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## **Green light for civilian mission to support border security in Libya**

The Council today established a civilian EU integrated border management assistance mission in Libya (EUBAM Libya). It will support capacity building for enhancing the security of Libya's land, sea and air borders and is expected to gradually start deploying in June.

The EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the Commission, Catherine Ashton, commented: *"EUBAM Libya is an important mission for Libya and the entire region, but also for the security of EU borders. The mission responds to a direct request from our Libyan partners and I'm pleased to say that it can now be deployed in June."*

Today's decision is the result of thorough discussions between the EU and the Libyan authorities regarding the country's needs and priorities on how to improve the management and security of the 4,348 km of Libyan land borders together with the 1,770 km of Libyan coastline. The needs assessment on integrated border management which the EU undertook in 2012 helped define the scope and activities of the mission.

EUBAM is to support Libyan authorities in developing capacity for enhancing border security in the short term. European experts will also assist the Libyans in developing a sustainable integrated border management strategy in the longer term, including the necessary structures, in line with the priorities agreed with the Libyan authorities.

# **P R E S S**

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This will be achieved in a gradually expanding and phased approach, through advising, mentoring and training. As conditions allow, EUBAM Libya will progressively address the different land, sea and air aspects of border management, as well as the necessary coordination required by an integrated approach for decision making and effective operational conduct. Management of migration flows, human rights and links to the wider rule of law reform will also be part of the activities.

EUBAM is part of the overall EU strategy aiming at supporting the Libyan transition. The EU stresses the importance of continuing work on disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration. The EU is determined to further strengthen its engagement with Libya, a key neighbour for Europe with whom the EU wishes to establish long-term and mutually beneficial relations.

The civilian mission, which is part of the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy, will initially last two years and have a budget of €30.3 million for the first 12 months. The appointment of Antti Hartikainen (Director General, Finland) as Head of Mission for up to 110 staff is expected for the coming days.

For more information, see the [Factsheet](#).

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