

9th MAY 2014 EUROPE DAY EUROPE IN THE WORLD



Arab Spring

Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Jordan, Syria

Priorities

Historical changes brought by the Arab Spring have a major significance for the EU as a neighbour and partner of the region. The EU is fully engaged to provide a long-term technical and economic support to the transition towards sustainable democracy and inclusive growth. Priority areas of EU support are:

- **Democratic transformation, respect of human rights and rule of law.**

Economic reforms in favour of SMEs and job creation.

- **Strengthening the role of civil society and non-governmental organizations.**

- **Freedom, security and justice.**

- **Development of people to people contacts.**

Top 3 Facts

The EU has mobilised over €700 million in new grants to support the building of democratic institutions and foster a more inclusive development, as well as €1.7 billion of additional loans available for the region through the European Investment Bank. The EU has also disbursed € 430 Million in Macrofinancial Assistance to Tunisia and Jordan and supported the extension of the EBRD mandate to the region with a potential capacity of € 2.5 Billion.

The EU has created a Civil Society Facility for the development of NGOs in the region, and a European Endowment for Democracy to support emerging social movements and grass-root organizations.

To open new trade and investment opportunities, negotiations of Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreements (DCFTA) have been opened with Morocco, and are actively prepared for Jordan and Tunisia. Dialogues on migration, mobility and security aimed at agreeing on mobility partnerships have been launched with Tunisia and Jordan. A Declaration on Mobility Partnership was signed, and a Fisheries Agreement was concluded with Morocco (2013).

Did you know?

EU deployed full electoral observation missions in Tunisia, Jordan and Algeria and provided support to elections in Libya and Egypt (2013). The EU deployed short-term experts to witness presidential elections in Egypt (2013) and the constitutional referendum (2014), as well as to the election for the Constitutional Drafting Assembly in Libya (2014). The EU tripled its financial support to the Southern Mediterranean leg of the Erasmus Mundus program, enabling 2 575 students and academics to participate in exchange programs in 2010 – 2012.

The EU has continued to promote an end of violence and a genuine political transition, based on the **full implementation of the Geneva Communiqué of 30 June 2012**, and preserving the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Syria.

The EU and its member states are supporting the process for the destruction of Syria's chemical weapons.

The EU and its member states are the largest humanitarian donor for the Syrian crisis in Syria and the neighbouring countries. The total response from EU and member states to the crisis stands now at € 2.6 billion.

Cairo :
Catherine Ashton, beneath the logo
of the Cairo conference on Libya.



Arab spring:
Catherine Ashton,
on the right, receiving a
T-shirt with the
inscription
Free Libya.

Benghazi:
European Union
office in Benghazi.



Arab spring:
Catherine Ashton, 3rd
from the right, talking
with children, and
Agostino Miozzo, on
the left.

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Main links:

EU in the world

<http://storify.com/EUintheWorld/the-arab-spring-the-eu-s-response>