



Tripoli, 13 April 2014

***EU Border Assistance Mission in Libya concludes latest training for naval coast guards***

On 13 April 2014, the European Union Border Assistance Mission in Libya (EUBAM Libya) presented 110 officers and trainees from Libya's Naval Coast Guard with certificates for the completion of three types of training courses.

The ceremony followed the final practical training for the last group of 15 trainees from Tobruk, in Eastern Libya, earlier in the day. This marked a milestone for EUBAM Libya in that it was the first time that the Mission has trained Libyan naval personnel from outside the Tripoli area, despite considerable security challenges.

The five courses which EUBAM's Naval Coast Guard Unit has provided since January 2014, are:

- Three courses in Basic Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat (RHIB) Operations and Maintenance;
- One Introductory Boarding Officers course; and
- One Introductory Search and Rescue (SAR) Mission Coordinators' Course.

Speaking at the ceremony, Dr. Peter Rundell, Acting Head of EUBAM Libya, saluted the professionalism of the trainees, noting that the EUBAM instructors had spoken very highly of their performance, and adding that "this augurs well for the future of Libya's border protection."

"The Libyan Naval Coast Guard plays a significant role in keeping Libya's borders safe, meeting its international obligations, and maintaining good relations with its neighbours, including with the EU," said Dr. Rundell.





The ceremony was also attended by the Chief of the Libyan Navy, Admiral Hassan Ali Bushnak, who thanked EUBAM Libya for the training which the Mission has been providing to the Navy and Naval Coast Guard over the past year.

Noting the challenges faced by Libya on its maritime border, Admiral Bushnak highlighted his strong appreciation for this example of cooperation, adding that it is needed by both Libya and the EU. He also thanked the Mission's instructors for their hard work, as well as the trainees for their commitment and professionalism - including those who had come all the way from Tobruk.

**EUBAM Libya supports the Libyan authorities in developing border management and security at the country's land, sea and air borders.**

