



MEMORANDUM N° 80/2011

12/05/2011

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ONE) - DENMARK TO REINTRODUCE BORDER CONTROLS

The Independent reports that Denmark is to re-impose controls at its EU borders with Germany and Sweden, following an agreement between the government and the far right.

Finance minister Claus Hjort Frederiksen told reporters, "We have reached agreement on reintroducing customs inspections at Denmark's borders as soon as possible." He said the new controls would come into force within two to three weeks.

The Telegraph notes that the move comes as interior ministers meet in Brussels to discuss plans to reintroduce temporary border controls in the 25-nation Schengen zone.

According to the Wall Street Journal, the decision was made for "domestic political reasons", and reflects the changing nature of Europe's open borders.

Joanna Parkin, an analyst at the Centre for European Policy Studies, a Brussels-based think tank, said Europe's reintroduction of border checks was "worrying".

"We can't separate Denmark's announcement from the wider context of what we've been seeing the past few weeks," she said.

TWO) – MEPs AGAINST SCHENGEN REFORM

La commissaire européenne en charge des questions d'immigration Cecilia Malmström n'est pas parvenue mardi à convaincre le parlement européen que sa proposition de rétablir temporairement des contrôles aux frontières nationales ne détricoterait pas d'importants acquis de Schengen. La décision italienne de délivrer des permis de séjour temporaires à des milliers d'immigrés tunisiens arrivés sur son sol, suivie de la demande de la France de rétablir temporairement les contrôles aux frontières, "c'est du ping-pong entre Berlusconi et Sarkozy sur le dos des réfugiés", s'est indigné le président du groupe libéral, Guy Verhofstadt. Le nouveau mécanisme temporaire de contrôle des frontières que propose la Commission, même pour des cas "très exceptionnels", même décidé au niveau communautaire plutôt que laissé à la discrétion des États, irait à l'encontre de l'essence même de l'Union et de la libre circulation, estime-t-il. "Il n'est pas besoin d'un nouveau mécanisme, mais seulement de renforcer les mesures déjà existantes de l'acquis Schengen", a-t-il exhorté, dénonçant une volonté de faire croire à un "tsunami migratoire" venu de la Méditerranée. "Des milliers de réfugiées venant de Libye en Tunisie, oui, c'est une crise pour la Tunisie, mais 25.000 réfugiés venant de Méditerranée vers l'Europe, cela ne peut pas représenter une crise pour l'Europe" comparé à ce que l'Union a déjà connu par le passé, a lancé le président du groupe socialiste Martin Schultz, dénonçant une approche "populiste" du phénomène migratoire. Du côté des Verts, Daniel Cohn-Bendit a rappelé que durant la guerre en Bosnie, l'UE avait octroyé des permis temporaires afin d'accueillir les populations tant qu'il y avait la guerre. "L'Allemagne en avait alors accueilli quelques centaines de milliers et elle existe toujours, elle n'a pas encore coulé. Cette idée du navire qui sombre avec l'arrivée massive de réfugiés, c'est de la propagande", a-t-il dénoncé, parlant de pression "populiste et raciste" alors que plusieurs pays d'Europe font face à la montée de partis populistes ou xénophobes. A ses yeux, l'UE doit proposer des permis temporaires et une répartition solidaire des réfugiés dans tout son territoire. "Le problème se situe parmi les Européens et leur incapacité à être solidaires", résume-t-il. Les conservateurs européens, également, critiquent les pistes nationales. La solution aux problèmes d'immigration en Europe "n'est pas le retour au chacun pour soi ou à une forteresse Europe, mais c'est plus de solutions européennes", a estimé Joseph Daul, chef du Parti Populaire européen (PPE). La commissaire Malmström doit soumettre jeudi aux 27 une "stratégie" pour faire face aux carences constatées dans le contrôle des frontières extérieures du sud de l'UE, soumises à des arrivées massives de migrants fuyant la misère économique, corollaire inattendue des révolutions dans le monde arabe. Cette stratégie est le fruit d'une "longue préparation" et non une "réponse" à deux président ou premier ministre, a-t-elle assuré, par allusion aux politiques de Nicolas Sarkozy et Silvio Berlusconi. "Il faut un cadre clair, européen ; Schengen est un acquis magnifique, mais il n'est pas parfait, il y a des points faibles", a-t-elle souligné, plaidant pour que la décision d'autoriser un État à réintroduire des contrôles à ses frontières nationales soit prise au niveau européen. (See [EP's press release](#)) (BELGA)

THREE) – UK LAUNCHES DIPLOMATIC BLITZ IN EMERGING ECONOMIES

Britain will open five new embassies and send more diplomats to China, India and Brazil under a multi-million pound (dollar) plan to secure new trading ties with emerging powers, an official said Tuesday. Foreign

Secretary William Hague will announce to Parliament on Wednesday his plans to send ambassadors to new posts in El Salvador, Kyrgyzstan, South Sudan - and when it is judged safe - Somalia and Madagascar. A person familiar with the plan, who demanded anonymity to discuss the decisions ahead of an announcement to the House of Commons, said the move was intended to strengthen the trade-based diplomacy ushered in by Britain's coalition government. About 80 staff will be sent to bolster Britain's work in Brazil, China and India - some reassigned from downgraded European missions, the official said. Britain plans to scale back almost all of its posts outside European capitals, meaning many staff based in cities including Munich, Milan and Barcelona will be deployed elsewhere. However, no diplomats will be removed from Turkey - singled out by Hague as a likely key partner in the decades ahead. Britain's foreign ministry will sell off real estate and also trim the costs of postings overseas to fund the 100 million pounds (US\$165 million) program, which will mean fewer luxury homes for diplomats based abroad, and cheaper office spaces. Already, the posts of 450 junior staff based overseas have been cut and the ministry is likely to ask some diplomats to share facilities in non-priority countries with colleagues from Britain's business ministry. Hague planned to tell lawmakers his aim was to reshape Britain's diplomatic team to be lean and efficient but configured to match the realities of the 21st century, according to the official familiar with his proposals. Britain's coalition government has urged its diplomats to focus on wooing new trade partners, with Prime Minister David Cameron taking large delegations of business leaders on tours to India and the Persian Gulf. In a speech in November, Cameron said Britain would strengthen ties to key emerging economies to secure its status as a leading voice on global affairs. "Whenever I meet foreign leaders, they do not see a Britain shuffling apologetically off the world stage," Cameron said. "There is no reason why the rise of new economic powers should lead to a loss of British influence in the world." Hague has insisted that Britain's new business focus wouldn't mean the U.K. would shy away from raising human rights issues in countries such as China or India. "We will raise our concerns about human rights wherever and whenever they arise, including with countries with whom we are seeking closer ties," he said in September. (AP)

