



THE TRIPOLI POST



North African defense ministers at their two-meeting in Tripoli, Libya, where they launched the Command of North Africa that will be part of the African Union's standby force.

Defense Ministers Launch North Africa Command as Part of the AU's Standby

Tripoli, Libya-- North African defense ministers who held their second two-day meeting in Tripoli have launched on Tuesday the North African command that will take part in the standby force of the African Union.

At the meeting, Libya handed the responsibility of coordinating and follow up tasks

of the North Africa Command to its newly established executive secretariat.

The chairman of the Libyan experts' delegation Abdulrahim Salah told the meeting that "by doing so, we fulfill our countries' commitments as to the MOU that the African heads of state had signed."

Mr. Salah said in a

concluding statement, "Great efforts had been made by all parties whose impact was the adoption of positive decisions."

The meeting discussed a number of significant issues related to the organization and management of the new regional command. This include the location of the possible headquarter of the new force, the

2009 budget, plans of the regional training centers, the bylaws of the Committee of the Chiefs of Staff and the total number and types of weapons to be adopted by the force.

During this meeting, participants are scheduled to discuss the proposed practical framework for the establishment of the region's brigade, its forces

Continued on page 2

Gas Exporting States Establish "Gas OPEC"

Gas exporting states on Tuesday finalised the creation of a new Qatar-based forum aimed at coordinating gas policy that consumer countries fear could become the gas equivalent of oil cartel OPEC.

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin warned at the meeting of ministers from the

Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) in Moscow that the "era of cheap gas" was over and that consumers would face higher prices in the future.

"A new organisation has been born today.... The charter has been agreed. The headquarters will be in Qatar," Russian Energy Minister Sergei

Shmatko said after the meeting.

The forum groups Russia, the world's biggest gas producer, with other gas-rich states such as Iran and Qatar and a dozen other gas-exporting countries.

The GECF had been dreamt up at a meeting in Tehran in 2001 and ministers have met annually

Continued on page 9



Phone	021 444 4044
	021 444 1452
	021 444 2010
Fax	021 333 0530
Mobile	002 61 4 6702
	091 21 4 0652
e-mail	info@arkno.com
web	www.arkno.com

AIR FRANCE KLM

Five times weekly to Amsterdam

Book at www.klm.com or via your travel agent

The Reliable Airline **KLM**
Royal Dutch Airlines



No.1 in Paints

Tel : +218 21 477 7811 Fax : +218 21 478 0718 www.jotun.com

The Tripoli Post would like to take this opportunity to wish all its readers the very best for Christmas seasons and the New Year 2009.