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ONE) - SOUTHERN MEDITERRANEAN: TOWARDS A NEW ERA OF DIALOGUE AND PARTNERSHI

By proposing to enhance cooperation on migration, mobility and security, the Commission hopes to reinforce long term relations between the EU and the countries of North Africa. The proposed set of measures will help support the democratic and economic transition in the region, promote people to people contacts across the Mediterranean and contribute to more effectively preventing irregular migration. These elements will now be discussed by the European Council on 24 June.

Why is the Commission proposing to enhance cooperation with the Southern Mediterranean?

The EU has responded to the migration crisis in the Southern Mediterranean in a rapid and effective manner, as detailed in the Communication adopted on 4 May. A first set of urgent measures has been largely endorsed by the Justice and Home Affairs Council on 11 April 2011.

There is however a need to address the long term challenges in the area of migration and mobility through the establishment of a **Dialogue for Migration, Mobility and Security** between the EU and the Southern Mediterranean countries. With this dialogue, the Commission is proposing a comprehensive and balanced approach to better manage the migration flows originating from or transiting through the Southern Mediterranean countries, as well as the access of their citizens to the EU territory.

The measures proposed in the present Communication represent the Commission's response to the call made by the European Council 24 March 2011 to present a "*plan for the development of capacities to manage migration and refugee flows in the Mediterranean flows in advance of the June European Council*".

What is the aim of the Dialogues on Migration, Mobility and Security?

The dialogues for migration, mobility and security aim at preparing the conditions for the establishment of Mobility Partnerships between the EU and Southern Mediterranean countries.

Mobility Partnerships consist of a joint political declaration agreed on between the EU and its Member States, on the one hand, and a third country concerned, on the other hand. The Partnerships list a series of initiatives that the two parties will take in respect to each other. Each Mobility Partnership concluded with a Southern Mediterranean country will be tailored to the specific situation of the latter, as well as to the needs and proposals which that country, the EU and its Member States will express as regards their cooperation.

Within the framework of the dialogue on Migration, Mobility and Security, the EU intends to develop joint cooperation initiatives with the authorities and civil society in the Southern Mediterranean countries aimed at promoting the conditions that will allow for more accessible and better managed migration and mobility between the EU and its North African partners. Such conditions will include strengthening their capacity to prevent irregular migration, to improve border management, to readmit irregular migrants and to combat criminal organisations dealing with migrants' smuggling and

A successful dialogue with Southern Mediterranean countries which accept to fully cooperate in tackling all aspects of migration, mobility and security issues should lead to the launch of a Mobility Partnership on a case-by-case basis.

What will be the content of Mobility Partnerships?

Mobility Partnerships are conceived as a long term framework which will evolve over time. Their content will promote the movement of people between the EU and its partners in a way that is beneficial to both sides. The concrete substance of such a partnership is to be defined by both sides, taking into account their specific needs and interests.

They could therefore include:

- The prospect to promote initiatives facilitating the use of existing **channels for legal migration** or to establish new more accessible regular channels, adapted to the specific Member States' labour markets needs. Initiatives may include for instance: the establishment by interested Member States of specific quotas for the access to available job vacancies by the nationals of the partner country; specific programmes and/or facilitated legal frameworks for circular migration (including also the seasonal sector); capacity building measures to manage remittances; support for return and reintegration programmes of the migrants nationals of the partner country who return to the origin country; the recognition of professional and academic skills and qualifications; cooperation in view of enhancing the capacity to acquire skills and qualifications that would be

expedient within the EU labour market. In an effort to promote mobility, Member States are also requested to exploit the possibilities offered by the European Visa Code allowing for the issuance of multi-entry visa for specific groups such as students, researchers and business people.

- Genuine cooperation expressed by the partner country on addressing some security-related issues and especially promoting capacity building in the country concerned (to prevent irregular migration, ensure smooth readmission of irregular migrants, and fight criminal organisations exploiting migrants). Partner countries would also be encouraged to increase their capacities for managing their borders and document security; step up cooperation with FRONTEX; cooperate in the EUROSUR project (once the latter will be launched); fight against trafficking and smuggling of human beings; as well as conclude and implement readmission agreements with the EU (including provisions related to migrants who are third country nationals).