FOUR) - GERMANY REJECTS BELGIAN CRITICISM OF CATHERINE ASHTON

Le ministre allemand des Affaires étrangères, Guido Westerwelle, a apporté mardi son soutien au chef de la diplomatie européenne Catherine Ashton, qui vient d'essuyer des critiques de la Belgique pour son manque d'initiative et de visibilité. "Elle a notre soutien entier et elle a mon soutien personnel", a-t-il déclaré au cours d'une rencontre avec la presse étrangère à Berlin. "L'Allemagne va soutenir Catherine Ashton", a-t-il ajouté, faisant valoir que son poste, créé fin 2009, et le service diplomatique européen qu'elle dirige, étaient des institutions encore "toutes neuves". "Il faut la juger de manière équitable", a dit le ministre allemand. Pour la première fois la semaine dernière, un ministre des Affaires étrangères d'un pays de l'UE, le chef de la diplomatie belge, Steven Vanackere, a ouvertement critiqué Mme Ashton. Il a fait part de sa déception face au travail accompli jusqu'ici et de son "impatience" devant les faiblesses persistantes de la nouvelle diplomatie européenne. La diplomate britannique est régulièrement critiquée depuis ses débuts pour ne pas prendre suffisamment d'initiatives et ne pas être assez visible sur la scène européenne et internationale. Elle a aussi été handicapée par les divergences entre pays européens sur plusieurs grands dossiers, comme l'intervention militaire en Libye qui a divisé l'Europe. La France et la Grande-Bretagne ont promu l'opération, actuellement sous commandement de l'Otan, alors que l'Allemagne a refusé d'y participer et s'est abstenue à l'ONU lors du vote de la résolution au Conseil de sécurité autorisant l'intervention. Mardi, M. Westerwelle a maintenu sa position sur le sujet. L'abstention allemande à l'ONU, aux côtés de la Russie et de la Chine, alors que les pays occidentaux (France, Royaume-Uni et Etats-Unis) votaient pour, a été une décision "très difficile" à prendre, a reconnu le ministre. "J'estime que notre décision reste juste et je juge en même temps toujours extrêmement respectable ce que les autres (pays occidentaux) ont décidé", a-t-il dit. "Une politique commune" de l'UE en matière d'Affaires étrangères et de sécurité "ne signifie pas la disparition des intérêts nationaux" des Etats qui la composent, a-t-il dit. (AFP)

FIVE) – MEPs URGE ASHTON TO TRY HARDER

Les eurodéputés ont appelé mercredi la chef de la diplomatie européenne, Catherine Ashton à faire plus d'efforts pour que l'UE cesse d'être un "nain politique" au moment où le "printemps arabe" met en lumière les divisions au sein des 27. Dotée depuis cinq mois maintenant d'un Service d'action extérieure dirigé par des diplomates chevronnés, "l'Europe continue d'être un nain ou un petit poucet politique" sur la scène

internationale, a déploré le chef du principal groupe politique au Parlement, le conservateur Joseph Daul. "Il faut faire plus", a-t-il exhorté. Alors que Mme Ashton est elle-même en poste depuis 18 mois, "rien ou presque n'a changé", a-t-il regretté. L'UE s'est déchirée dernièrement face à l'intervention en Libye. Et peine aujourd'hui à trouver une attitude ferme face au président syrien Bachar al-Assad, se contentant de sanctions "ridicules" à l'encontre de 13 responsables de la répression en Syrie, pourtant en passe de devenir le nouveau "Tienanmen arabe", a déploré le chef des Libéraux Guy Verhofstadt. "Qui empêche en Europe qu'on mette Assad sur la liste? Quel sont les pays qui aujourd'hui empêchent l'UE de prendre la seule décision possible? Dites-le!", a lancé à Catherine Ashton le chef des Verts, Daniel Cohn-Bendit. **HOPELESS EU 'FOREIGN POLICY'** Le problème, reconnaît une écrasante majorité de députés, ne réside pas uniquement dans le peu d'initiatives de Mme Ashton mais aussi dans les réticences des 27 pays de l'UE à s'engager sous la bannière d'une diplomatie commune. "Aujourd'hui, chaque ministre européen des Affaires étrangères veut se promener avec son drapeau national sur la place Tahrir", haut lieu de la révolte au Caire, a raillé le conservateur allemand Elmar Brok. Le chef du groupe socialiste, l'Allemand Martin Schulz, qui avait soutenu la nomination de la travailliste britannique à l'automne 2009, juge que c'est "plus généralement le problème de l'UE, de n'avoir actuellement ni orientation, ni vision". Face aux critiques, la haute représentante a tenu bon, assurant que l'UE est "souvent" la première à réagir, ou la première à préparer en coulisses les travaux des 27 en vue de sanctions. En gage de bonne volonté à l'égard d'un Parlement qui avait durement critiqué son refus de reconnaître en mars le Conseil national de transition (CNT) libyen, Mme Ashton lui a réservé mercredi la primeur de l'annonce de son intention d'ouvrir un bureau européen à Benghazi, fief de la rébellion contre le colonel Mouammar Kadhafi. Alors que seuls la France, l'Italie, le Qatar et la Gambie ont officiellement reconnu le CNT, il s'agira avec ce bureau de "soutenir la société civile et le CNT" (dont le siège est à Benghazi) et de fournir de l'aide en matière de réformes, de santé, d'éducation et de sécurité, a-t-elle précisé. Malgré ses divergences, l'UE a "des positions fortes sur toute une série de sujets", a-t-elle aussi affirmé. Et "inexorablement nous nous dirigeons vers une plus grande cohérence". La baronne britannique se présentait devant les députés européens sur fond de critiques plus ouvertes dans les chancelleries: la semaine dernière, le ministre belge des Affaires étrangères Steven Vanackere s'était dit déçu du travail accompli jusqu'ici et impatient face aux faiblesses persistantes de la nouvelle diplomatie européenne. La chef de la diplomatie européenne est-elle pour autant sur la sellette? Daniel Cohn-Bendit juge à terme "possible qu'il y ait une motion de censure du parlement", même s'il la juge peu probable dans l'immédiat. Et le chef de file des Verts de remarquer qu'alors que le mandat de Mme Ashton expire en 2014, un jeu de chaises musicales n'est pas exclu en 2012, quand le mandat du président permanent de l'UE, Herman Van Rompuy, sera remis sur la table. (AFP)

