

Arab League

*Advanced
Specialized*



TOPICS: The Situation in Libya, The Dependence and Disparity of Petroleum Export Income in Arabic Countries

CHAIRS: Jacob Goldberg, Audrey Davis

LAIMUN XXVIII

December 3-4

The Situation in Libya; Recent Updates

It has been nine years since Muammar Qaddafi, the former military dictator of Libya, was ousted in a bloody civil war that killed 15,000 people. The initial civil war, added on with conflict with ISIS forces in the next few years, has severely weakened the Libyan state. In 2022, Libya will have an extensive underground human smuggling operation. Many immigrants hoping to reach EU territory in Italy use Libya as an intermediate stop, and from Libya, they can cross the mediterranean sea to reach Europe. Libya's borders remain porous, particularly in the southern Fezzan, facilitating an increase in the trafficking and smuggling of illicit materials, including weapons.¹ Weapons smuggling is still seen in large amounts as leftover Libyan military equipment from the former military dictatorship is sold on the black market. Libyan internal security and stability are also in a shallow state with a recent gunfight in tripoli that was fought between two political groups leading to a clash that killed 30 people. This kind of political division and splits have become common in Libyan politics as the government works to create a sustainable democracy in a continuously unstable environment. The presence of law enforcement is also thin, with many non-state groups used as law enforcement. These groups' use of sometimes inhuman ways to keep order is questioned and not justified under international law. Libya also has long and arduous tribal and factional feuds between the different ethnic groups, leading to conflict and fighting. This, in turn, complicates the systematic unity of Libya as a state and damages any effort to fix these issues through the use of international aid groups and any centrally organized and controlled programs proposed by the unitary state government.² While

¹ Find All the Latest News about Libya (2022) *Euronews*

² Libya - United States Department of state (2022) *USDS*

all this has negatively impacted Libyan stability and peace, the Libya tourism sector is waiting to be revitalized as it can become an economically sustainable tourism system for Libya. As Libya is a hidden treasure stove of tourism from ancient Roman ruins to its historically underground homes, the tourist sector is waiting to bloom.

Works Cited

“Find All the Latest News about Libya.” Euronews,

<https://www.euronews.com/news/africa/libya>.

“Libya - United States Department of State.” U.S. Department of State, U.S. Department of

State, 22 Mar. 2022, <https://www.state.gov/countries-areas/libya/>.

The Dependence and Disparity of Petroleum Export Income in Arabic Countries; Recent Updates

Many Arab countries are overly reliant on oil and petroleum exports, with nothing else able to sustainably produce income for the state. Countries that include the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, and Iraq all have an over-dependence on oil and petroleum exporting, which needs to change. As these nonrenewable energy sources are not infinitely obtainable, there will be a time when it runs out, and the country needs something to rely on for state income.³ Oil prices also frequently fluctuate, making the sector very unstable as states need to rebalance and rethink state funding each time there is a price fluctuation. Greater economic diversification is needed to expand the private sector and job-producing growth.⁴ Although economic diversification is essential, security must be acknowledged as a critical factor, as many states like Iraq, Yemen, and Libya have unstable economic and political situations.⁵ All these things combined have labeled the economic reliance on Oil and Petroleum exports as dangerous and unreliable. Especially with the new situation in Ukraine, Russian Oil and Gas have been blocked by western sanctions, gas prices have spiked, and Opec has been forced to increase the amount of oil produced for the international market. However, this move has strained many OPEC members, leading to an even more over-reliance on oil and petroleum as an income for the state. In the last couple of months, because of the sanctions on Russian gas and oil, Arab countries have been upset by the increased demand for oil and petroleum exports. They have been strained

³Economic Diversification in Oil-Exporting Arab Countries (2021) *ETOAC*

⁴ Economic Diversification in Oil-Exporting Arab Countries (2021) *ETOAC*

⁵ El Mallakh, R Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (1977)

in their production and output. States like the United States have repeatedly pressured Arab oil and petroleum exporters, weakening many of its relations with the western world. With the world demand for Arab oil and petroleum increasing every year, there is much to speculate on what future awaits these Arab countries.

Works Cited

Economic Diversification in Oil-Exporting Arab Countries.

<https://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2016/042916.pdf>.

El Mallakh, R. “Organization of the Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries: Objectives and

Potential.” *Annu. Rev. Energy*; (United States), 1 Jan. 1977,

<https://www.osti.gov/biblio/7088099>.