Which countries are concerned by the development of Mobility Partnerships?

The Commission intends to launch dialogues for migration, mobility and security with the Southern Mediterranean countries taking into account several elements:

- the overall relationship that the EU maintains with each partner country;
- the current level of capacity in the partner country to manage migration flows;
- the willingness of the latter to engage in a constructive and effective dialogue aimed at establishing the Partnership.

Due to the countries' geographic position, their importance as countries of origin or of transit of irregular migration towards the EU, as well as countries of destination for persons in need of international protection, the Commission proposes to offer the possibility of developing a Dialogue on Mobility, Migration and Security, first of all to **Tunisia, Morocco and Egypt**.

TWO) – EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK SUPPORTS PRIVATE SECTOR GROWTH IN MAURITIUS

The European Investment Bank has agreed to provide a EUR 30 million loan to the State Bank of Mauritius to provide long-term finance for the private sector. This will primarily support projects in Mauritius, as well as other Indian Ocean countries. Part of the funding will specifically target small and medium sized companies. The European Investment Bank support package will be accompanied by technical assistance to enhance lending to Mauritian SMEs by the State Bank of Mauritius. Loan agreements were signed in Mauritius earlier this month and ratified in Luxembourg.

The loan by the European Investment Bank, the European Union's long-term lending institution, reflects the commitment to supporting both the private sector and financial services in Mauritius and is fully in line with goals of the European Community Country Strategy for Mauritius. Encouraging development of small and medium sized businesses is crucial for improving the competitiveness of the Mauritian economy and overall economic growth through job creation.

This initiative follows a EUR 20 million European Investment Bank global loan to the State Bank of Mauritius to support local small and medium sized companies signed in 2005. More recently the European Investment Bank has extended key funding worth EUR 28 million to help reform the Mauritian sugar industry.

The European Investment Bank has been active in Mauritius since 1975 and provided more than EUR 301 million for 38 projects in the country. In Mauritius the European Investment Bank has financed investment in tourism, transport, telecommunications, food, water, energy and textiles, as well as helping the sugar industry and small businesses.

- The European Investment Bank is the European Union's long-term lending institution. Last year the EIB provided EUR 72 billion for 460 projects around the world.

- The State Bank of Mauritius Group (SBM) is a leading financial services group in Mauritius with a growing international presence. It provides all services of a universal bank within a diversified business model. The lines of business include: Retail Banking, SMEs, Private Banking and Wealth Management; Corporate Banking and International Banking & Global Business; Treasury services; and eBusiness. SBM started operations in 1973 and was listed on the Stock Exchange of Mauritius in 1995. It is the second largest company listed on the Stock Exchange of Mauritius, with a market capitalisation of Rs 29 Bn (USD 980 m) as at January 2011.

THREE) – ASHTON SAYS EU AID MUST BE CONDITIONAL ON REFORM

The Irish Times says that EU foreign affairs Chief Catherine Ashton wants increased financial aid for the countries in the Mediterranean and eastern region to depend on democratic reforms.

It says Ashton will make it clear in a policy paper today that the governments which reform fastest will receive the most aid.

"For countries where reform has not taken place, the EU will reconsider or even reduce funding," according to a draft document seen by the paper.

"Increased EU support to its neighbours is conditional. It will depend on progress in building and consolidating."

FOUR) - EUROPE BOOSTS ITS HUMANITARIAN AID IN THE LIBYAN CRISIS

To continue responding to the humanitarian needs triggered by the conflict in Libya, today the European Commission increased its aid by €20 million. This brings to €70 million the Commission's total assistance in this crisis. With the new decision, the overall humanitarian contribution of the European Union to the needs of civilians affected by the conflict reaches almost €125 million. The assistance boost comes a day after Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Commission Vice President, opened an EU Office in Benghazi.

