

## **LIBYA: The long road to national reconciliation**

Roughly a month ago the Libyan transitional Government of National Unity (GNU) was established and took office in Tripoli. Head of Presidential Council was voted Mohamed al Menfi, former ambassador to Athens, while Prime Minister is Abdel Hamid Dbeibah. The Libyan House of Representatives convened in Sirte, cradle of late Gaddafi, and on March 10, 2021 formally approved the results of the UN sponsored election process. The set up of the NGA executive reflects a rough equilibrium between Tripolitanian West and Cyrenaican East.

The task of the transitional power structure is daunting; bolstered by the UN (Special Envoy the Slovak, bearer of a legendary family name, Jan Kubis) and the EU, the appointed executive power representatives are bound to organize by December 2021 and preside over all Libya parliamentary elections due to endow the fractured country with a new government. The GNU will try hard to persuade extra-Libyan factors to withdraw their military personnel, mercenaries, weaponry from Libya. They will also try to collect arms from all feuding Libyan factions. This is a Sisyphus work. To the least, GNU might be able through painstaking endeavours, performed with dedication and skill, to avoid a resurgence of the Libyan in- fighting. If they manage to avoid flare up of the tribal/ civil war and put back in place the oil and gas production facilities they will have been credited with a huge service to the country.

On March 25, Foreign Affairs Ministers of France, Germany and Italy converged to Tripoli, while two days later the Libyan Premier ventured to Ankara, purportedly to advocate for a withdrawal of forces of Turkey from the western parts of the country where they are deployed. Any real progress in this front, would pave the way for foreign backers of General Haftar s Libyan National Army to remove their assets. For the moment, Libya remains a Turkish-Russian quasi condominium, with France, Egypt and Greece harbouring grave concerns as Turkey is being entrenched in the country, and Italy, another frontline country to migration flows, pursuing its traditional economic interests.

Greece, unjustifiably non invited in the Libya-Berlin process, readies itself to engage with the Government of National Unity, playing her part in the endeavours to pacify and reconstruct Libya, as the country remains crucial for her national security and multifold interests.

An upcoming visit by PM Mitsotakis, will be a clear indicator of Greece s longing for stability in her immediate neighbourhood to the South, while it will pave the way for a new, forward looking stage in the bilateral relations.

Stravo takes pride, as our first public event in December 2016 dealt with LIBYA.

**Stravo of Amaseia**

**Athens, 31 March 2021**