

# Joint statement from the UK, with France, Germany, Italy and the US, to welcome the ratification of Libya's interim Government of National Unity

Press release

The governments of France, Germany, Italy, UK and the United States of America welcome the vote by the House of Representatives to endorse the interim Government of National Unity.



France, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom and the United States of America welcome the vote of confidence by the overwhelming majority of the members of the House of Representatives meeting in Sirte 8-10 March to endorse the cabinet chosen by Prime Minister-designate Abdulhamid Dabaiba for an interim Government of National Unity.

We applaud the Libyan people for their determination to restore unity to their country. We commend all Libyan actors for constructively participating in and facilitating this vote by a body representing the voices of the Libyan people.

This outcome is a fundamental step on the path towards the unification of Libyan institutions and a comprehensive political solution to a crisis that has tested Libya and its people. Through the Berlin Process, we will continue to support the Libyan people and the UN efforts jointly with our partners.

We appreciate the statement issued by Prime Minister Sarraj welcoming the vote of the House of Representatives and expressing readiness to hand over power, and now call upon all current Libyan authorities and actors to show the same responsibility and ensure a smooth and constructive handover of all competences and duties to the interim Government of National Unity. The new interim executive authority will have the primary tasks of organizing free and fair Presidential and Parliamentary elections on 24 December 2021, followed by a transfer of authority to Libya's democratically chosen leaders;

fully implementing the 23 October 2020 ceasefire agreement; commencing a process of national reconciliation; and addressing the basic needs of the Libyan population.

France, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom and the United States of America welcome the withdrawal of foreign forces and mercenaries from the area around Ghardabya airport, in order to allow members of the House of Representatives to safely participate in the parliamentary session in Sirte, and praise the work of the Joint Military Commission 5+5 to make this possible. It is important that such a development represent an irreversible step towards the full implementation of the 23 October 2020 ceasefire agreement, including the withdrawal of all foreign fighters and mercenaries from all of Libya.

We express gratitude to the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) and the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary General for Libya, Jan Kubiš, for their tireless efforts to stabilize Libya and ensure stability and prosperity to its people.

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## [Joint statement of the governments of France, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America on Houthi Attacks](#)

Press release

The governments of France, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America condemn the sustained Houthi offensive on Yemeni city of Ma'rib.



We, the governments of France, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America, condemn the sustained Houthi offensive on the Yemeni city of Ma'rib and the major escalation of attacks the Houthis have conducted and claimed against Saudi Arabia. Their determined attack on Ma'rib is worsening an already dire humanitarian crisis.

Our renewed diplomatic efforts to end the Yemen conflict, in support of the UN Special Envoy, with the support of Saudi Arabia, Oman, and the international community, offer the best hope for ending this war. We urge the Houthis to seize this opportunity for peace and end the ongoing escalation.

We reiterate our firm commitment to the security and integrity of Saudi territory, and to restoring stability and calm along the Saudi/Yemeni border. We reaffirm our strong support for a swift resolution of the Yemeni conflict, which will bring much-needed stability to the region and immediate benefit to the people of Yemen.

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## **[Decision to call-in: West Cumbria Coal Mine](#)**

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## **[Foreign Secretary statement in Norway: 11 March 2021](#)**

Ine thank you so much, it's cold and snowy outside, certainly even for us Brits, but a very warm welcome. Thank you so much for your hospitality and I think above all for Norway's friendship. We really value it and I believe we can do even more in the months and years ahead.

As Ine said, I had a meeting with Minister Ulstein, we're looking forward to

the roundtable with Nordic Foreign Ministers later on this afternoon. Again, the different areas of collaboration I think are really exciting for us. We've obviously got a long-standing partnership across many areas, from the 'force for good' work we do within aid and development through to security collaboration.

We are fellow NATO members. UK armed forces have trained in Norway with your brilliant troops for over 50 years. I think one of the most professional partnerships we have – certainly very prized on our side.

We stand shoulder to shoulder with you in defending the North Atlantic and countering threats in the region. And now I think it's fantastic having you on the security council – so many areas of common interest – but more importantly common values.

Norway, the incredible contribution you are already making, whether it's on climate change or the recent initiative we worked together on to allow COVID-19 vaccinations to take place in conflict zones, so having a ceasefire moment in conflict zones for that vaccination.

Your lead on humanitarian issues in Syria is also I think laudable and something that we respect to learn from and also want to support. We are also building a new economic partnership. I think the negotiations on the new Free Trade Agreement with EEA EFTA members are going well.

Of course, there are always issues we will haggle on but for us the political imperative of a win-win deal is extremely important. And of course it builds on the agreement we signed last year to make sure we've got full rights for UK citizens living in Norway, and also Norwegians living in the UK. Just to say that we think the contributions Norwegians make in the UK is brilliant, they are always welcome and always valued.