The new aid decision adds €20 million to the €40million already disbursed from the Commission's humanitarian aid instrument. Another €10 million has been allocated from the civil protection instrument. The extra funding will be used to assist and protect the Libyan population affected by the fighting and vulnerable groups such as internally displaced persons (IDP's), third country nationals and Libyan refugees in neighbouring countries. Further, the aid decision will boost the Commission's support for the repatriation and evacuation of third country nationals, and will provide shelter, food assistance, water, sanitation, emergency health care, protection, demining, and coordination support.

FIVE) – UK SAYS NO DECISION YET ON USING HELICOPTERS IN LIBYA

Britain said on Tuesday it had taken no decision yet on whether to use attack helicopters in Libya. French Defence Minister Gerard Longuet said on Monday that Britain would start deploying attack helicopters in Libya along with France as part of the NATO's operation there. British Armed Forces Minister Nick Harvey told parliament that "the use of attack helicopters is one of a range of capability options under consideration. However I stress no decision has yet been taken as to whether to use our attack helicopters in Libya." (Reuters)

SIX) – OBAMA INVITES LIBYAN ARMED REBELS TO OPEN OFFICE IN WASHINGTON

Le président américain Barack Obama a invité les rebelles libyens à ouvrir une représentation à Washington, a annoncé mardi le sous-secrétaire d'Etat aux Affaires du Proche-Orient, Jeffrey Feltman, en visite à Benghazi, le fief des insurgés dans l'est de la Libye. "Afin d'accélérer les liens entre le Conseil national de transition (l'instance dirigeante de la rébellion, ndlr) et les Etats-Unis, j'ai remis au nom du président (Barack) Obama une invitation formelle au Conseil national de transition (CNT) pour l'établissement d'un bureau de représentation à Washington", a indiqué M. Feltman au cours d'une conférence de presse. "Nous sommes heureux qu'ils aient accepté l'offre", a-t-il ajouté. "C'est une étape importante dans notre relation", a souligné le haut diplomate américain. Interrogé sur une reconnaissance officielle par les Etats-Unis de la rébellion, M. Feltman a éludé la question mais souligné que les rebelles libyens étaient de facto les seuls interlocuteurs de Washington en Libye. "Nous avons un représentant spécial ici à Benghazi. Le président Obama vient juste d'inviter le CNT à établir une représentation à Washington, nous n'avons pas de responsables à Tripoli et nous avons demandé aux fonctionnaires de Kadhafi de fermer leur ambassade à Washington", a rappelé le sous-secrétaire d'Etat américain. (AFP)

SEVEN) – LIBYAN ARMED REBELS TO OPEN OFFICE IN FRANCE

Le Conseil national de transition (CNT) libyen, organe de la rébellion contre Mouammar Kadhafi, "devrait prochainement nommer un représentant à Paris", a annoncé mardi le ministère français des Affaires étrangères. "Nos derniers contacts avec le CNT nous confirment que celui-ci devrait désigner prochainement son représentant permanent à Paris", a déclaré lors d'un point-presse le porte-parole du ministère, Bernard Valero. "Nous sommes naturellement tout à fait favorables à l'installation d'une représentation permanente du CNT en France et nous y travaillons activement avec le CNT avec qui nous entretenons des relations très étroites et régulières : les représentants du CNT sont reçus au plus au niveau, notre ambassadeur Antoine Sivan les rencontre quotidiennement à Benghazi", a-t-il précisé. Jusqu'à présent, Paris qualifiait Antoine Sivan de "représentant" diplomatique français à Benghazi. La France avait dépêché fin mars ce diplomate à Benghazi, fief de la rébellion, afin d'entretenir des contacts avec les rebelles. "Depuis le début, nous avons été les premiers à reconnaître le CNT comme un interlocuteur légitime représentant le peuple libyen et nous avons encouragé nos partenaires à faire de même", a dit Bernard Valero. "Nous nous félicitons que cette reconnaissance progresse au sein de la communauté internationale", a ajouté Bernard Valero. (AFP)

