

**FINAL**

**MOTION**  
***On Libya***

**For the EDS Council meeting April 9, 2011 in Budapest (Hungary)**  
***Presented by PWG Human rights***

This motion was composed in front of BBC world news, following the live report from the meeting of world leaders in Paris, the French jets flying in over Libyan airspace, and coalition forces preparing to follow. As these very words were written, reports were coming in of the first coalition shots being fired. In a world where a revolution can start in hours and a war end in weeks, there is no telling what the situation will look like when we gather in Budapest. But no matter the outcome there are things that will need to be done, and events so far that deserve to be criticised.

Libya being a extremely closed country, the reports from the revolution have been sparse and uncertain, but it has been clear that the retribution against the civilians protesting in the wake of the uprisings spreading through the neighbouring countries have been inexcusably harsh. Information about the air force and ammunition originally designed to stop tanks having been used against the un- or badly armed population have leaked from several reliable sources, among them two Libyan fighter pilots deserting to Malta with their jets when ordered to attack their fellow countrymen. Several high ranking officials have left their posts, both in and outside Libya's borders, in word and deed confirming the severity of the situation in the country.

Yet Gaddafi refuses to step down, and few believe he will ever do so voluntarily. The need for the international community to take action is clear, and widely accepted, as confirmed by the far reaching UN resolution 1973 adopted by the security council on 17 of March and the rapid military intervention following.

The road leading up to said intervention has clearly highlighted the problems with a joint view and reaction to obvious crimes against humanity, in the international community but perhaps even more so within the European Union. Reactions were varied throughout the organisation, but if the EU are going to be, and remain, a major force in global politics it is vital to swiftly and clearly take a stand for democracy and human rights in a situation where they are so obviously and directly under attack.

Taking in to account Libya's geographical position as well as its history it is obvious that EU will have a major part to play not only in helping to bring order in a country currently in chaos, but perhaps even more importantly in rebuilding the nation when the smoke clears. Building a democratic state is not easy, but is necessary for humanitarian and geopolitical reasons alike.

Additionally, even if there are differences we have vital experiences to draw from the many successful transition countries in eastern and central Europe and from the examples there of direct democratic support during the building and rebuilding of institutions and a free society.

Therefore we, the European Democrat Students, youth organisation of the European People's Party, call upon the European Union,

- to express support for freedom of speech and right to peaceful protest for all, regardless of nationality, ethnicity or religious background.
- to take a clear stand for democracy in all nations, regardless of geographical location, religious majority or economical interests.
- to take an active and long term role in the democratisation and state building process in Libya.
- to continuously support democratic forces and work to ensure respect for human rights and international law, in Libya and the wider region.