So, as I said, our partnership is one of shared values, as champions of democracy, human rights and the international rule of law. We want to get the vaccine delivered obviously at home but also to the poorest and most vulnerable countries around the world.

We are pursuing sustainable development, we want to bounce back economically from this terrible pandemic in a more sustainable and greener way. All areas where we're working together and, of course, with the UK hosting the COP26, in wanting to switch the dial on climate change, we couldn't have a better partner than our Norwegian friends in making sure that we are ambitious, that we are getting other countries locked into a deal which can really serve as a step forward.

We are delighted to sign the memorandum of understanding on increased cooperation in the Polar Regions. Because after all we're not just North Sea neighbours, we are also neighbours in the Antarctic. And, of course, the Polar Regions are the fastest warming places on the planet and that has implications for all of us because of the impact on sea levels.

So I'm delighted today that we've committed to work on scientific research

and also for advocating increased protections for the Arctic and the Southern Oceans which again Norway leads on and I know that your Prime Minister is really committed to as well.

Above all, there's a huge amount of interest for our citizens in all this collaboration, whether it's on trade or security cooperation and I think the scope for Norway and the UK being an even stronger force for good in the world in the weeks, months and years ahead is enormous and I'm very optimistic that that relationship will go from strength to strength.

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## [New Law Officers sworn-in](#)

The Rt Hon Michael Ellis QC MP was sworn-in today at the Royal Courts of Justice as Attorney General for England and Wales.

The Rt Hon Lucy Frazer QC MP joined the new Attorney General at the ceremony where she was sworn-in as Solicitor General for England and Wales.

The Lord Chancellor, the Rt Hon Robert Buckland QC MP, and the Lord Chief Justice, the Lord Burnett of Maldon, spoke at the ceremony to welcome the Law Officers into their new roles.

The Lord Chancellor, the Rt Hon Robert Buckland QC MP said:

Law Officers hold a historic and important role in our democracy – ensuring governments act lawfully, while overseeing the vital work of our prosecuting authorities. As a former Law Officer myself, I well appreciate their vital work.

I have no doubt that the new Attorney General and Solicitor General will bring the energy, diligence and independence these positions require, and I look forward to working with them as we continue to build back confidence in the justice system.

Commenting on his new appointment the Rt Hon Michael Ellis QC MP said:

It is a privilege to be sworn-in as Attorney General for England and Wales. I am also delighted to see Lucy Frazer sworn-in as Solicitor General.

I would like to thank both the Lord Chancellor and the Lord Chief Justice for their warm words in welcoming me to the position. I very much look forward to working with them in the unique roles we each play in upholding the rule of law at the heart of the UK constitution.

Commenting after the ceremony, the Rt Hon Lucy Frazer QC MP said:

It is a great honour to be sworn-in as Solicitor General for England and Wales and I thank everyone for their kind words since my appointment.

This is an important role and I look forward to working with the Attorney in making law and politics work together at the heart of Government decision making.

The Attorney General is the Government's chief legal advisor and also attends Cabinet. As well as providing advice to government, the Law Officers oversee the Law Officers' departments which include which include the Crown Prosecution Service and Serious Fraud Office, and the Government Legal Department and HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate.

The Law Officers carry out a number of functions in the public interest, such as considering unduly lenient sentences, and taking action when there has been a contempt of court. These functions are carried out independently of their role as government ministers.

#### Notes

The Rt Hon Michael Ellis QC MP was appointed Attorney General for England and Wales on 2 March 2021 by the Prime Minister. He has replaced the Rt Hon Suella Braverman QC MP who is on maternity leave.

The Rt Hon Lucy Frazer QC MP was appointed as Solicitor General for England and Wales on 2 March by the Prime Minister.

#### Biographies:

The Rt Hon Michael Ellis QC MP: Michael Ellis was appointed Attorney General on 2 March 2021. He previously held the position of Solicitor General from July 2019 to March 2021. He was Minister of State at the Department for Transport from 23 May 2019 to 25 July 2019. He was Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport from January 2018 to May 2019. He was Deputy Leader of the House of Commons from 17 July 2016 to 8 January 2018.

Michael was appointed as Queen's Counsel in July 2019. In October 2019 he was appointed a member of Her Majesty's Privy Council.

The Rt Hon Lucy Frazer QC MP: Lucy Frazer was appointed Solicitor General on 2 March 2021. She previously held the position of Minister of State at the Ministry of Justice from July 2019 to March 2021. She was Solicitor General from 9 May 2019 to 25 July 2019. She was Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Ministry of Justice.

Prior to becoming an MP, Lucy was a barrister and was appointed as Queen's Counsel in 2013. Lucy was appointed a member of Her Majesty's Privy Council

on 10 March 2021.