



Ministero dello Sviluppo Economico

PRESS RELEASE

Mission by the Minister Claudio Scajola to Lybia: «We will strengthen our friendship and Italy's economic presence. »

The Minister for economic development Claudio Scajola will arrive in Tripoli this afternoon for a two-day official visit, the first by an Italian minister since the coming into force of the bilateral Treaty of Friendship, Partnership and Cooperation signed in Benghazi on 30 August 2008 by Italian premier Silvio Berlusconi and Libyan leader Mu‘ammar al-Qaddafi.

« We shall confirm to the Libyan government our friendship and our desire to strengthen still further Italy's position as leading economic partner, both for trade and the presence of Italian businesses – including small and medium-sized companies – on the Libyan market, » declared Mr Scajola.

On Thursday morning Mr Scajola will address the conference «Italy and Lybia: partners for sustainable development in the Mediterranean» and in the afternoon he will inaugurate the Tripoli International Fair at which Italy is « Guest of Honour ».

Mr Scajola will hold meetings with Prime Minister El-Mahmoudi, the Minister for the Economy, Trade and Industry El-Hawej, the Foreign Minister Kusa and the Finance and Planning Minister Zlitny, whom Mr Scajola met on 13 February in Rome.

The mission will also serve as an opportunity for Italy to renew its invitation to Lybia to participate at the G8 Energy Ministers Meeting in Rome on 24-25 May.

Rome, 1 April 2009