



THE TRIPOLI POST

Libya, EU Launch Landmark Negotiations

Elobeidi: Tripoli will Contribute to a Partnership as Much as EU can be Useful to Libya

Negotiations started in Brussels on Thursday on the EU-Libya Framework Agreement.

European Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy, Benita Ferrero-Waldner, joined by the EU Presidency, formally launch the negotiations in a meeting with the Libyan representatives led by Abdulati Elobeidi, Secretary for European Affairs, and Mohamed Tahar Siala, Deputy Secretary at the General People Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation of Libya.

The future agreement will establish the framework of the relations between the EU and Libya.

Mr. Elobeidi, said Libya would "contribute definitely to an efficient partnership with the EU, as much as the EU on its side can be useful for Libya.

"We are very pleased with this beginning and we are very much aspiring to the future," he added.

The accord will cover political, social, economic, commercial and cultural relations, between the European bloc and Libya.

"This was a long awaited moment since the 2004 EU's decision to lift the sanctions against Libya and to start a policy of engagement with this country. I am pleased that we can finally launch these negotiations," Ms Ferrero-Waldner said.

The future agreement, if concluded in

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EU Commissioner for External Relations Benita Ferrero-Waldner, right, addresses the media together with Libya's Secretary for European Affairs Abdulati Elobeidi at the EU Commission in Brussels, Thursday Nov. 13, 2008. Ferrero-Waldner launched negotiations for a Framework Agreement between the EU and Libya to strengthen the political, economic, commercial, social and cultural relations between both parties.(APPhoto)

Israel Stops UN Food Distribution to Starving Palestinians in Gaza

The United Nations announced it was suspending food distribution to half of Gaza's 1.5 million people on Thursday after Israel failed to allow emergency supplies into the Palestinian territory.

"They have told us the crossings are closed today. At the end of today we will suspend our food distribution," said UN Relief and Works Agency spokesman Chris Gunness.

"Our warehouses are effectively empty," he told AFP.

Meanwhile, the Israeli military killed four Palestinians

along the Gaza border on Wednesday after a nearly five-month during which Hamas respect a declared cease fire.

A Hamas spokesman called the killing of the gunmen "an enormous Israeli crime which constitutes a grave violation of

the truce."

UNRWA usually distributes emergency food rations to about 750,000 people in the

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Right: Palestinians hold candles during a protest against power cuts in Gaza November 13, 2008.



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