



### **THE EUROPEAN UNION BEFORE THE LIBYAN CRISIS OF 2011: NEUTRAL AND HUMANITARIAN ACTION OR, RATHER, DEMOCRATIC AND INTERVENTIONIST?**

The author points out that the profound discrepancy emerged during the crisis/war in Libya between policy statements, legal justifications and military operations of Member interveners (in particular, those of the European Union) must be addressed by the scholars adopting models that describe in a credible way the reality on the ground. The political aim of replacing democracy to the Gaddafi regime, expressly set out in the Union's statements, and the intensity, the modes and effects of NATO military operations have nothing to do with the most narrow and stringent purpose and action limits set out by the political and legal narrative of humanitarian intervention, and even with those, humanitarian, neutral and certainly not democratic and interventionist too, established by the doctrine of the responsibility to protect.

Looking ahead, the paper concludes that, despite the European reluctance expressly invoking the “democratic reason” as the foundation of their strategies, it seems plausible to foresee the strong opposition (and not just in words) of the rest of the international society to any claim to modify the general rules of international law (beginning with the prohibition of use of force and interference) that are instrumental to the implementation of the new model of democratic intervention.

(Abstract by the editorial staff)