SIX) – EU'S ASHTON ANNOUNCES OPENING BENGHAZI OFFICE TO BACK LIBYA REBELS

La Haute représentante pour la politique extérieure de l'Union européenne, Catherine Ashton, a annoncé mercredi l'ouverture prochaine d'un bureau à Benghazi, où est établi le QG des insurgés libyens. Cette décision constitue une nouvelle marque de soutien au Conseil national de transition (CNT), le principal organe d'opposition au régime du colonel Kadhafi, qui n'a jusqu'à présent pas été pleinement reconnu par l'UE. Plus prudente que certains Etats membres comme la France, Mme Ashton a reconnu le CNT comme un interlocuteur crédible, sans voir en lui le représentant légitime du peuple libyen. Il y a quelques jours, les pays du Benelux avaient déjà annoncé l'envoi d'une mission de reconnaissance à Benghazi, afin de faire le point sur la situation humanitaire dans la région. (BELGA)

SEVEN) – NATO DENIES TARGETTING GADDAFI WHEN BOMBING HIS RESIDENCES

L'Otan a assuré mardi ne pas viser le dirigeant contesté Mouammar Kadhafi au lendemain de frappes particulièrement violentes sur Tripoli, tandis que les rebelles ont encore grignoté du terrain à l'ouest de Misrata (ouest), près de trois mois après le début du conflit en Libye. "L'Otan ne vise pas des individus", a affirmé le général italien Claudio Gabellini, sans pour autant pouvoir dire si M. Kadhafi était encore vivant après les frappes intenses nocturnes. "Toutes les cibles de l'Otan sont des cibles militaires, ce qui veut dire que les cibles que nous avons touchées, comme la nuit dernière à Tripoli, sont des bunkers de commandement et de contrôle", a-t-il ajouté au QG de l'Otan à Naples (Italie). Selon lui, les opérations internationales dont l'Otan a pris le commandement fin mars ont uniquement pour but de démanteler l'appareil militaire utilisé contre les civils par le régime. (AFP)

EIGHT) – DIVISIONS, GAFFES SAP CREDIBILITY OF LIBYAN REBELS

One day last month Wahid Bugaighis arrived at the offices of eastern Libya's main oil company with big plans to turn it into a major source of funds for the struggling rebel movement. But things did not go as smoothly as the freshly appointed rebel oil boss might have hoped. After he announced a management reshuffle at Agoco, the company which runs some of Libya's most important oilfields, disaffected staff promptly held a meeting and voted to reject the changes. "It's the wrong time, it's the wrong guy, everything is wrong," an Agoco manager told Reuters. "The people didn't accept this and they kicked him out. He can't come here now to Agoco." The episode was just one example of the kind of disharmony that has emerged among Libya's rebels in the east in the three months since they threw off decades of authoritarian government under Muammar Gaddafi. Divisions among the rebel leaders are blunting their challenge to Gaddafi and could unnerve foreign powers banking on them as a credible alternative government for the war-riven country. Public relations gaffes, foot-dragging on naming officials and confusion over who controls crucial policy areas have led some observers to wonder if the rebels can stay united after their hopes for a quick overthrow of Gaddafi were dashed. "When things are not going well, people start to quarrel," said David Hartwell, IHS Jane's North Africa and Middle East analyst. "It's not surprising given the fairly disparate nature of the opposition." The goal of overthrowing Gaddafi brought together an unlikely cabal of U.S.-educated businessmen, a woman dentist, tribal elders, left-wing university professors and former Gaddafi apparatchiks in the rebel stronghold of Benghazi. They have proved they can manage public services and keep the rebellion afloat by lobbying for loans and foreign help selling Libyan oil, but cracks have appeared as their military campaign bogs down.

