

The U.E. Position towards the Process of Democratization from North Africa

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Abstract: “In a functional system of collective security, the security issue is not just a concern of the national state, which must be solved by arms and other elements of national power. The security is a concern of all States, who will take care for others’ security as their own.” “*All for one and one for all*” is the motto of the collective security. (Morgenthau, 2007, p. 449)

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The main changes and transformations of the last two decades, in the international security environment, regarded:

- replacing the bipolar world with a “new global disorder,” showing a multitude of ethnic, religious, political and other conflicts, resulting in the collapse of nation states, their disintegration or weakening the capacities to other state structures dealing with new challenges;
- emphasis on processes of globalization and unprecedented development of information technologies, making the world more interdependent and interconnected;
- globalization and information revolution leading to the emergence and growing the importance of new non-state actors, - the transnational companies, mass-media trusts, NGOs, Internet etc. - in the general area of security;
- changing the nature of conflicts and redefining the methods of warfare under the influence of new information revolution, consisting of shifting the emphasis from classical, conventional aspects on to those unconventional, information;
- increasing manifestation of the risks and asymmetric threats, particularly terrorism, because terrorist groups access to at their current technologies, including weapons of mass destruction;

- the growing share of risks and specific cross-border threats to national, regional and international security;
- threats in cyberspace in the form of computer attacks and crime of this nature, targeting information infrastructure, the government critics and business environment, information systems of financial and banking environment, military and security organizations etc. (Naghi, 2010)

The EU-Africa Strategic Partnership

The European Union (Maftai, 2009, p. 226) is the third largest organization in the world, after China and India, with a population of about five hundred million. EU achieves most of the world trade due to the impact of its extent. EU is the largest provider of assistance and consultancy to poor countries. She now faces a fragile world order thus it increasingly engaging more in conflict prevention, peacekeeping and fight against terrorism activities.

The most important EU trading partner is the United States thus creating the Transatlantic Economic Council which has the role to oversee the consolidation of economic relations. EU and U.S. also signed an agreement on combating terrorism, crisis management and conflict prevention.

With Russia, the EU has bilateral relations with oil and natural gas. The two fronts are looking for cooperation on all fronts. The EU's willingness to cooperate on all fronts comes to secure the energy supply. The EU is also wishing a large displacement as to strengthen the ties with six countries in Eastern Europe: Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus. This partnership offers the prospect of free trade agreements in case political and economic reforms are undertaken. The countries intended to benefit from this partnership are transit countries for oil and natural gas to Europe.¹

The Union has created closer ties with the Middle East and North African neighbors. In this respect on 29-30 November 2010 it held in Tripoli the third EU-Africa Summit. The partnership between the two neighboring continents is built on a solid economic, cultural and human foundation. The European Union remains, for example, the main market for exports from Africa, before the U.S. and China. Instead, Africa is already registered 9% of EU external trade. The African countries

¹ <http://europa.eu/>.

also enjoy various preferential EU trade regimes on all areas except for arms and economic partnership agreements to facilitate market access and to produce a trade surplus. In addition, the EU invests about 2 billion euros in developing the cooperation measures related to trade every year (“Aid for Trade”).

However, other emerging powers such as India and Brazil, and above all China, are engaged in gaining a market share. This is true for trade as well and for direct investment and official development assistance. Overall, the EU is still the top partners in Africa, but the weight and influence of other players, particularly China, is growing. One of the key principles of the European-African partnership *is equality in political relations between the two continents*. The dialogue between the EU and African Union confident to take their decisions is also becoming tighter. Africa is a key partner, not just in the United Nations, but also in the G20, and its role and importance are increasing, especially on global issues such as climate changes, new energy, environmental protection and resources, disarmament and non-proliferation.

The security challenges on the African continent are still a matter of primary concern in the EU-Africa partnership. But here there is also evidence that Africa is willing to take responsibility for its future. The African Union and regional African organizations (RECs) are currently building their peace and security architecture (APSA).

EU is the largest donor in supporting these efforts, providing assistance in institution-building and training. In addition, the EU is a key financial donor to political mediation efforts and peacekeeping operations under the auspices of the AU (UNAMID and UNMIS for example, in Sudan, AMISOM in Somalia). Africa is a continent on rise. Although it is still marked by crises and conflicts, Africa is also becoming increasingly known for above average growth over 5% per year in the last decade, with the exception of the recession in 2009. Although this increase is spread unevenly between the two regions and commercial sectors, it is still showing a great potential and growth opportunities on the continent.

