



Brussels, 12 May 2014
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STATEMENT

on the death of migrants at sea off the Libyan coast

"We deeply regret the death of a large number of migrants who have drowned off the Libyan coast in recent days. We wish to express our condolences to the families of the victims who died tragically while trying to reach Europe.

We call on the Libyan authorities to intensify their efforts to prevent more tragedies in the future, as Prime Minister Abdullah Al Thinni committed himself to do yesterday. The EU will continue to support the Libyan authorities in areas related to migration, including where appropriate through its mission on Integrated Border Management (EU BAM Libya).

The nationalities of those who have died illustrate once again the need to tackle migration in a comprehensive manner, involving countries of origin, transit and destination, with full respect for human rights and human dignity. EU and African Heads of State who met at the EU – Africa summit in April this year stressed the importance of addressing the root causes of irregular migration between Africa and Europe. The EU, which puts the fight against extreme poverty and human rights violations at the heart of its external action, is determined to continue its tireless efforts towards a lasting solution to this phenomenon."

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

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