



MEDIA RELEASE

DR CRAIG EMERSON

Minister for Trade and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs

31 August 2011

Emerson to attend Paris meeting of Libya Contact Group

Acting Foreign Minister Craig Emerson today flies to Paris to represent Australia at a meeting of the Libya Contact Group.

The meeting, to be held tomorrow (September 1), will be co-chaired by French President Nicolas Sarkozy and UK Prime Minister David Cameron. It will also be attended by Hillary Clinton, US Secretary of State, and key figures from Libya's National Transitional Council (NTC).

"I welcome France's initiative to host this meeting after the dramatic events in Libya over the past week," Dr Emerson said.

"The meeting will allow Australia and the broader international community to hear from the NTC about what Libya needs in recovering from this conflict and making the transition to democracy."

Australia is the third-largest humanitarian donor to Libya, having already given \$36.5 million, and is committed to supporting the Libyan people.

The Government urges Muammar Qaddafi to give himself up and for his forces to put down their weapons and stop the senseless bloodshed.

"It is clear that the months ahead will be critical for Libya's political transformation," Dr Emerson said.

"The Australian Government welcomes the NTC's statements committing to a new Libya that respects democracy, equality, justice and the rule of law."

Australia is a full member of the Libya Contact Group.

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