Also, the political and cultural changes are increasing. This was shown clearly by the establishment of the African Union (AU) in 2002 and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). Strengthening the role of regional economic communities (REC) in Africa and the emergence of a new political elite predominantly urban, young and well educated in Africa changes the face of the continent. Countries like China, India, Brazil and Turkey are becoming

increasingly active on the continent. All these factors also have an impact on the relations between Africa and Europe. EU has also changed. It now comprises 27 Member States. Successive rounds of enlargement and the Lisbon Treaty extended on the one hand the EU political and economic capabilities, but also created new tasks and challenges in terms of policy coordination and complementarity.

The EU relations with Africa were characterized far too often by severe fragmentation and sometimes conflicting priorities. While some EU member states have maintained for many years the political, economic and cultural relations with different countries and regions in Africa, others are newcomers, compared to Africa and cooperation for development. At Community level, the European Commission has acquired considerable experience in this field in the recent decades and it has concluded a series of agreements with various regions of Africa, providing to parties predictability and security.

Joint EU-Africa Strategy adopted in December 2007 has its origins in the EU Strategy for Africa, which was approved by the European Council in December 2005, without any direct African participation. Its purpose was to give the EU a unique comprehensive integrated and long-term setting, for its relations with Africa. The relatively short document was detailed with concrete projects, in coordination with the African Union. Even at this time, the African partners have expressed the desire to develop a joint strategy with the Europeans.¹

The Commission's Vice Presidency and High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Catherine Ashton said: "The European Neighborhood Policy is a success, the examples of concrete achievements on the field are multiple." She expressed the desire to strengthen links between the Mediterranean and European countries to help each other in the economic crisis and to work together to cope with new threats and challenges of our time such as international terrorism. Also, the High Representative of the European Union certainly believes that there should be cooperation in order to solve disputes and conflicts. Ashton also expressed a desire to bring peace and security for other regions in the world who are less fortunate as they, and that the EU's neighbors should enjoy stability and prosperity that are a corollary for open and democratic society and for state law.

The Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighborhood Policy said: "The continuous *strengthening of the European Neighborhood Policy is nothing but an*

¹ <http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/>.

investment in stability and prosperity of the EU - and this should be reflected in the offer for our partners. ENP is a form of cooperation in which all parties benefit from: the higher the ambitions of our partners are in the reform domain, the stronger is our response. The economic reforms have registered remarkable progress in our neighborhood area, both east and south. As regards the future, it is essential to accelerate the democratic reforms and political area where progress has been real but generally slower.”¹

The agreements concluded by the EU with its partners around the world relate in particular to supporting for economic reforms, health, education, programs for infrastructure development and cooperation in areas such as development, research and environmental policy. Also, this agreement provides a framework for discussing political issues such as human rights and democracy.

The Conflicts in North Africa

The Arab world is drifting. In the recent months the news has been dominated by images of demonstrations and protests against the government in charge. The violence in Libya has sparked outrage around the world and especially deep concern, while in many other countries the situation remains tense after violent confrontations between protesters and security forces. The Security Council of the United Nations and the European Union have imposed sanctions on Libya - including travel prohibition for Gaddafi family and arms embargo. The international community has taken these measures in response to the ongoing violence of the Gaddafi Regime against the people of Libya and thus sending an “unmistakable message”.

The humanitarian situation in the country is disturbing. According to UN estimates, more than 150,000 people have fled from Libya. The aids for refugees are limited along the borders in the neighboring countries of Egypt and Tunisia. The German Government has already provided 2.2 million euro for humanitarian assistance.

In recent weeks there were also several protests in other countries in the region, including Algeria, Bahrain, Jordan, Yemen and Morocco. The wave of protests began in Tunisia on 17 December 2010, where mass demonstrations erupted against high unemployment and the need for political freedom. At first police force acted on the demonstrators, but eventually the long-lasting President, Zâne al-Abidine Ben Ali, was ousted and fled into exile in Saudi Arabia on 14 January

¹ <http://www.euractiv.ro/>.

2011. The Tunisian government declared a state of emergency and Fouad Mebazaa was appointed interim president. Newly formed intermediary Cabinet has the role to prepare the way for new elections within six months.