EIGHT) – NATO MOUNTS HEAVIEST BOMBARDEMENT YET ON GADDAFI COMPOUND

NATO warplanes hammered Muammar Gaddafi's compound with their heaviest air strikes yet on Tuesday after the United States said the Libyan leader would "inevitably" be forced from power. The shockwave from the strikes was so powerful that plaster fell from the ceilings in a hotel where foreign reporters were staying, about 2 km (1.2 miles) from Gaddafi's compound. A NATO official said the strikes hit a military facility that had been used to launch attacks on civilians. Government spokesman Mussa Ibrahim said late on Tuesday that the death toll from the attacks was 19, against an early estimate of three. Earlier the Libyan government said that 150 had been wounded, and that the casualties were local residents. "It is definitely, in terms of one target, the largest and most concentrated attack we have done to date," said the NATO official in Brussels. Ibrahim said the strikes had targeted a compound of the Popular Guards, an armed unit. But he said the compound had been emptied of people and "useful material" in anticipation of an attack. "This is another night of bombing and killing by NATO," Ibrahim told reporters. Libyan news agency Jana said targets hit by NATO included a Tripoli mosque called Nuri Bani, though this could not be independently verified. A Libyan military source said NATO forces also struck civilian and military targets in the Tajoura area, east of the Libyan capital Tripoli, and another nearby location on Tuesday. State television al-Jamahiriya said the attack resulted in "material losses and human casualties" but gave no specific details. It was not immediately possible to verify the report. Libyan television also reported a NATO strike on the town of Zlitan, west of Misrata, but gave no details on casualties. (Reuters)

NINE) – EU TO TIE NORTH AFRICA AID TO DEMOCRATIC REFORMS

En réponse au "printemps arabe", l'Union européenne veut encourager les bons élèves de son voisinage méditerranéen et de l'Est par une politique récompensant les progrès démocratiques, selon un projet de document obtenu mardi par l'AFP. Ce texte élaboré par la Commission européenne et le Service diplomatique de Catherine Ashton, la chef de la diplomatie européenne, doit être présenté officiellement mercredi. Tirant les enseignements de la "Politique européenne de voisinage", accusée de complaisance vis-à-vis de régimes autoritaires comme la Tunisie de Ben Ali ou l'Egypte d'Hosni Moubarak finalement renversés par la rue, le document propose "d'adapter les niveaux d'aide aux progrès (des pays partenaires) en matière de réformes démocratiques". Outre ces incitations à construire une "démocratie profonde", pas uniquement fondée sur des élections libres, mais aussi sur une vie politique pluraliste, une justice indépendante et le respect des libertés fondamentales, le document propose de soutenir un développement économique "inclusif", ainsi que des initiatives en matière de mobilité, de commerce, d'énergie ou de migrations. "Le soutien de l'UE à ses voisins est conditionnel", assure le document. "Plus le pays progressera dans ses réformes internes, et plus vite il le fera, plus il aura d'aide de l'UE". Des rapports annuels évalueront ces progrès. "Pour les pays où les réformes n'auront pas eu lieu, l'UE va reconsidérer et éventuellement réduire ses aides", précise-t-il. (AFP)

