



P R E S S R E L E A S E

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**KARL VON WOGAU:
LIBYA UNCOVERS SHORTCOMINGS OF EUROPEAN SECURITY AND
DEFENCE POLICY**

At a meeting of the Kangaroo Group in the European Parliament concerning Libya, Karl von Wogau, Kangaroo Group Secretary General, said in his introduction:

Concerning the movement towards liberalization in North African countries, the European Union has not met the expectations which have to be placed in it.

It was particularly painful that the Member States were unable to agree on a common position regarding the implementation of the decisions of the Security Council.

The European Union's Security and Defence Policy emerged as a response to a similar situation. The Balkan civil wars had made it clear that the European Union has to be able to secure peace at least within its geographical neighborhood.

If all other means fail in conflict situations, the EU also has to be able to take military action. The aim of the European Security Strategy is to ensure the capacity for autonomous action of the Union.

The discussions about the no-fly zone over Libya have revealed that – more than ten years after the Helsinki decisions – the European Union's much-quoted capacity for autonomous action has still not been realized.

Supporting freedom movements on the other side of the Mediterranean is first and foremost a political issue, and only partly a military one. This is why the European Union is better equipped for this task than NATO. The European Union's partnership approach to Mediterranean politics is of vital importance in this context.

For this reason, it is not acceptable that the foreseen humanitarian intervention of the European Union is further delayed. The European Union has to prove here that it is able to act in solidarity across the borders of the Mediterranean.