

**Question for written answer E-002994/2011
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Creation of escrow account to hold ongoing payments to Libya's oil industry

On 28 February 2011, following the UNSC resolution of 26 February 2011, the EU adopted, sanctions against Libya, including an arms embargo, a ban on internal repression equipment, visa bans, restrictions on the admission and the freezing of funds and economic resources, in response to the grave human rights violations by the Gaddafi regime against the Libyan people. These measures were extended on 10 March 2011.

To date these sanctions have not resulted in the halting of the brutal slaughter of the Libyan people by the Gaddafi regime. Neither have these sanctions prevented payments to the Libyan National Oil Company (NOC). Consequently the significant funds still available enable the Gaddafi regime to exercise brutal force and to buy allies, in particular by recruiting sub-Saharan African soldiers¹.

Subsequent calls by the Interim Transitional National Council of the Libyan Republic (TNC) the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Arab League, some EU Member States and the ALDE Group to impose a no-fly zone over Libya have not lead to concrete action by either the EU or the UNSC. As the EU and the international community fail to address and stop the grave violence in Libya and until now are only capable of supporting the democratic forces in Libya in words but not in actions, we urge the Commission to consider the following measures and ask it to take the lead in urging the EU and the international community to act now:

1. Is the Vice President/High Representative willing to take the lead in the establishment of a UN-governed unified international escrow account² – under Chapters VII and VIII of the United Nations Charter – to which all payments by the international community to NOC, the Central Bank of Libya and similar entities can be diverted? If not, why not?
2. If the Vice President/High Representative is willing to take the lead in the establishment of such an account, is she also willing to appoint the Arab League, the African Union and the Organization of the Islamic Conference as the primary responsible parties in governing the international escrow account? If not, why not?
3. Is the Vice President/High Representative willing to call upon the EU Member States to free up frozen assets of the Gaddafi regime in the EU and provide these to the rebels, as represented by the TNC, following a similar initiative by the US?³ If not, why not?

¹ http://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/16/world/africa/16mali.html?_r=1&smid=tw-nytimes&seid=auto

² As is also requested a.o. by the Genocide Intervention Network/Save Darfur Coalition.

³ <http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/03/15/us-libya-usa-assets-idUSTRE72E79X20110315>