TEN) – MOROCCANS FEAR THE REGIME MAY GO SYRIAN

Des opposants craignent un nouveau "tour de vis sécuritaire" au Maroc, après l'usage de la force contre des jeunes revendiquant d'importants changements démocratiques, que les autorités accusent d'être "manipulés par les islamistes et les gauchistes". Plusieurs centaines de jeunes du Mouvement du 20 février, qui demandent des réformes politiques profondes, ont été dispersés à coups de matraques par la police dimanche dans plusieurs villes du royaume. Des dizaines de personnes ont été blessées, notamment à Tanger, dans le nord du Maroc. "Le risque d'un nouveau tour de vis sécuritaire n'est pas écarté car les mentalités hostiles au changement sont toujours très présentes", a assuré à l'AFP Lahcen Daoudi, le président du groupe parlementaire du Parti justice et développement (PJD, opposition islamiste). "Les autorités (marocaines) doivent montrer à ces jeunes qu'elle a entendu leur message de changement et qu'elle le prend en considération. En les réprimant, elle semble leur communiquer le contraire", a poursuivi M. Daoudi. Ce parti islamiste constitue la 2ème force d'opposition à l'Assemblée nationale, avec 46 sièges sur un total de 360. "Ceux qui craignent une remise en cause des réformes annoncées doivent être rassurés: il s'agit d'un choix stratégique et irréversible", a déclaré à l'AFP le ministre marocain de la Communication Khalid Naciri. Mais pour l'économiste Fouad Abdelmoumni, qui se définit comme un "sympathisant" du Mouvement du 20 février, "ce recours disproportionné à la force contre les jeunes marocains semblent indiquer que les annonces de réformes faites récemment par les officiels marocains ne sont pas crédibles". "En utilisant l'appareil répressif pour réprimer un mouvement pacifique, le Maroc montre encore une fois qu'il n'est pas une exception par rapport à d'autres régimes arabes", selon M. Abdelmoumni. Pour justifier le recours à la force contre les jeunes manifestants, les autorités marocaines mettent régulièrement en cause des mouvements islamistes comme "Justice et bienfaisance", ainsi que les milieux gauchistes. Selon lui, ce mouvement islamiste, l'un des plus importants au Maroc, utilise les revendications démocratiques "pour servir son propre agenda". Le mouvement "Justice et bienfaisance" est officiellement interdit mais ses activités sont souvent tolérées. Contacté par l'AFP, son porte-parole Fathallah Arsalane a déclaré que "l'Etat doit répondre aux demandes politiques et sociales de la société marocaine au lieu de s'acharner sur notre mouvement". Selon le ministre de la Communication, "le programmes des islamistes et des mouvements de gauche n'a rien à voir avec les réformes démocratiques". "Le gouvernement marocain n'a rien contre ce Mouvement du 20 février, mais nous estimons que ses membres sont manipulés par les islamistes et les gauchistes", a ajouté M. Naciri. (AFP)

ELEVEN) – FRANCE SAYS CHINA BACKS LAGARDE FOR IMF

China would support Finance Minister Christine Lagarde as the next IMF chief, the French government said on Tuesday, backing which would put her firmly in pole position to succeed Dominique Strauss-Kahn. Lagarde has emerged as the leading candidate to replace Strauss-Kahn, who quit last week to fight sexual assault charges in New York, although Mexico is pushing the claims of its central bank chief and many emerging nations have said it is time for Europe's 60-year grip on the job to be loosened. European governments want to retain their traditional control over the leadership of the multilateral lender while it is involved in major bailouts of Greece, Ireland and Portugal. A number, including Britain and Italy, have already said they would back Lagarde and Ireland added its support on Tuesday. "It's a European consensus," France's budget minister and government spokesman Francois Baroin told Europe 1 radio, asked about Lagarde as a possible contender for the job. "The euro needs our attention, we need to have the Europeans (on board), the Chinese support the candidacy of Christine Lagarde," he said. China's foreign ministry said it had no comment on whether Beijing would back Lagarde, a 55-year-old former lawyer, to lead the International Monetary Fund. Last week, the head of China's central bank, Zhou Xiaochuan, said the IMF's future leadership should reflect the growing stature of emerging economies, but he stopped short of saying its new boss should be from an emerging economy. An advisor to the People's Bank of China, Xia Bin, told Reuters a bigger issue than the succession was the United States' dominant voting share at the IMF. Ireland's Europe Minister Lucinda Creighton said it was quite likely Ireland would back a Lagarde candidacy. (Reuters)

TWELVE) – BRICS CALL FOR END OF EUROPEAN DOMINANCE AT IMF

Developing countries said on Tuesday it was time to end the "obsolete" tradition of the International Monetary Fund always being led by a European, though France's finance minister appeared to strengthen her lead in

