

Conclusions

Shadow European Council

On the Arab revolt

Brussels, 22 March 2011

1. On 17 December 2010 the self-immolation of Mohamed Bouazizi sparked a revolution in Tunisia. After the Tunisian dictator Ben Ali fled, demonstrations started in Egypt, spreading to the whole of Northern Africa and the Middle East. From the beginning it has been clear that these revolts are about freedom, democracy and the strive for a better life. fight against poverty.

In these revolts people are fighting for the same universal values that Europe stands for and that inspired the creation of our European Union. Hence we therefore have the duty as Europeans to learn from our past and revise and support them through all possible means. The hesitation the European Union has shown on Tunisia, Egypt and Libya is not acceptable. The Shadow European Council therefore calls on the European Council to

- acknowledge the legitimate aspirations of the populations in revolt and support their realization
- impose with the international community necessary sanctions to those regimes that use violence against their people
- engage a thorough revision of our external relations policy, based on an evaluation of our past policy, especially the Neighborhood policy, in order to put at its core the values of human rights, democracy and human dignity that are enshrined in the texts founding the EU.

In any case the EU failed and even violated the Treaty. The total lack of consistency in foreign policy of the European Union and its Member States has made the Union ridiculous. Certainly the different position and vote on the UN resolution 1973 of the European Member States was highly absurd. Article 34 of the Lisbon Treaty stipulates that the Member States should coordinate their action in international organisations and conferences and that the High Representative should organise this. We ask that this coordination should urgently start. We finally need a European foreign policy.

Libya:

2. The Shadow European Council welcomes UN resolutions 1970 and 1973 and the necessary steps taken to further prevent the bloody repression of Col. Kaddafi against his own people and the democratisation process. The Shadow European Council deplores the lack of consistency displayed by EU member states in the UN Security Council and their damaging effect on the effectiveness of the Union and its credit on the international scene. . This reduces the effectiveness of the Union but also increases its discredit in foreign affairs. This is why the Shadow European Council asks the European Council to unanimously condemn what is happening in Bahrain, Yemen and Syria.

3..We welcome the Council Decision of 28 February to ban arms supplies to Libya and call in this respect the European Council to investigate whether there have been breaches in the EU Code of Conduct on arms export by Member states.

4. We urge the Council to recommend to its members to activate the Temporary protection Directive (2001/55/CE) and share together responsibility for the reception and relocation of those who can't return to their own country because of the current situation, particularly the most vulnerable ones (migrants and refugees).

Bahrain

5. Sharing the international concerns about the deteriorating situation in Bahrain, we urge the European Council to condemn the intervention of Saudi-Arabia and its contribution to the crackdown on demonstrators and to take specific sanctions against the regime.

Syria

6. We condemn the events of 16 March in Damascus and the violent reactions of the Syrian government against its own people. As a first step to increase the pressure and support the demonstrators, we call for the Partnership agreement negotiations to be frozen until the human rights situation has significantly improved.

Yemen

7. The Shadow European Council also condemns the violent reaction of the governments of Yemen against their own people. The Shadow European Council urges the government to grant its people freedom of opinion and take the necessary steps towards a regime of liberty and democracy the Yemenites are asking for.