

Workshop on Libya, ahead of December 24 elections

A closed doors meeting on Libya, took place last week among partners, scientific advisors and friends of ΣΤΡΑΒΩΝ. Amb. Vas. Moutsoglou and Univ. Prof. Dr Asteris Houliaras briefed participants on recent developments in and around Libya. In what follows we present the conclusions reached.

We wish the elections to take place in time, as it has been agreed in March 2021. Opinion was registered that Libya before going to elections should have adopted a new Constitution, providing inter alia for a fairer power and revenues sharing, compensating the East. Participants unanimously stressed that the most urgent and pressing necessity to re- unite Libya is departure of all foreign forces.

Turkish interests in Libya are known and well noted. Yet, Ankara's exorbitant and unlawful pursuits at land and at sea are utterly unacceptable and cannot be tolerated. Looking at the anthropographic landscape in the run up to the December elections, it was deemed reasonable that all political forces supporting unity of Libya -perhaps in the format of a workable federation- should be able to compete, without exclusions whatsoever. We support candidates who can appeal beyond tribal allegiance and geographical divisions, being able to restore stability and achieve reconciliation, no matter their family lineage.

Our immediate objective is to neutralize the consequences of the turkish-libyan memoranda of December 2019. We believe that a mutually beneficial libyan-greek agreement on the maritime zones can be negotiated. We are in favour of an holistic reset of our bilateral ties, encompassing all areas of cooperation, political, economic, security, cultural (archeology). In this respect we took note of the upcoming visit of the Deputy MFA Mr. Fragoyiannis to Tripoli. Without prejudice to our all-Libya engagement, our focus might be directed upon eastern Libya (Cyrenaica) for both geographical and historical reasons.

Greece is aware of Libya's key importance for stability in Europe and the Mediterranean; joining forces with countries such as France, Greece underlines its appreciation of challenges on Europe and the Med, emanating from the Sahel, the soft underbelly of Libya.

Stravo of Amaseia

Athens, 4 October 2021