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From: European External Action Service (EEAS)  
To: Political and Security Committee (PSC)  
European Union Military Committee (EUMC)

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Subject: Military Advice on the EU Integrated Approach to supporting the peace process in Libya - Options paper

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Delegations will find below the Military Advice on the EU Integrated Approach to supporting the peace process in Libya - Options paper as agreed on by EUMC on 01 July 2021.

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EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE



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<b>Title / Subject</b>	<b>Military Advice on the EU Integrated Approach to supporting the peace process in Libya - Options paper</b>
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**Military Advice on the EU Integrated Approach to supporting the peace process in Libya - Options paper**

**References:**

- A. EU Integrated Approach to supporting the peace process in Libya - Options paper of 14 June 2021, WK 7864/2021 INIT;
- B. PSC conclusions of 16 June 2021 (CFSP/SEC/0119/21);
- C. Outcomes of Proceedings of the EUMC meeting on tasking of 21 June 2021;
- D. UNSCR 2570 (2021) on composition and operational aspects of the ceasefire monitoring component of the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) of 16 April 2021;
- E. Agreement for a complete and permanent ceasefire in Libya between the Libyan Army of the Government of National Accord and the Libyan National Army of the General Command of the Armed Forces of 23 October 2020;
- F. Military Advice on the draft OPLAN 4.0 of Operation EUNAVFOR MED IRINI as of 18 March 2021, EEAS(2021) 184 REV 3;

**A. INTRODUCTION AND AIM**

1. On 29 April 2021, the Political and Security Committee (PSC) was briefed on the latest political developments in Libya and on EU's common approach to contributing monitors to the United Nations (UN) ceasefire-monitoring component. Member States requested the European Union External Action Service (EEAS) to provide a detailed paper on an EU Integrated Approach to supporting the UN-led peace process in Libya.
2. On 16 June 2021, the EU Integrated Approach to supporting the peace process in Libya - Options paper (Ref. A) was presented to the PSC and the European Union Military Committee (EUMC) was invited to provide its Military Advice on the paper (Ref. B).

3. The aim of this paper is to provide the requested Military Advice and to submit recommendations to the PSC.

## **B. CONSIDERATIONS**

4. The EUMC welcomes the “EU Integrated Approach to supporting the peace process in Libya - Options paper” and assesses that it provides an accurate overview of the EU’s current military activities in support of the UN-led peace process in Libya and that it provides suggestions about what EUNAVFOR MED Operation IRINI could do more within the existing mandate and within an extended mandate. The option paper does not specify concrete suggestions for an EU military engagement beyond that; the main reason for this is that with respect to EU CSDP mission and operation, the aim of the option paper is limited to identifying possible ways to respond to the request of the GNU within current mandates in the short term, or following the elections in the medium term.
5. The EUMC welcomes the EU’s commitment and the progress achieved so far towards elections in Libya scheduled for 24 December 2021, the establishment of a Libyan-led and owned ceasefire monitoring mechanism (LCMM) and the implementation of the respective UN Security Council Resolution 2570 (2021) (Ref. D).
6. The EUMC is concerned about the fact that although the departure of mercenaries and foreign fighters from Libyan territory is one of the most important elements of the ceasefire agreement signed by the Libyan parties on 23 October 2020 (Ref. E), many of them still are present on the Libyan territory.
7. The EUMC highlights the important contribution made by Operation EUNAVFOR MED IRINI to the implementation of the UN arms embargo, to the UN measures against the illicit export of crude oil and other petroleum products from Libya, as well as to the disruption of human smuggling and trafficking networks at sea. In this context, the EUMC recalls the areas of concern listed in the Military Advice on the Operation’s draft OPLAN (Ref. F) and stresses that these areas require an unchanged level of attention, as before, with additional efforts in some of them.

8. The EUMC expresses concern about the continued denial of inspections by a third country that, in addition, maintains a strong military presence in Libya and provides training to selected armed forces in West Libya, as well as to the Libyan Coast Guard and Navy (LCG&N). This is all the more worrying, given that at the same time the training offered by Operation EUNAVFOR MED IRINI to the LCG&N continues to be blocked.
9. The EUMC agrees to consolidate information and threat assessments to evaluate future aerial surveillance over Libya if conditions allow. The EUMC notes that Libyan authorities have expressed a need for EU support on Libya's borders, including in the South. Should the Libyan authorities agree, this may open the possibility of obtaining overflight rights for EU aerial surveillance assets over Libyan territory. With a corresponding expansion of Operation EUNAVFOR MED IRINI's mandate, this would open up new possibilities for the implementation of the UN arms embargo and the LCMM as well.
10. The EUMC acknowledges that a sustainable peace in Libya will necessarily involve the large-scale Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) of combatants as well as a fundamental Security Sector Reform(SSR) and welcomes that the EU will explore how it could best support upcoming DDR and SSR processes in Libya. In this context, an EU military CSDP engagement should also be considered in order not to leave the entire field of activity in the military domain to Third States. To this aim, it should be assessed what kind of support could be provided to the (unified) Libyan military forces. All measures have to be in line with existing UNSCRs, must not be in conflict with the provisions set out in the Cease Fire Agreement (Ref. E) and need sufficient acceptance by the Libyan stakeholders.

11. The EUMC acknowledges that the provision of equipment should be linked to the acceptance of associated training by the Libyan authorities. The EUMC notes that the EU is in a competitive situation with Third States and therefore offers of the EU to the Libyan Authorities, which can also act as incentives and the associated demands must be very carefully dosed and balanced. In this context, the EUMC recalls the need to support Operation EUNAVFOR MED IRINI in its endeavour to establish legal arrangements with the Libyan Authorities, to enable the start of Capacity Building and Training CB&T activities in support of the LCG&N.
12. The EUMC concurs that Operation EUNAVFOR MED IRINI should provide support to the reunified LCG&N in implementing an SSR process when conditions allow.
13. The EUMC emphasizes that all activities should continue to be performed in accordance with International Law, including International Human Rights Law, International Refugee Law and International Humanitarian Law, as well as Rule of Law and the Women Peace and Security Agenda and the Law of the Sea (in particular, UNCLOS and other related instruments). Gender perspective should be systematically integrated and mainstreamed into all activities.

### **C. RECOMMENDATION(S)**

14. The EUMC recommends that:
  - a. The possibility for an extension of aerial surveillance activities by the EU be explored;
  - b. Operation EUNAVFOR MED IRINI be supported intensively in its endeavour to establish legal arrangements with the Libyan Authorities;
  - c. Possibilities for an increase in attractiveness of the support offered by the EU to the LCG&N be explored and grounds for non-acceptance be mitigated;
  - d. Operation EUNAVFOR MED IRINI offers support to the implementation of an SSR process in the LCG&N;
  - e. The provision of equipment be conditioned to the training of the LCG&N;

- f. In the long term and when conditions allow, a military CSDP engagement with a mandate to support the SSR process in the military domain be considered.
15. The PSC is invited to consider this Military Advice and to agree to its recommendations.
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