On 12 February, Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle visited Tunisia shortly after the revolutionary events. He met with representatives of the transitional government, the economic sectors and civil society. According to Westerwelle, Tunisia can be a “model” for the region - if democratization succeeds. The German Government has given concrete support to Tunisia. During his visit, Westerwelle said that the country needed people to feel personally the benefits of democracy - in the form of living standards and better opportunities for the future. As part of the “transformation partnership” with Tunisia, the German government issued an endowment fund of 3.25 million euro to promote democracy, which is intended to support democratic development in Tunisia for the next two years. Westerwelle gave further concrete economic cooperation in the energy sector and support for the development of an independent judiciary system. He also spoke in favor of facilitating the access of Tunisian products to European markets.

After weeks of protests in Egypt, the President Hosni Mubarak resigned on 11 February. The Armed Forces Supreme Council assumed power, dissolved the Parliament and suspended the constitution. The Council is led by Defense Minister Hussein Tantawi. The Council intends to lead the country until elections which will take place within six months, and until a new government is formed. The General Ahmed Shafiq, who was appointed by Mubarak, before resigning, will remain in office as interim and a commission has the role to draft a new constitution by referendum. Foreign Minister Westerwelle visited the country on 23 and 24 February for “sending the signal of our readiness to provide concrete support for the transition process in Egypt,” he said.¹

Chronological Order of Events in Libya

Following the popular uprising that began in Benghazi on 17 February 2011, the Security Council of the United Nations adopted the 1970 Resolution. It establishes an arms embargo, freezing Libyan young leaders and youth activities impose a travel prohibition on senior citizens.

¹ <http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/>.

March 8 – due to the International concern on the increase of the Libyan crisis, NATO has stepped up its surveillance operations in the Mediterranean Sea, sending AWACS aircraft to provide non-stop observation. These “eyes in the sky” provide NATO detailed information on the movements in Libyan airspace.

March 10 - NATO Defense Ministers support the SACEUR decision to send alliance ships in the same area to boost the monitoring effort.

March 17 - UN Security Council adopted 1973 Resolution which authorizes the Member States and regional organizations, among others, to take “all necessary measures” to protect the civilians in Libya.

March 22 - NATO responded to the United Nations call by launching an operation to enforce the arms embargo against Libya.

March 23 - NATO ships and aircraft begin operations in the Mediterranean Sea to ensure that the flow of arms to Libya has been discontinued. They have the right to stop and study any ship suspected of carrying weapons or mercenaries.

March 24 - NATO has decided to implement under UN warrant the flight restrictions on Libya. UN resolution called for a prohibition on all flights, except for humanitarian and aid purposes in Libyan airspace in order to ensure that the civilians and the populated areas are not submitted to air attacks.

March 27 - NATO General Secretary, Rasmussen announced that NATO allies will implement all aspects of UN Resolution - “nothing more, nothing less” – in order to protect civilians and populated areas for attacks or in danger of being attacked by the Gaddafi regime.

April 14 - Foreign Ministers of NATO allies and the non-NATO contributors met in Berlin. They pledged to use all necessary resources and maximum operational flexibility to meet the UN mandate until:

- All attacks will end on civilians and populated areas
- The Gaddafi regime withdraws all military and para-military forces
- Gaddafi regime allows immediate, complete, safe and unhindered access to humanitarian aid for the Libyan people.

August 22 - in a declaration made after the fall of Tripoli City, the General Secretary Rasmussen reiterated the NATO's commitment to protect the Libyan people and the desire that the Libyans decide their future in freedom and in peace.

He said that the international community, primarily the UN and the Contact Group will play a leading role in post-conflict rehabilitation efforts. NATO, however, would take into account the support of these post-conflict efforts, only in the case where there will be demanded or necessary.

September 1 - “Libya’s Friends” - Heads of state and government, and representatives of key international and regional organizations - met in Paris to discuss ways to help Libya’s transition towards a functioning democracy. They agreed that Operation “Unified Protector” would continue as long as it is necessary.

16 September – The UN Security Council adopted 2009 Resolution, which establishes a UN mission in Libya. 1970 and 1973 Resolutions, which mandated international action to protect civilians in Libya remain in force as long as the threats to the civilian population persist.

