had been in constant contact with him, requesting help over the current situation. "We told the Libyans straight and plain that, at this stage, there is no mediation to do. The Libyan authorities have to listen to the wishes of its people," Gonzi told reporters. The tiny island of Malta has become a major base for the exodus of thousands fleeing the unrest in Libya. Meanwhile, Gonzi told the daily Times of Malta that he had refused an offer by Bagdadi to exchange three Dutch soldiers captured in Libya for the return of two jets landed in Malta by Libyan defectors. The Maltese premier said he had insisted that the Dutch soldiers – two men and a woman who were captured on February 27 – be released "immediately without any condition." The soldiers were later handed to Greek and Maltese officials in Tripoli and flown to Athens on Friday. Last month two Libyan air force colonels flew their jets to Malta saying they were refusing to obey orders to attack anti-government protesters in Libya. (dpa)

TWENTY FOUR) – **ARAB LEAGUE WON'T LET TRIPOLI ENVOYS ATTEND MEETING**

The Arab League will not let a Libyan delegation from Tripoli attend an emergency session on Saturday but could meet the envoys outside the meeting to discuss ways to end the crisis, League officials said. The Arab League has suspended Libya in protest at violence used on protesters against Muammar Gaddafi. Cairo airport and Libyan embassy officials said a delegation which arrived from Tripoli on Friday aimed to attend the emergency meeting. "I don't think that they will be allowed to attend because the decision of the council of ministers was to suspend the participation of the Libyan delegation," Hesham Youssef, the League official, told Reuters. He added that the Arab League had not severed all ties to the Tripoli government and there was a need to discuss the crisis with Gaddafi's administration, including the humanitarian situation and how to stop

violence. "We may meet them. But not in the context of the meeting of the council of ministers," Youssef said. "Nothing has been scheduled as of yet," he said. "There is a need to discuss all kind of details with Libyan officials," he said. "All these steps require communication with those who control the situation in Libya," he said. Ahmed Ben Helli, deputy secretary general of the Arab League, told Reuters that "talks and consultations exist". Youssef said the Arab League had also been in touch with the rebel National Libyan Council in Benghazi. "We are discussing the humanitarian situation with them and the situation in general, their evaluation of how things are evolving and so on," he said. The council would not be attending the Arab League meeting either, he added. (Reuters)

TWENTY FIVE) - ITALY'S UNICREDIT BANK SHARES OF LIBYAN OWNERS

Italy's UniCredit bank says that it is freezing shares held by Libyan shareholders to comply with a decision by the European Union taking effect on Friday. The Libyan Investment Authority has a 2.5 percent stake in UniCredit, on top of the Libyan Central Bank's nearly 5 percent share. Libya's central bank chief, Farhat Omar Bengdara, is a vice chairman on UniCredit's board. UniCredit's statement did not mention Bengdara, but the banker told *Corriere della Sera* daily earlier in the week he doesn't think his presence on the board poses any problems. Libya has significant business and energy ties with Italy. (AP)

TWENTY SIX) - LIBYAN OIL INDUSTRY SEEN ON ITS KNEES FOR MONTHS

No matter who eventually wins the lethal battles raging in Libya, the oil market will likely be starved of hundreds of millions of barrels for a long time, reshaping oil flows from west to east. Top quality Nigerian and Caspian crude grades have shot to multi-year highs and huge premiums to Middle Eastern grades, wrecking buying opportunities for emerging Asian economies. More of this oil will likely head to Europe's refiners who do not need to pay up the long-haul voyage on top of the Libyan war premium, unless they decide it is simply too expensive to run refineries. The political unrest in Libya has so far cost the OPEC producer 1 million barrels of crude oil output per day -- over half its daily output -- and exports are paralysed due to a lack of staff, sanctions and banks' refusal to fund deals. Industry estimates for how much and for how long Libyan oil will be missed from the market vary. But the consensus is much of the oil will disappear for the rest of 2011 as the unrest shows signs of developing into a protracted battle which has already damaged some terminal and pipeline infrastructure. This would mean a loss of nearly 300 million barrels of oil. "It looks like the country is heading into a full-blown civil war," said Samuel Ciszuk, senior Middle East and North Africa energy analyst with IHS Energy. "There will be no quick solution. So the market will have to get used to Libyan oil off stream for the most of this year or even the rest of the year." The chief executive of Italian oil firm ENI Paolo Scaroni told the FT it might take between 6 months to a year for Libyan operations to return to normal. Bank of America-Merrill Lynch estimates the average 1.4 million barrels per day of Libyan oil will be off the market for more than a year. Analysts are weighing the prospect of a sustained period of zero production if more upstream infrastructure is damaged. (Reuters)

TWENTY SEVEN) - WESTERN SANCTIONS KILL OFF LIBYA'S VITAL SHIPPING TRADE

Western sanctions on Libya's government are already hurting shipping, and a virtual shutdown of its vital seaborne trade is on the cards as companies fear falling foul of the measures, shipping sources said. Intense fighting between forces loyal to Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi and rebels has already closed some oil terminals, and exports from Africa's third-largest producer have plummeted as foreign workers flee the escalating violence. Shipping officials said the imposition of sanctions by the European Union, the United States and other countries will deal another severe blow to Libya's economy and choke shipping activity, which the country depends on both for transporting its oil and also importing needed food and consumer goods. "Between the uncertainty of applicable law including sanctions, war risk and simple want of business, shipping to Libya is essentially frozen, if not dead for the foreseeable future," said J. Peter Pham, an African security adviser to European and U.S. governments and companies. EU leaders were meeting in Brussels on Friday to discuss the situation in Libya and other countries in North Africa. A series of sanctions, imposed over the past two to three weeks include the freezing of government assets. The move has already virtually paralysed oil trading as banks decline to clear transactions in dollars due to U.S. measures. "Payment to Libyan entities is difficult due

to sanctions, and this will undoubtedly restrict trade in the short to medium term even if crude production picks up in the near future," said Philip Roche, a partner with law firm Norton Rose. Michelle Linderman, a partner with law firm Ince & Co, said sanctions are a big headache and worry for shipping groups. "Companies do not want to get it wrong and end up with huge fines or go to jail in the worst case scenario," she said. "There is a potential that trade with Libya will become virtually impossible in the event that more sanctions are introduced."

CONTRACT NIGHTMARE Maritime lawyers say any shipping deal with a country hit by sanctions involves high compliance costs, which may deter trade. "They have to spend a lot of time on every single contract, trying to work out who they can contract with, whether there is any risk of breaching sanctions and where the payments are going," Linderman said. "The bigger problems are for the smaller companies which don't have staff available to make all the checks ... and it's easier for them to say we won't go there at all." Trade sources say the Gaddafi government has interests in many major Libyan commercial entities, which creates a risk that payments made to harbour authorities by a ship owner or agent may fall foul of sanctions. "Owners and charterers will have to take care that oil is loaded only at ports known to no longer be under the control of the government and that money for such cargoes does not end up in the hands of those who are subject to the sanctions," a senior shipping official said. "It's not an easy proposition." A ship insurance source said underwriters may add an additional war risk premium on shipments. (Reuters)

Fernando Matos Rosa

Brussels

