

## **Italian Ambassador Meets With Acting Prime Minister Abdullah al-Thini**

Italian Ambassador Giuseppe Buccino Grimaldi met with acting Prime Minister Abdullah al-Thini on 28 May. The two officials discussed Italian-Libyan relations as well as the dispute over the legitimacy of Prime Minister-designate Ahmed Maetig's election. Al-Thini explained his refusal to hand over power to Maetig by stating that the decision came in response to a determination by the Justice Ministry that the election was not held in accordance with proper parliamentary procedure. In response, Grimaldi emphasized the keenness of Italy and the international community to see Libya's factions resolve the dispute through dialogue. Grimaldi also affirmed that the European Union, United Nations, and United States of America are willing to support such a dialogue.

*Based on media reports in: al-Wasat, Libya al-Mustakbal*