September 21 - NATO expanded the operation “Unified Protector” by 90 days, with the intention to periodically review the need for sustained operations.¹

As hostilities continue in Libya, the EU imposed sanctions against the Libyan leadership, which it will expand. In the spirit of solidarity, the Member States currently coordinate the repatriation of their own national of the sending State held in Italy and a joint operation border control. There are sent humanitarian aid to the region. EU condemns violence firmly and use of force against civilians and deplores the repressive measures taken against peaceful demonstrators where a large number of civilians was killed. High Representative Catherine Ashton has established a task force, bringing together experts from the European External Action Service and of the Commission to adapt the existing instruments of EU aid for the countries of North Africa. The objective is to establish a comprehensive package of measures tailored to specific needs of each country. A fact-finding mission went to Libya to assess the situation there.²

Western countries, the European Union and the United Nations wanted to give a uniform signal regarding the recent events that took place in Libya and imposed similar sanctions on Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, his family and associates.

Russian President Dmitri Medvedev said at the Kremlin that he forbidden the access of Gaddafi and his family in Russia and stopped its financial transactions

¹ <http://www.nato.int/>.

² <http://ec.europa.eu/>.

with Libya. On 10 March, Russia announced that it would prohibit arms sales to Libya, thus suspending contracts worth four billion dollars that the government had signed with Gaddafi.

U.S. Treasury said on March 11 that extended sanctions on Gaddafi's wife, four of her children and four senior officials of his government. The action involves freezing the assets that they may have under U.S. jurisdiction and prohibits U.S. citizens to carry out transactions with them. On 25 February, President Barack Obama signed an executive order freezing the assets of Gaddafi, his family and the Libyan government. On 28 February, EU governments approved a package of sanctions against Gaddafi and his closest advisors, including an arms embargo and travel prohibition in the Union. The 27 EU Member States agreed on visa prohibition and the sale of goods, such as tear gas and anti-riot equipment. ICC: International Criminal Court will begin investigations in the case of Gaddafi, following the received complaints: measures taken by Gaddafi after the start Libyan protests may represent crimes against humanity, in violation of the international law.

Libya was suspended from the UN Human Rights Council, by unanimous vote of the General Assembly. On 26 February, the UN Security Council unanimously passed a resolution imposing strict sanctions, including travel prohibition, against Gaddafi and members of his government.¹ The European Union and Defense Ministers welcomed the early evacuation of EU citizens in Libya. Although the problem was not originally on the agenda, the Ministers of Defense discussed with the NATO General Secretary the on the informal meeting at Gödöllő, 25 February 2011, and EU High Representative said that the sanctions should be considered against Libya.

“We should consider the potential of sanctions against Libya,” said Catherine Ashton, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. While Libya's situation was not originally on the agenda it came to claim a place of honor. The high Representative spoke about the plans to hold several meetings on the subject, including one with the State Secretary, Hillary Clinton.

¹ <http://www.euractiv.ro>.

NATO General Secretary, Anders Fogh Rasmussen,¹ who also attended the meeting, strongly disapproves the current situation in Libya. “*Crime and brutality are worrying. The most important thing is to protect human life,*” said Mr. Rasmussen. He added that the events in Libya will be the focus of a discussion of an emergency meeting at North Atlantic Council.

In parallel with the meeting of EU defense ministers of NATO discussions, the UN Human Rights Council will also organize an emergency meeting to discuss human rights issues in Libya, at the initiative of Hungary. At the meeting, Hungary will require immediate action against human rights violations on behalf of the EU. However, the UN Security Council will also discuss UN potential sanctions against Libya.²

The EU has imposed the third round of sanctions against of Gaddafi regime in Libya. However, Germany considers that further action is needed, said Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, Westerwelle, at the Foreign Affairs Council in Brussels. Germany called for a complete oil embargo. Westerwelle urged EU allocation of 30 million euros in humanitarian aid for people in need in Libya. “*The EU agrees that Gaddafi's regime is finished and that the dictator must go,*” said Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs after the discussions. He said that in that day the sanctions went further than the UN Security Council resolutions. Three major commercial banks, six other companies, and eleven members were blacklisted on Gaddafi's regime. Foreign Minister was convinced that the European Union should now take into account the Germany's suggestions for a complete embargo on oil. In his opinion, this also requires the inclusion of affiliated blacklisted oil companies. “*It makes no sense to carry out air strikes on Libya to launch bombs, but also at the same time to continue oil trade with the Gaddafi system.*”³

¹ Born in Ginnerup, Jutland, on 26 January 1953. He studied economics at the University of Aarhus. In 1978 he became Member of the Danish Liberal Party. He held numerous positions in government and political opposition throughout his career. Source: <http://www.nato.int/>.