the race to replace Dominique Strauss-Kahn. China, India, Brazil, Russia and South Africa, known as the BRICs, jointly criticized European officials for suggesting the next IMF head should automatically be a European. They said the selection should be based on competence, not nationality, and in a joint statement called for "abandoning the obsolete unwritten convention that requires that the head of the IMF be necessarily from Europe." French Finance Minister Christine Lagarde plans to announce her candidacy on Wednesday after the European Union reached a consensus to back her, diplomatic sources told Reuters. The French government said China would back Lagarde as the successor to Strauss-Kahn, who quit to fight sexual assault charges. But a rift has opened with emerging nations that say it is time for Europe's 65-year grip on the IMF to be loosened. Mexico's top central banker was quoted as saying some countries are warming to his candidacy, while South Africa and Kazakhstan may put forward their own candidates. After Strauss-Kahn quit last week, Europe wants to stay in charge of the multilateral lender, especially at a time when it is helping to bail out Greece, Ireland and Portugal. "It's a European consensus," Francois Baroin, France's budget minister and government spokesman, told Europe 1 radio. "The euro needs our attention. We need to have the Europeans (on board), the Chinese support the candidacy of Christine Lagarde," he said. **LEGAL PROBE A POSSIBILITY** China's Foreign Ministry said it had no comment on whether Beijing would back Lagarde, a 55-year-old former lawyer. France made a special effort to reach out to Beijing this year on key G20 issues like global monetary reform and speculation in commodity markets. France presides over the G20 group of advanced and emerging nations in 2011. Last week, the head of China's central bank, Zhou Xiaochuan, said the IMF's leadership should reflect the growing stature of emerging economies. But he stopped short of saying its new boss should be from an emerging economy. An adviser to the People's Bank of China, Xia Bin, told Reuters a bigger issue than the succession was the United States' dominant voting share at the IMF. Wu Qing, a researcher with the Development Research Centre government think tank in Beijing, said it was plausible that China would support Lagarde, as there weren't many qualified candidates from China or Asia in general. "I don't think it matters much to China whether the next IMF head is French or any other European." The IMF's board will draw up a short list of three candidates and has a June 30 deadline for picking a successor. One growing concern about Lagarde is a possible legal probe of her role in a 2008 payout to a prominent French businessman to settle a dispute with a state-owned bank. Judges are due to rule on June 10 -the deadline for when countries must submit candidates for the IMF job- whether to launch an inquiry. The issue has been raised among emerging economy officials at the IMF who say they have no tolerance for another scandal. One European diplomatic source said some countries were lukewarm to Lagarde but that there were no obvious alternative candidates from the region. "Some countries (in the EU) are less positive than others but, as there are no alternative candidacies, Mrs Lagarde's is obvious," the source said. **NO EMERGING CANDIDATE** Emerging economies say another backroom deal under which Europe maintains its grip on the IMF and an American heads the World Bank could undermine the legitimacy of the institutions. They point to an April 2009 endorsement by the Group of 20 leading economies of "an open, transparent and merit-based selection process" for heads of the global institutions. Still, sources in Washington have said the United States would back a European. The United States and European nations jointly have power at the IMF to decide who leads it. Mexico's Carstens said some countries were "sympathetic" to his candidacy and that he has held talks with U.S. officials. "I have heard expressions of sympathy, but most countries in a responsible way are waiting to see who the candidates are," Carstens told Bloomberg TV. Brazil seemed reluctant to back Carstens, with government sources saying he is seen as a long shot for the job. South African Finance Minister Trevor Manuel may be a candidate to run the IMF. Russia has said it would back Kazakhstan's central bank chief, Grigory Marchenko. (Reuters)

THIRTEEN) – SOUTH SUDAN: COMMISSION WELCOMES THE COUNCIL'S DECISION TO PROVIDE €200 MILLION TO SUPPORT A SUSTAINABLE AND PEACEFUL CREATION OF THE NEW STATE

EU Commissioner for Development, Andris Piebalgs, welcomes decision of the EU foreign affairs ministers to allocate €200 million to South Sudan. This follows the proposal of the European Commission, announced by EU Commissioner Piebalgs during his visit in Juba on 13 May 2011. These funds will support the implementation of the Government of South Sudan's forthcoming "2011-13 Development Plan". They could be used for projects related to education, health, agriculture, food security and democratic governance. South Sudan will formally declare its independence on 9 July 2011, as a result of the referendum held in January 2011, part of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement. Decades of civil war have left South Sudan extremely poor, with numerous humanitarian and socio-economic challenges to cope with in the context of limited governance capacity and political fragility.