WHO RUNS THE SHOW? Bugaighis, who was head of Gaddafi's National Oil Corporation in the 1980s, still gives interviews as the head of the rebel national oil company, despite the challenges to his authority. "We don't need an oil minister now," said the Agoco manager, who requested anonymity. "If we deal directly with the national council, why do we put other guys in the middle?" Some rebel leaders are sticking by Bugaighis, citing his experience and contacts among potential buyers of Libyan oil. Rebel attempts to turn a rabble of ill-equipped volunteer fighters into a Libyan army that can win and hold territory have been overshadowed by confusion over who is running the show. The national council says Abdel Fattah Younes, Gaddafi's former interior minister who defected early in the rebellion, is leading the military campaign. Younes lacks the trust of some in the rebel leadership and one rebel spokesman, Colonel Ahmed Bani, told Reuters in March that Khalifa Hefatar was the true army leader. Hefatar is a former military commander who supported the 1969 coup that brought Gaddafi to power and became a member of Gaddafi's policy-making Revolutionary Command Council before breaking with him in 1987. Hefatar, who has lived for the past 20 years in the United States, has insisted that Younes is an officer serving the rebel army in a support and logistical role. Asked on May 4 to clarify the situation, Bani told Reuters: "All fighters on the ground are responsible for the liberation of Libya, without having to mention any particular names." "I have yet to see evidence that the division in military command has been resolved," said Shashank Joshi, an analyst at the Royal United Services Institute in London. "Politically, it is dangerous to have divided military command, since it lays the ground for warlordism," he said. The conflicts reflect a dilemma -where do you find competent, experienced officials who know Libya but are not so tainted by association with Gaddafi that the people reject them? "What you have is a strange mix of bona fide revolutionaries who stood up to Gaddafi in the early days mixing with defectors from Gaddafi's regime who had their own plans for holding on to power," said political risk consultant Geoff Porter. "That would seem to be a pretty potent brew and does not bode well for success." At an international meeting on Libya at the end of March, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton described efforts to find out more about the rebel leadership as a "work in progress".

PUBLIC RELATIONS GAFFES The confusion is compounded by chaotic and conflicting announcements by the rebel leadership. When Mahmoud Shammam, in charge of media and information affairs, told reporters in Rome that Spain, the Netherlands and Denmark had recognised the rebel national council as Libya's legitimate representative, those countries quickly denied it. The official rebel spokesman in Libya, Abdel Hafiz Ghoga, said only he had the right to speak about such matters, then announced proudly that Italy, which has recognised the rebel council, had agreed to supply it with weapons. Italy's government said that was not true. The splits and mixed messages have left some Libya experts wondering how the rebels will forge a viable government with a set of policies if Gaddafi falls, achieving the one goal that united them. None say the problems are bad enough to make western states question their military and financial backing for the rebels. "If they withdraw support and leave eastern Libyan to its own devices, that would be a major policy failure," said Hartwell. "For the credibility of the U.N. and all others involved, that cannot be allowed to happen." Disagreements and false starts might be unavoidable as the rebel leadership tries to weld so many disparate forces into a legitimate future government. For reporters in the eastern rebel stronghold of Benghazi, frustration at mixed messages from the rebels -and constant changes in the venues for press conferences- combines with admiration that the whole system stays afloat,

buoyed by the euphoria of self-rule after decades of oppression by Gaddafi. A Western diplomatic source played down the divisions and said the rebels had made it clear that Younes, not Heftar, was in charge of the army. But he said that, for now, foreign governments were still relying only on verbal assurances from the rebels, not formal decrees, to know who was in charge of what. "It will be very important that the Council make formal nominations of positions in the future," the source said. (Reuters)

NINE) – ITALY GIVES GADDAFI TWO WEEKS TO QUIT

Le colonel Mouammar Kadhafi a "jusqu'à la fin mai pour trouver un accord" avec la communauté internationale et s'exiler avant que ne tombe le couperet d'un mandat d'arrêt de la Cour pénale internationale, a estimé mercredi le chef de la diplomatie italienne. "Il y a des pays qui ont ces dernières semaines exprimé leur disponibilité à l'accueillir", a expliqué Franco Frattini lors d'une émission de la radio publique Radio Uno, à propos d'un éventuel exil du leader libyen, sans toutefois citer les pays en question. Mais, a-t-il souligné, "il est clair que si le mandat d'arrêt international était lancé, il serait beaucoup plus difficile de trouver un arrangement pour le colonel et sa famille". Frattini a estimé que l'ordre de capture de la Cour pénale internationale (CPI) devrait être lancé "d'ici la fin mai" à l'encontre de M. Kadhafi. Selon le ministre, "les nombreuses défections (dans son entourage) montrent que probablement nous sommes vraiment arrivés à un tournant" dans le conflit. Le ministre des Affaires étrangères italien a souligné par ailleurs qu'éliminer le colonel "Kadhafi n'a jamais été l'objectif de la mission internationale" qui "vise à protéger les civils" pour éviter "un bain de sang". A propos du fait que M. Kadhafi ne soit pas apparu en public depuis 10 jours, M. Frattini a dit "n'avoir aucune idée de l'endroit où il pourrait se trouver" et a refusé "de se risquer à des hypothèses".

ASSAD IS NOT GADDAFI Concernant la situation en Syrie et l'attitude de la communauté internationale, M. Frattini a estimé que Bachar el-"Assad n'est pas Kadhafi". "Assad a encore une minuscule marge pour ouvrir (son régime, ndlr) aux réformes, c'est ce que pense l'Union européenne qui a approuvé un paquet de sanctions aussi contre son frère mais pas Assad, comme signal ultime", a ajouté M. Frattini. Selon lui, "le temps presse" mais il reste un mince espoir qu'"un programme de réformes promis à plusieurs reprises par Assad puisse être mis en route". En revanche, de Tripoli, "nous n'avons jamais reçu aucun (signe d') ouverture à la possibilité de lancer des réformes", a souligné M. Frattini. A propos des tensions entre Etats-Unis et Pakistan après l'opération commando américaine dans ce pays qui a abouti à la mort d'Oussama Ben Laden, M. Frattini a jugé indispensable une réconciliation. Ils doivent réussir à se "raccorder" parce que "le Pakistan est fondamental pour la stabilisation de l'Afghanistan" et aussi pour "les rapports avec l'Inde". (AFP)

