

*Wednesday, 5 February 2014 - Strasbourg*

### *Debate*

Pino Arlacchi (S&D ). - Madam President, it is time for the EU to stop taking sides and positions at every political turn in the Egyptian transition. Europe should focus its attention on the quality of institution-building. Therefore, our efforts should all be directed at strengthening the rule of law and bolstering institutions and economic reform.

To that end, I attach primary importance to major issues such as asset recovery. The restitution of frozen assets is – over and above its economic significance – a strong signal against the impunity for corruption and money laundering that has so far been enjoyed by unscrupulous political leaders in Egypt and elsewhere.

I would reiterate that the only way to build a sustainable democracy in Egypt is by following the path of national reconciliation and inclusive political process. Any ban, exclusion or repression directed against any political force or actor in Egypt repeats past mistakes and leads only to increased radicalism.

[source: [www.europarl.europa.eu](http://www.europarl.europa.eu) ]