



## JOINT STATEMENTS

# 5th meeting of the EU-Egypt Subcommittee on Political Matters, Human Rights & Democracy

The Subcommittee on Political matters, Human Rights and Democracy- International and Regional Issues- of the Association Agreement between the Arab Republic of Egypt and the European Union held its fifth session in Cairo on January 10-11th 2018.

The meeting was jointly chaired by H.E. Ambassador Raouf SAAD, chairman of the National Bureau for the Implementation of the Association Agreement, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Colin SCICLUNA Acting Managing Director, Middle East and North Africa, European External Action Service.



The meeting took place when Egypt and the EU are launching a new level of cooperation and dialogue, and a whole set of cooperation priority programmes and projects in a wide range of areas based on their Partnership Priorities 2017-2020.

The two sides conducted a comprehensive and frank political dialogue covering many issues of mutual interest, on the bilateral, regional and international levels, including the Middle East Peace Process, Syria, Libya, the situation in the Arab region, peace and security in Africa, Nile water issues, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, Euro-Mediterranean cooperation including cross border cooperation and the Union for the Mediterranean. They took stock of the latest developments in all these issues and explored ways to further promote their dialogue and cooperation, including in multilateral fora, to foster their efforts towards attaining peace and stability in the Mediterranean and beyond.

They also focused on the bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the areas of human rights, democracy, the rule of law and fighting corruption. They took stock of the positive steps taken, as well as challenges, faced in these areas by both sides and emphasized the importance of pursuing their dialogue and cooperation to further achieve more concrete progress in line with their constitutional and international obligations. They recognized that some differences of views on some issues are a natural part of a vibrant and constructive dialogue among partners.

Both sides recognized the importance of benefitting from the experience of the past few years, and expressed their determination to strengthen their dialogue and cooperation

through a comprehensive and balanced approach in addressing all areas of mutual interest and common challenges, in the interest of both Egypt, the EU and the Middle East at large.

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