Southern Sudan has the highest infant-mortality rates and the lowest education indicators in the world. One child in ten still dies before its first birthday and less than 1 percent of girls complete primary education

The specific actions to be funded will be identified in the context of the Government of South Sudan's "2011-13 Development Plan", expected to be presented to the international donors later this year.

EU joint programming of aid

Work on joint programming between the EU and Member States has already begun, in close cooperation with local authorities and key stakeholders on the ground. A donor pledging conference for South Sudan is expected to take place in the coming months where the EU will be able to present the broad lines of its intended support to South Sudan.

In July 2010, the European Union allocated €150 million to the whole of Sudan to address the needs of the most vulnerable populations. Of this sum, €85 million were earmarked for South Sudan. However, it is now recognised that more is needed in order to tackle the immense needs of helping to rebuild the state institutions, as well as meeting the development needs of the majority of the South Sudanese population.

South Sudan took part in a self-determination referendum in January this year. Voters opted overwhelming - over 98 percent - for South Sudan to become a separate country.

The situation in large areas of South Sudan and the border regions with North Sudan remains complex, with persistent violent conflicts and frequent incidents of serious fighting. This leads to the large scale displacement of the population, as well as leaving people vulnerable to food insecurity, outbreaks of diseases and natural disasters, and unable to access to the most basic services such as healthcare or safe drinking water in many areas.

The EU has a continued political and financial engagement in Sudan, including through development and humanitarian assistance, for the benefit of the Sudanese population. Since 2005 the EU has committed development assistance of over €665 million to Sudan with more than 45% dedicated to South Sudan. This assistance is addressing post-conflict recovery, rehabilitation and development activities. However, the Government of Sudan decided not to ratify the revised Cotonou Agreement, thereby losing access to the 10th European Development Fund (EDF); which envisaged a total allocation of EUR 294.9 million.

Sudan is the EU's largest beneficiary country for humanitarian aid, with €131 million from the 2010 EU budget. This aid is additional to development aid and covers operations in Darfur, South Sudan and the Transitional Areas.

FOURTEEN) - INDIA TO OFFER \$ 5 BILLION FOR AFRICA DEVELOPMENT

India will offer \$5 billion in credit to African countries to help them meet their development targets, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said on Tuesday at a meeting with African heads of states. "We will offer 5 billion US dollars for the next three years under lines of credit to help Africa achieve its development goals," he said in a speech in Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa. Singh began a six-day trip in Africa on Monday pledging development support in exchange for trade agreements to fuel growth in India's resource-intensive economy. (Reuters)

FIFTEEN) – REPORT SEES GROWING SIGNS OF PROTECTIONISM AMONG G-20 COUNTRIES

Les pays du G20 ont montré des signes de faiblesse face aux pressions protectionnistes ces six derniers mois, prévient mardi un rapport commun de l'OCDE, l'OMC et l'ONU qui appellent les gouvernements des économies les plus riches à "plus de vigilance". "Au cours des six derniers mois, la majorité des gouvernements du G20 ont mis en place plus de mesures de restriction au commerce que durant les précédentes périodes de la crise", explique le [rapport conjoint de l'OCDE, l'OMC et la Conférence des Nations unies pour le commerce et le développement](#) (Cnuced). Ainsi, "leur résistance au protectionnisme semble être sous une pression croissante", ajoute-t-il, relevant que la détermination annoncée lors du précédent G20 de Séoul en novembre 2010 "n'a pas été suivie". "En fait, les nouvelles restrictions à l'exportation ont tendance à augmenter", constate le document. Selon les trois organisations internationales chargées de veiller sur les politiques commerciales des pays du G20, compte tenu de l'environnement économique actuel, "il est nécessaire d'accroître la vigilance dans les mois à venir afin d'empêcher le protectionnisme de gagner du

terrain". Car, insistent-elles, "la persistance de niveaux élevés de chômage, les déséquilibres macro-économiques, les prix des denrées alimentaires ainsi que les tensions géopolitiques créent les conditions favorables" pour inciter les pays à refermer leurs frontières et favoriser leurs industries. (AFP)

Fernando Matos Rosa

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