## Foreign Minister Westerwelle talks with Syrian opposition in Cairo

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## Welcome

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While in Cairo to attend the <u>EU (European Union)</u> Foreign Ministers Meeting with the Arab League, Foreign Minister Westerwelle has met with the new president of the "National Coalition" of the Syrian opposition, Sheikh Ahmed Moaz al Khatib.

Foreign Minister Westerwelle assured Sheikh Moaz al Khatib of German support for efforts to establish a united opposition platform and a credible alternative to the Assad regime.

Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle issued the following statement after the meeting:

We greatly respect the bringing together of important opposition groups under one roof that was accomplished in Doha. That is an important step forward.

To make a fresh start in the political sphere possible, it is now imperative to reinforce the cohesion of this coalition and see it develop into an alternative to the regime in the eyes of all Syrians.

To the best of its ability, Germany will support the opposition's efforts to achieve unity and to put an end to violence.

Foreign Minister Westerwelle invited Sheikh Moaz al Khatib to visit Berlin soon.

Overview "Newsroom"