TEN) –TUNISIAN MIGRANTS TARGET NEW EUROPEAN DESTINATIONS

"Macedonia, Montenegro, Bosna!!!": les rives de l'Italie voisine n'attirent plus Jamel, un Tunisien "champion" des voyages clandestins périlleux, qui vise désormais d'autres frontières pour vivre coûte que coûte son "rêve européen" en France. Aux confins d'un terrain vague au Kram (nord de Tunis) près d'une plage balayée par une mer turquoise où des bateaux croisent au large, Jamel, 36 ans, raconte avoir connu pendant ses multiples voyages clandestins pour entrer en Europe les geôles "turques, grecques, égyptiennes, marocaines". Mais malgré tout et même les nombreuses lacérations qu'il s'est faites "avec une lame" sur le ventre "dans une prison libyenne pour pouvoir revenir en Tunisie", il se dit prêt "à repartir". "Au moins en Europe, dit-il, je peux vivre vraiment, je me fous de Lampedusa, je me fous de Schengen, j'ai un objectif que je veux atteindre: émigrer, trouver un boulot, avoir plein de fric et vivre comme les autres!". "Je partirai seul et je réussirai à arriver en France" et il "n'y a pas que l'Italie pour rentrer en Europe, la Macédoine, le Monténégro, la Bosnie, la Bulgarie ont des frontières souples et je finirai par entrer en France". Comme plus de 20.000 clandestins tunisiens partis des côtes tunisiennes -principalement de la région de Zarzis- à bord d'embarcations de fortune, Jamel, avait atterri à Lampedusa juste après la chute du régime de Ben Ali, le 14 janvier. Donnant sur le golfe de Tunis, Le Kram, a été déserté par beaucoup de jeunes partis "vivre dans d'autres pays", selon des habitants, et l'évocation d'un rétablissement des frontières dans l'espace Schengen qui doit être discuté jeudi à Bruxelles laisse de marbre des candidats à l'immigration clandestine. Près d'un phare abandonné, la plupart de ces hommes disent savoir "comment leur frères tunisiens ont été mal accueillis en France" qui a oublié "comment la Tunisie a accueilli les Français". L'odyssée européenne de nombreux Tunisiens s'est achevée à Paris, notamment dans un square de banlieue précédemment occupé par des Tsiganes, où la plupart dorment le long d'une voie ferrée abandonnée sur des matelas de fortune.

'REVOLUTION' WONT EASE MIGRATORY PRESSURE Pour Zied, comme pour la plupart de jeunes candidats à l'immigration clandestine, la récente révolution tunisienne ne "signifie rien". "Le gouvernement fait sans cesse des promesses sans rien faire de concret. Nous sommes toujours des chômeurs et nous sommes encore marginalisés", affirme ce jeune homme récemment expulsé d'Italie. Surnommé le "Boss" par des habitants dans une ruelle de Kram, Mahmoud, la cinquantaine, a vécu "20 ans à Naples où tous ses voyages ont été illégaux" avant de regagner récemment la Tunisie car "l'Italie l'a condamné à 9 ans de prison pour trafic de drogue". Les jeunes Tunisiens veulent, selon lui, "vivre à tout prix en Europe à cause de la misère, des poursuites judiciaires et préfèrent mener une vie de misère en Europe qu'en Tunisie". "Il y a environ de 20.000 clandestins à Lampedusa et à mon avis, 10.000 vont aller en prison, 6.000 vont retourner chez eux et 4.000 seulement vont réussir leur projet". Casquette Cerruti sur la tête, Mohamed Saleh Chérif, raconte avoir récemment "essayé avec 103 autres jeunes de partir en Italie à bord d'un bateau depuis les côtes de Zarzis". Mais à quelques kilomètres de Lampedusa, "le bateau a coulé" et il dit "être resté quatre jours dans la mer jusqu'à l'arrivée d'un bateau militaire tunisien mais 34 jeunes se sont noyés". "Si je trouve l'argent, dit-il, je n'hésiterai même pas une minute à immigrer clandestinement et je suis prêt à tout car il n'y a pas d'espoir en Tunisie". (AFP)

ELEVEN) – GULF COUNCIL TO CONSIDER JORDAN, MOROCCO MEMBERSHIP

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) will consider requests by Morocco and Jordan to join its Gulf Arab political bloc, the group's secretary general said on Tuesday, a move seen aimed at countering regional unrest. GCC foreign ministers will hold talks with the foreign ministers of both non-Gulf countries to "complete required procedures", Abdullatif al-Zayani told reporters after a GCC summit in Riyadh. It was unclear what kind of membership they were considering. Analysts said the surprise announcement of the requests may be a sign Gulf leaders are seeking to cement ties with other monarchies against pro-democracy protests that sent shockwaves through the Arab world. "I suppose it's going to be a club of kings ... They are trying to shore up royalty in the region. No one wants to see the first domino go down," said David Roberts, deputy director of the Royal United Services Institute in Doha. Gulf States -such as Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait- sent troops to Bahrain to help its monarchy which faced widespread protests urging democratic reform. Gulf ambitions to contain the threat of regional unrest may have grown after their success in that Gulf island kingdom. Gulf states remain concerned their Western allies could abandon them and back reforms if protests reach a critical mass, as they did when uprisings toppled Egypt and Tunisia's leaders. "The GCC is increasing its more muscular role in foreign policy ... They are leading the counter revolution and it makes more sense for them to join with other Arab autocracies," said Shadi Hamid, director of the Brookings Doha Centre. Some analysts were sceptical of the success of such a plan. "This looks like an alliance that will be against both geography and strategic common sense," said Ali Anouzla, editor of the independent Moroccan news portal Lakome.com. Hamid suggested the GCC -- a loose alliance which also groups Qatar, Oman and Bahrain -- may consider a two-tiered membership system. Many observers suggested the partnership with the world's top oil exporting region may be an effort to boost the frail economies of the two non-Gulf monarchies, which have faced popular protests in the past few months. John Sfakianakis, chief economist at Banque Saudi Fransi in Riyadh, said the GCC should take its cue from the European Union's economic crisis. "The EU is learning the hard way from its premature expansion ... Greater economic harmonisation and collaboration is needed on the economic front among the current GCC states before further expansion. Enlargement does not necessarily lead to prosperity for all and the road can be arduous." (Reuters)