² <http://www.eu2011.hu/>.

³ <http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/>.

The Position of the Main Actors towards the Situation in Libya

On 30 November 2010 it took place in Tripoli, capital of Libya, an EU-Africa Summit. The purpose of this Summit regarded primarily the investment, economic growth and jobs. The German Federal Foreign Affairs Minister Westerwelle declared that peace and security in Africa are also in the interest of Europe, but he also highlighted the main problems that Africa is facing. In this respect Westerwelle proposed a peaceful referendum in Sudan with correct results arguing that this would bring an increase in stability for the entire region.

With regard to Somalia it was said that the European Union purpose was to combat piracy off the Somalia's coast since it threatened women, men and children not only in Somalia but in all East Africa's countries. The Foreign Minister concluded his speech stating that the European Union can do this together with the African Union¹ and other regional organizations, citing the fact that Germany has supported the African Union in the past and he planning to continue to do so.²

On 17 February 2011, at Benghazi it took place a popular movement. Following this revolt of the UN Security Council it was adopted 1970 Resolution to freeze the Libyan free youth activities and to establish an arms embargo. A few days later the same Council adopted 1973 Resolution entitled "No fly zone" authorizing all necessary measures to protect civilians. This resolution it was called for an immediate cease-fire and attacks on civilians. Security Council urged Member States of the Arab League to immediate implement the resolution.

French Foreign Affairs Minister, Alain Juppé, declared that "*the situation on the ground is more alarming than ever*" and that "*the world is facing a wave of revolution so great that it could change the course of history.*" The U.S. Representative said that the Council responded following the cries for help of the Libyan people and that resolution's purpose was clearly to protect civilians. Delegations from India, Germany and Brazil abstained, equally stressing on the need for peaceful resolution and warned against unintended consequences of military intervention. Mark Lyall Grant, the British representative, said he had

¹ The African Union is a federation composed of 53 African Member States countries. The purpose of the organization is to ensure democracy in Africa, the respect of human rights and an economy that benefits from sustainable development, especially by closing all inter-African conflicts and creating a common market in Africa. (Frunzeti, 2007, p. 312)

² <http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de>.

pressed for the adoption of the resolution as the Gaddafi's regime has lost legitimacy violating the Council's resolutions, being about to attack Benghazi. Vitali Ciurkin, the Russian representative said that he refrained although he is against the violence against civilians in Libya. South Africa's representative said he is deeply concerned about what quickly became a civil war in Libya and expressed a desire to solve this conflict in a peaceful way in accordance with the wishes of the Libyan people.

The Romanian President stressed in his speech at the end of the European Council meeting in Brussels the next issue: *"The priorities for the situation in the southern neighborhood are related, primarily by the humanitarian aid and the ceasing violence in Libya. Also, a particular problem, beyond humanitarian aid, is the problem of refugees; it is not only required the humanitarian aid but also solutions. Currently, Tunisia and Egypt have already hundreds of thousands of Libyans, some quartered in camps, others we are still not quartered in camps, which exerts a tremendous pressure on the EU's southern border."*

He also pointed out that the situation in North Africa show that for energy security¹ of EU is required a rapid development of energy supply of the South Corridor. Regarding the solutions to Libya, the Romanian President, Basescu, said that there should be legal, and that if anyone is thinking of a military intervention, it must have legal coverage. Also said that Romania is totally against the EU initiative to create "no fly zone" and that Romania does not support a military solution in Libya, considering that it could be a major political error.²

Germany's Foreign Affairs Minister said on the UN resolution that Germany abstained from voting, but pleased that the resolution contains a significant tightening of sanctions against Gaddafi's regime. The motivation of the vote was as follows: *"We are still very skeptical about military intervention option in Libya, included in the resolution. We see considerable hazards and risks in this respect. Therefore, we cannot agree with this part of the resolution. German soldiers will not participate in a military operation in Libya. Our position towards the Gaddafi regime remains unchanged: the dictator must end the violence against his own people immediately. He must step back and be held accountable for his crimes."*³

¹ energy security means producing the necessary energy in their own country so as to have a reduced dependence as compared to imports. (Bahnareanu, 2008, p. 27)

² <http://www.presidency.ro/>.

³ <http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/>.

