O September 10th, the Libyan Ministry for Foreign Affairs hosted the International Coordination Meeting on Border Management, co-chaired by EUBAM Libya and the Libyan Government. The meeting was opened by the Libyan acting Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ms. Wafaa Bu’giegis.

She expressed her hope that the International Coordination Meeting (ICM) on Border Management would be the starting point for future planning, and emphasised that these meetings are important for Libya. Her ministry will continue to provide "political commitment" and "support" to the Border Management Working Group (BMWG) set up by the Prime Minister. She made a particular point of welcoming representatives from Libya’s neighbours.

As EUBAM Libya’s acting Head of Mission Peter Rundell explained, the ICM is an important forum. Its role is to coordinate the international community's activities in order to avoid duplication, to prevent critical gaps in assistance, and to make sure that support reflects Libya’s priority needs. It should become a forum for the coordination of planning and of thought, as well as activities, and the venue to respond to the needs identified by the BMWG.

Abdul Rahman al-Ageli, the Rapporteur of the BMWG and representative of the Prime Minister's Decision Support Office, gave an overview of the coordination structure set up by the Libyan authorities. He explained that the BMWG is made up of mandated representatives from the ministries and agencies that have roles in border management. He explained that the Prime Minister had set up the BMWG to ensure the necessary coordination on the international, political, and technical level as part of the Government’s overall security sector reform and governance strategy. The working group's objectives are:

(i) To coordinate between all relevant stakeholders on creating a national strategy;

(ii) To monitor and coordinate implementation of the national strategy;

(iii) To act as focal point on border affairs.
The BMWG has so far established three sub-groups to take forward specific goals together with EUBAM:

(i) To draft an Integrated Border Management (IBM) White Paper with representatives from all relevant ministries;
(ii) To establish a Border Integrated Security Operations Network (BISON);
(iii) To undertake an IBM pilot project at Tripoli Airport.

He expressed the hope that the BMWG would be able to provide a model for similar working groups in other areas of security sector reform.

The ICM also began a strategic review of the wide range of assistance being provided to the Libyan border management agencies, mapping them against the key components of Integrated Border Management.

Information for Editors

Established in May 2013, EUBAM Libya supports the Libyan authorities in developing border management and security at the country’s land, sea and air borders. It has no executive function, and the Mission is to achieve its objectives mainly through the transfer of know-how, not funds. In practice, the work will be carried out through advising, training and mentoring the Libyan authorities in strengthening the border services in accordance with international standards and best practices, and by advising the Libyan authorities on the development of a national Integrated Border Management (IBM) strategy.

Though the Mission is based in Tripoli, it has also begun assistance to other parts of Libya. Airport officials from all Libya’s international airports attended a seminar on airport security in July. The Mission has conducted fact-finding visits to Misrata and the border crossing points with Tunisia, and recently conducted an initial training programme for border agency staff in Ghadames.
European Union Integrated Border Management Assistance Mission in Libya