TWELVE) – MEDITERRANEAN: UNLEASHING MASS SCALE ENTREPRENEURIAL ACTIVITY FOR STABILIZATION AND JOB

The democratic uprisings that occurred in the Mediterranean area and the rightful claims of young people for jobs and a better future in these countries have made it clear that the EU needs to offer greater support to the region, both from a democratic and economic perspective. At the 8th Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Meeting on Industry in Malta today European Commission Vice-President Antonio Tajani launched a set of far reaching proposals for the progressive integration of markets between the EU and the Mediterranean as well as the setting up of a Small Business Act (SBA). Introduced successfully in the EU in 2008 the SBA in the Mediterranean area should help to unleash grass roots entrepreneurship at a mass scale to build dynamic and vivid economies in the neighbour countries.

Vice President Tajani called for promoting an entrepreneurial spirit and SMEs and enhancing industrial cooperation in the region.

2011-2012: A new framework for enhanced cooperation

Vice-President Tajani highlighted also the progress made in 2009/2010, within the framework of the implementation of the Euro-Med charter for enterprise. In his view, the Charter was bound to evolve and he hoped to be able to talk soon about a veritable Small Business Act in the Mediterranean area.

He called for reinforced action under the 2011/2012 work programme which was approved by the Ministers of Industry today.

He highlighted that establishing further cooperation in other areas such as tourism, space policies, extraction of raw materials, as well as technology transfer and innovation is crucial to the further development of the region. A strategy on how to extend EU initiatives in these areas to Mediterranean countries is to be decided.

Moreover, Agreements on Conformity Assessment and Acceptance of Industrial Goods (ACAAs), and how to better facilitate trade were crucial issues discussed by the conference today.

The Union for the Mediterranean consists of a network of 43 countries. The ultimate objective of Euro-Mediterranean industrial cooperation is to create a Euro-Mediterranean region in which companies in Mediterranean countries and the EU can export, import, invest, build business partnerships and create jobs in the same conditions of efficiency and legal certainty as those prevailing on the European single market.

THIRTEEN) – BENIN: SKILLS UPGRADE FOR MIDWIVES SAVES LIVES

Training of midwives in the active management of the third stage of labour targets one of the most common causes of maternal deaths: bleeding after delivery.

"In Benin, the maternal mortality ratio is 397 deaths for every 100,000 live births, and bleeding after delivery alone is responsible for 25 percent of these deaths," says Dr René Daraté, director of maternal and child health at the Ministry of Health.

"The government of Benin has therefore found it necessary to introduce, among other things, the Canadian technique of active management of the third stage of labour (AMTSL) to save women from post-partum haemorrhage," Daraté said.

According to Daraté, himself an obstetrician and gynaecologist, AMTSL is an intervention introduced in Benin which allows the placenta to be easily delivered and ensures the contraction of the uterus.

Active management of the third stage of labour - during which the umbilical cord is tied off and the placenta is expelled - is key to preventing post-partum haemorrhage. It involves giving the labouring woman oxytocin, controlled cord traction as needed (assisting delivery of the placenta), and massage of the uterus once the placenta has been delivered.

To introduce the practice of AMTSL, a vast training programme for health workers was launched with the support from the national budget and several of Benin's development partners. "All 34 health districts of Benin were covered by the training," says Daraté.

Some private clinics in Benin have also benefited from training courses. According to Laurence Odounlami Montéiro, president of the Association of Midwives of Benin, his group trained staff in about thirty private health centres who are now using the technique.

Flore Abalo, a midwife who underwent the training, thinks "AMTSL is a very important technique that all midwives in the country should know. It has considerably improved the quality of our services."

Marcelle Totchénou, head of the maternal health division at the health ministry told IPS that during the pilot phase of AMTSL, an evaluation showed that deaths due to post-partum haemorrhage were reduced by 50 percent.

A national evaluation report on emergency obstetric and neonatal needs is currently in progress. Daraté anticipates the report will give a clearer picture of if Benin is on track to achieve Millennium Development Goal 5, which seeks to reduce maternal mortality rates in 2015 to three-quarters their 1990 levels.

Simultaneously, the country's Fourth Demographic Health Survey is being conducted. "The results will allow us to evaluate again the many techniques in use," he said.

According to Daraté, not all health workers have properly learned the technique. "During the first evaluation

of AMTSL, about five years ago, we observed that less than 13 percent of those trained were practicing it properly. So we had to intensify the training."

Midwives are very pleased with the results. Yollande Johnson says, "AMTSL has contributed to successful deliveries in the clinic. What remains a priority need is the supply of blood [for transfusions]."

According to Professor José de Souza, head of the University Clinic for Gynaecology and Obstetrics in Cotonou, AMTSL has certainly yielded good results, but he calls for effective medical surveillance to accompany the technique. It's important, he says, that people are truly educated and visit health centres and that pregnant women attend prenatal consultations.

De Souza also wants healthy people to donate blood to save lives, because in spite of everything, women sometimes still haemorrhage after delivery, requiring a transfusion.

While training in the public health system continues, in the private sector the strengthening of the capacity of health workers has slowed. Montéiro is asking for a quick resumption of training for the private sector.

"Today we have nearly 4,000 private clinics in Benin, registered or not. To truly have conclusive results, we have to reinforce the private sector, because often the danger comes from quarter," she said.

Daraté shares this view. "We have to continue tirelessly with training because if we are to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, there are still lots to do."