The Prime Minister of Great Britain, David Cameron, stressed that the implementation of UN resolution was a success and it is extremely important that the action takes place urgently. He also stressed on the fact that Gaddafi had lied the international community when he promised to cease-fire.¹

State Secretary, Hillary Clinton, said that the United States are satisfied with the vote on the resolution that it is time the international community to convey a clear message saying that Colonel Gaddafi can not continue violence against its own people. At the same time, Clinton said that no one knows what will be the final result, but as a first course of action is the end of violence.²

Italy together with other partners seeks for Libya to “avoid a bloodbath” and finally reach the solution of ceasefire. This was stated by Minister Frattini. He also recalled that Italy was the first country wanted to establish contacts with the National Council of Transition Benghazi, with which it has an “ongoing dialogue” and firmly determined the international community on the condemning side to “repression of the regime” and in favor of sanctions. Frattini confirmed the position of Italy to support a “no fly zone” in Libya, but opposes any “unilateral military action” that has no green light from the UN Security Council and a “a regional framework of legitimacy.”³

Frattini stressed the need for “strong political implications” not only of the Arab League but also of the African Union and then reminded of the international community considering an area as “no-fly” over Libya and a patrol ship off the coast of Libya strengthening the arms embargo. Frattini decided, *inter alia*, that Italy would take part in a “voluntary coalition”.⁴

On 20 March 2011, President Obama issued a statement confirming that it authorized the Armed Forces of the United States to begin a limited military action in Libya in support of an international effort to protect the Libyans civilians, saying that he did so because despite the fact that to Muammar Gaddafi it was given the opportunity to pursue a cease-fire action and to stop the attacks on civilians, he ignored it and continued the attacks on his people. Obama also emphasizes that he is aware of the risks of military action and ensure his people that the use of force is not his first choice and is not a decision that he takes easily, but he could not just

¹ <http://www.fco.gov.uk/>.

² <http://www.state.gov/>.

³ <http://www.esteri.it>.

⁴ <http://www.esteri.it>.

stand idly by when a tyrant threaten his people that there will be no mercy and his forces will intensify the attacks on Benghazi and Misurata city.¹

North Atlantic Council (NAC) and the African Union Commission Chairman Jean Ping had a constructive discussion on the latest developments in Libya on April 5.

They agreed that the African Union plays a key role in achieving a speedy and peaceful solution to this crisis. As NATO's "Operation Unified Protector" is conducted in full compliance with United Nations Security Council 1973 Resolution, the Alliance will continue to maintain a close and transparent dialogue with the African Union and other relevant international and regional organizations. NATO had a very good operational cooperation with the African Union, including logistical support and planning of the AU mission in Somalia.²

On 31 May 2011, NATO General Secretary, Anders Fogh Rasmussen, and the President of the African Union Commission, Jean Ping, met to continue the discussions on the crisis in Libya. Rasmussen stressed the importance of maintaining dialogue with the African Union and with all international and regional key players, as part of the international community's effort to reach a political solution to the ongoing crisis. He appreciated the very good cooperation and practice with the African Union and NATO renewed its commitment on this relationship.³

NATO and its partners have decided to extend the mission to Libya. This decision sends a clear message to Gaddafi's regime: "*We are determined to continue our work to protect the people of Libya. Our decision also sends a clear message to the people of Libya: NATO, our partners and the international community, are with the Libyan people. We remain united to ensure that you can decide your own future. And that day is near.*"⁴

Some Conclusions

After twenty years after the Cold War there are highlighted the risks, dangers and threats to highly diverse world security and stability. In the recent years, especially after September 11, 2001 attacks in the U.S., their forms of expression give rise to

¹ <http://www.whitehouse.gov/>.

² <http://www.nato.int/>.

³ http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/news_74968.htm.

⁴ http://www.nato.int/cps/en/SID-86B050EE-5CFF1A86/natolive/news_74977.htm.

imbalances and crises difficult to detect in a period of time that would allow effective combating measures.

- Today, the security environment is experiencing a situation with profound geopolitical and geostrategic transformations, the essential consequences on the ability of all states to promote and protect national or the coalitions' interests.
- Security has become a basic factor in ensuring a high quality of life in European society and in protecting our critical infrastructures in order to prevent and combat common threats.
- The Treaty of Lisbon extends the EU security role by including the disarmament operations, military advice and assistance and helping to restore the stability after the conflicts.
- Romania's Action on the ways to combat the risks, threats and vulnerabilities regards two means: focusing its national resources and cooperation with allies and international partners.

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