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Benelux Joint Statement on Libya

The Benelux is pleased to see that the Libyan people, after 42 years of dictatorship, are so close to realising their aspirations for a free and democratic Libya. Their determination and persistence have culminated in the defeat of the Gaddafi regime. Gaddafi must step down immediately to avoid further bloodshed and to make way for a new Libya. Those who have committed crimes against humanity should answer for their actions before the International Criminal Court. We therefore welcome the arrest of Saif al-Islam Gaddafi.

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Benelux Joint Statement on LibyaBrussels, 22nd August 2011The Benelux is pleased to see that the Libyan people, after 42 years of dictatorship, are so close to realising their aspirations for a free and democratic Libya. Their determination and persistence have culminated in the defeat of the Gaddafi regime. Gaddafi must step down immediately to avoid further bloodshed and to make way for a new Libya. Those who have committed crimes against humanity should answer for their actions before the International Criminal Court. We therefore welcome the arrest of Saif al-Islam Gaddafi. The NTC and all opposition forces should now assume their responsibilities and ensure the protection of all Libyans, while fully respecting human rights and humanitarian law. A rapid stabilization of the country is necessary, so democratic reforms, rule of law and economic reconstruction can be launched. We believe that the international community and especially the UN should play a central role in ensuring a smooth and peaceful transition. For its part, the Benelux, bilaterally and within the EU as well as the UN, is committed to support Libya, in every way necessary, based on the concrete needs of the Libyan people. Benelux countries will continue their close cooperation within the International Contact Group on Libya, and look forward to a meeting of that Group at the earliest possible moment. Once again, the Benelux countries salute the courage of the Libyans who have fought and are still fighting for their freedom. It is they who made this victory possible. We hope that they will soon take their first steps on the road to a new democratic Libya, a Libya that guarantees the freedom of all Libyans, based on respect for human rights and the rule of law.

FPS Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation -Press service (P&C/P) Rue des Petits Carmes 15 1000 Brussels Belgium +32 2 501 81 11 http://diplomatie.belgium.be

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Karl Lagatie Spokesperson +32 477 40 32 12 Karl.Lagatie@diplobel.fed.be

Arnaud Gaspart Deputy spokesperson +32 2 501 87 66 Arnaud.Gaspart@diplobel.fed.be