FOURTEEN) - LDCS SEEK MINI TRADE DEAL

Leaders from the Least Developed Countries are making a strong push in Istanbul for a mini trade deal for their 48 impoverished nations - ahead of any worldwide agreement under the Doha Round.

"That is one of the options that is being discussed," Valentine Rugwabiza, deputy director general of the World Trade Organization (WTO) told IPS in an interview Wednesday. "But there are a number of options that are being discussed, and beyond discussions of those options, there will now also be a need to have agreement among members."

Leaders from the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are said to be looking for some kind of deal to fall in place by the end of the year - they aim to secure a pledge of commitment towards that goal at the Fourth U.N. Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC-IV) under way in Istanbul this week. The conference is held every ten years, and the LDC leaders consider this a critical moment to secure their demands. These demands have been put across strongly, says Rugwabiza, who is from Rwanda - an LDC. "They are frustrated about the length of these (WTO) negotiations. A clear sign of that is that they are saying that if the round cannot be completed this year, then we need something, we need results for the LDCs."

The Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations was launched by the WTO in November 2001. The talks have now slowed to almost a halt, and the rise of emerging Southern economies has made the donor-client rhetoric of many players increasingly irrelevant.

LDC leaders, Rugwabiza says have sent a "clear and strong message" that they are "frustrated by the current situation, by the impasse, and by the prospect that in 2011 maybe they will not get the big package that they wanted".

But at the same time, she said, there is a "clear resolve that we are not ready to accept no results. Because we are also members of this organisation (WTO), and we will simply not accept no results."

Rugwabiza sums up the arguments being made by heads of many of the LDCs. "[They say] after all we represent only one percent of global trade. If because of disagreements among major players - developed or emerging developing countries - that we cannot reach an agreement this year, we cannot afford to continue to wait infinitely. Because time does not have the same cost on our and your economies.

"We are not at the origins of this impasse, we are not the ones preventing the round from progressing, but we are the ones who are going to pay the highest cost. In an environment which is deteriorating not because of us, but because of the crisis that was not of our making."

Rugwabiza says the LDCs are emphatic that they want a multilateral trade agreement and that regional and bilateral deals are no substitute for that.

"A number of presidents are coming with a very clear and loud message that the multilateral route is their avenue for multilateral trade rules. They are not ready to leave the multilateral platform of negotiations."

That affirmation seems to have come with veiled warnings.

"There is at this stage a broad consensus around the specific circumstances LDCs are faced with - but there is also an interest of all members to maintain LDC commitment to the system," says Rugwabiza.

"[They say] their involvement and commitment has been very useful, they have contributed in a very constructive manner, they have put a number of proposals that are today a part of the Doha Development

Agenda. Proposals on disciplines regarding cotton, proposals on more flexible and simplified rules of origin, that are much more of a barrier than tariffs for a number of LDCs."

The LDC leaders are saying they clearly have had enough. Their argument, says Rugwabiza, is that they have so far struggled "in an environment that was not necessarily the most conducive, the most supportive, in an environment where we still have a number of barriers, a number of disincentives to adding value to our products, in an environment where we still have tariff peaks, we are still faced with tariff escalation, in an environment where we are still faced with subsidies, and in an environment where we are still faced with lack of predictability."

Zambian President Rupiah Bwezani Banda, for instance, told a meeting on trade that the "concerns of ACP [African, Caribbean and Pacific states - many of them LDCs] have not been fully addressed, though discussions have reached a critical stage". In private meetings with WTO officials, many leaders are reported to have been far blunter.

Many critical rounds of talks have been held between LDC leaders and WTO chief Pascal Lamy in Istanbul. The LDC meeting is not formally a part of WTO negotiations, but trade has been at the heart of talks here.

FIFTEEN) – SUNNI MONARCHIES CLOSE RANKS

Reports that the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) is considering some form of membership for two non-Gulf states – Jordan and Morocco – confirm that the conservative Sunni monarchies of the Middle East are closing ranks against Iran, Shiite-led Iraq and the democratic wave sweeping the region.

[GCC](#) secretary general Abdullatif al-Zayani made the announcement Tuesday after a summit of the six-member group affirmed support for Saudi and United Arab Emirates military intervention against predominantly Shiite pro-democracy protesters in Bahrain.

Zayani did not make clear whether Morocco and Jordan would be offered a second-tier membership in the GCC, which groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, the UAE, Qatar and Bahrain.

Foreign ministers from Jordan and Morocco will meet with GCC foreign ministers to "complete required procedures", Zayani told reporters.

Founded in 1981 in the aftermath of Iran's 1979 revolution and in the midst of the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war, the GCC encourages economic and especially military cooperation among its members, which all border the Persian Gulf. In territorial terms, it would make more sense to offer membership to Iraq or Yemen than to Jordan or faraway Morocco.

However, the wave of popular unrest that has swept the region since January – and toppled once durable pro-Western authoritarian non-monarchies in Tunisia and Egypt – has spread anxiety among conservative Sunni monarchies already unsettled by the Shiite replacement of a Sunni regime in Iraq and by Iran's slow but steady nuclear advancement.

Jon Alterman, director of the Middle East program at the [Center for Strategic and International Studies](#) in Washington, said it was clear that GCC members regard "the success of monarchies in the Middle East as important for regional security and their own security. They want Jordan and Morocco to stay as moderate pro-Western states."

Alterman added that GCC members regard "the experiment of republican military rule [in the region] as a failure. After 50-60 years, it's run its course and the model of choice is enlightened monarchies."

He predicted that the GCC would seek to funnel more investment into Jordan and Morocco to ensure that they survive any popular protests.

Iraq would seem a far more logical member of the alliance given its location and status as a major oil producer.

Marc Lynch, a Middle East expert at George Washington University who blogs at [foreignpolicy.com](#), wrote Wednesday on his blog that "GCC membership, by this argument, might embed Iraq in an institutional structure which firmly rooted it in a pro-U.S. and anti-Iranian camp, while dramatically increasing the size and power of the GCC alliance. But its exclusion from this round isn't that surprising.

