



EUROPEAN UNION

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**Statement by the High Representative,
Catherine Ashton,
after the meeting of the Contact Group on Libya,
5th May 2011**

Catherine Ashton, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the Commission, made today the following statement:

"Today's Contact Group meeting has underlined the international community's unity and determination to bring the Libyan crisis to a quick and satisfactory conclusion. With the humanitarian situation deteriorating, time is of the essence. Gaddafi must end his attacks against his own people and respect human rights.

Under the leadership of the United Nations, the international community will continue to implement UNSC Resolutions 1970 and 1973 and will intensify the pressure on the Gaddafi regime as part of our responsibility to protect the Libyan population. The European Union will continue to work closely with its partners, including the UN, the Arab League, the African Union, the Organisation of the Islamic Conference and the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Today, following up on our meeting in Cairo on 14th April, I met again with these groups to discuss how to take our cooperation forward. The UN Special Envoy for Libya will be the focal point for the work we will now undertake with a view to a ceasefire and an inclusive national dialogue. This must lead to a political transition that reflects the will of the Libyan people.

We welcome the establishment of the Temporary Financial Mechanism to provide financial support to opposition groups in Libya.

We will work to ensure that this fund is carefully managed to ensure that the money is put to the best possible use, with sound rules, transparency and proper accountability.

P R E S S

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

Michael Mann +32 498 999 780 - +32 2 299 97 80 - Michael.Mann@eeas.europa.eu
Maja Kocijancic +32 498 984 425 - +32 2 298 65 70 - Maja.Kocijancic@ec.europa.eu
COMM-SPP-HRVP-ASHTON@ec.europa.eu
www.eeas.europa.eu

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