



EUROPEAN UNION

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**Statement by Catherine Ashton, EU High Representative for
Foreign Affairs and Security Policy,
on UNSC resolution and latest developments
regarding the situation in Libya**

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:

“I welcome today's adoption of a resolution by the United Nations Security Council in regard to the events taking place in Libya.

The European Union fully endorses this resolution and will implement the restrictive measures as a matter of urgency. The EU had already started to work on restrictive measures such as assets freeze, travel ban and arms embargo and preparations are already well underway. Formal adoption will take place as soon as possible to ensure full and immediate implementation.

I am in constant contact with international partners, including with the UN and the US, to discuss next steps. On Saturday I met with U.S Under Secretary of State Bill Burns, and I spoke at length by telephone with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to discuss the next steps following today's UNSC resolution. We will continue this conversation when we meet in Geneva on Monday and we continue to coordinate our efforts over the weekend.

Today's UNSC resolution shows that what is taking place in Libya will not be tolerated by the international community. It shows that the international community is united in its efforts to stop the atrocities taking place in Libya. The violation of human rights must stop now. Gaddafi and the Libyan authorities know that their unacceptable and outrageous actions will have consequences. I once again urge him to stop the violence to bring about a peaceful resolution of the situation which is acceptable to the people of Libya. The people of Libya have spoken and Colonel Gaddafi must listen. I stress the need to hold to account those responsible for attacks on civilians and welcome the UNSC decision to refer to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court. Impunity for crimes committed will not be tolerated by the international community.

P R E S S

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The EU continues to work together to coordinate the evacuation of EU citizens and support humanitarian efforts.

The EEAS crisis response arrangements are fully in place, evaluating constantly the situation and recommending action on all fronts: situation of EU citizens and progress on evacuation, political situation, diplomatic efforts -- both in New York and Geneva-- and, together with ECHO, humanitarian assistance.

Following the meeting of the EEAS Crisis Cell on Saturday morning another teleconference with EU capitals was held in the afternoon to coordinate evacuation and consular efforts."