"The Gulf states, particularly Saudi Arabia, remain deeply hostile towards and suspicious of the Shi'a dominated Iraqi government in general and Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki specifically. They have never been comfortable with its new democratic forms. "

In a subsequent interview, Lynch said that the move appeared aimed at keeping "the kings on the reservation... This is the Gulf monarchies reaching out to other monarchies to keep them from falling or reforming."

Lynch said he had heard reports that GCC members might also bolster Jordan and Morocco by allowing in more labourers from those two states.

There have been other de-facto additions to the alliance in the past. Former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice worked assiduously to build what she called the GCC plus Two – GCC members plus Jordan and Egypt – to contain an ascendant Iran and to blunt Iranian efforts to gain nuclear weapons capacity.

However, Egypt is no longer led by the predictably pro-Western Hosni Mubarak and has already made moves suggesting it will restore diplomatic relations with Iran.

The Sunni monarchies "are clearly worried about Egypt, which is the center of gravity in the Arab world," Alterman said.

Saudi Arabia was particularly incensed by the fall of Mubarak and has made clear that it will not permit regime change in Bahrain, which is connected to Saudi Arabia's predominantly Shiite Eastern Province by a 16-mile causeway. Saudi Arabia and the UAE sent 1,500 troops into Bahrain on Mar. 14 to shore up the island state's Sunni monarchy after weeks of popular protests.

Following Tuesday's GCC summit, Zayani issued a statement praising "the prudence of the leadership of the Kingdom of Bahrain and faithfulness of its people, confirming that the security of the GCC member countries is an integral issue and that the preservation of stability and security is a collective responsibility."

Bahrain has promised to lift a state of emergency in the country Jun. 1. But hundreds of people have been killed or arrested and more than 1,000 dismissed from their jobs in recent weeks in an effort to tamp down dissent.

GCC officials have portrayed the protests as instigated by Iran and Shiite religious extremists. The GCC statement Tuesday said regional leaders "expressed profound concern over the continual Iranian interference in domestic affairs of the GCC member countries through committing conspiracy against their national security, spreading sedition and sectarian affliction among their peoples and flagrantly violating their sovereignty and independence, the principles of good neighborhood, international norms and laws, the United Nations Charter and the Organization of Islamic Conference statute."

However, Les Campbell, Middle East director for the National Democratic Institute, a U.S. government-backed organisation that teaches democratic practices abroad, said the real issue in Bahrain was lack of equitable popular representation in the parliament and cabinet.

"It's very wrong to portray what is going on in Bahrain as sectarian," Campbell told an audience at the U.S. Institute of Peace in Washington last month. "There is a system in Bahrain that is not representative... In fact in Bahrain, there are many moderate societies and leaders."

SIXTEEN) - DEVELOPMENT: WOMEN DEMAND ACCESS TO WATER AND ENERGY"

"Women in LDCs bear the brunt of economic and social hardships," said Wubitu Hailu, managing director of an Ethiopian NGO, the Kulich Youth Reproductive Health and Development Organisation. The failure to provide access to basic services like clean water and electricity is a major factor preventing women from realising their full potential.

"In Ethiopia, for instance, women travel long distances looking for water and they risk getting raped, abused and abducted. They end up getting involved in early marriages, early pregnancies and unwanted children. She said a cycle of poverty continues to be perpetrated because of this. "These chores are hampering the social and economic development of women around the world and especially in the LDCs."

Hailu said access to water and energy should be basic human rights. She said these services are currently being denied to the people of LDCs.

Up to 2.5 billion people worldwide find basic daily tasks like lighting their homes, cooking a meal or heating water a challenge, according to delegates to the civil society forum at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC-IV) currently taking place in Istanbul, Turkey.

A supply of clean water must be guaranteed for everyone and not conditioned on the ability to pay, according to Maria Lourdes Tabios Nuera, a campaigner for Jubilee South-Asia/Pacific Movement on Debt and Development.

"Water sources must be shared equitably by all and need to be protected and managed properly, democratically and sustainably. Control over water resources and services must be in the public domain and should not be privatised," said Nuera.

In the last two decades, there has been a vigorous movement to privatise water, with a few global water corporations dominating control of water resources and services.

But Nuera said privatisation has led to reduced access for marginalised and impoverished communities and the violation of the human right to water.

"We are fighting for the transformation of states and the establishment of democratic governments so that they become true instruments of people power. These are vital requirements towards sustainable and democratic management of water resources and services."

She called on governments worldwide to address water injustices and oppose policies that take advantage of water crises to justify and push for privatization and turning water into a commodity.

"We are demanding that the U.N. declaration on the right to water should be incorporated into national legislation," said Nuera.

The demand for electricity is also urgent. The LDC conference should affirm people's right to energy that is adequate, reliable, affordable, safe, clean and sustainable, according to Nuera.

"We are calling for the restructuring of ownership of resources, of production, of consumption and towards the transformation of the global economic and financial system," she said. "This is in recognition that this is the only strategic solution to ensure that the power industry is managed well, is shared equitably and democratically."

Uma Chowdhury Director of Sushasoner Jonny Procharavizan, a local NGO for good governance in Bangladesh told IPS that electrification has significant positive impacts on households' income expenditure and educational outcomes.

"The gain in total income due to electrification can be as much as 30 percent," Chowdhury said.

She worried that energy scarcity is one of the main reasons for poverty and accompanied environmental hazards in Bangladesh and other LDCs.

More than 8,000 people - representatives of governments, international agencies, development partners and civil society - are attending LDC-IV. They are expected to produce a plan to lessen the burden of poverty, hunger and disease on the world's most vulnerable people by May 13.

The representatives for the women are hoping to see issues of water and energy access included in the Istanbul plan of action.

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