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**Romano Prodi proud of his friendship with the Leader**

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In an exclusive interview with Great Jamahiriya TV and its Satellite Channel on the occasion of the 36th Anniversary and the advent of its 37th year, broadcast Tuesday night, Romano Prodi, the former president of the

European Union, expressed his pride of his personal deep ties of friendship with the Leader of the Revolution which has great impact in promoting the relations between the EU commission and Great Jamahiriya during his presidency of this commission and between the European and African Unions.

Prodi stressed that his meetings with the Leader were followed by all European countries which hastened in coming to Libya, which "made us very happy" he said.

" I am pleased today to voice my greetings to my brother, the Leader, Muammar al-Gadhafi and I would like to express that in Arabic "thank you very much and blessed anniversary", he added.

"We have began an important stage of this friendship, which I hope will not be at only governments level , but must be built between the Libyan and Italian people" he added. Stressing that permanent relations are those among peoples .

Prodi asserted that the historical visit of the Leader of the Revolution to the headquarters of the European Commission in Brussels had led to new era in the relations between Great Jamahiriya and the Commission pointing out that he was very eager to establish relations of friendship with Libya.

He also commended the direct people's democracy applied by the Libyan people in Great Jamahiriya and said: "I was among the lucky ones to have the honor of attending the session of the General People's Congress, and I was eager to see how every body is taking part in this congress and this is an important starting point for the Libyan people and I am very interested to see this development on the Libyan arena.

He went on to say: we are satisfied today to see the European nations racing to build strong ties with Libya and feel very happy after we opened the way not only for us but for all.

Prodi called for developing relations between Libya and Italy, stressing in this connection on the need to address the previous colonial era in a way that is satisfactory to both sides and to reach an agreement for a better

future relations between the two countries.

In relation to the join declaration signed between the two countries, Prodi underlined the need to implement and to honour such international agreements and that there is no way to think of implementing one part and leaving out the other.

He stressed the importance that the Mediterranean Sea be a bridge for cooperation among its peoples, and that this sea will be a center of relations between its countries North and the South, calling upon all European countries and Italy in particular to adopt a Mediterranean policy and to realize that its future is connected with the southern side of the Mediterranean.

Prodi lauded the strategic achievement realized by the African continent through the African Union and he said that 9/9/99, which was the birthday of the African Union, is still vivid in my memory, stressing that this day, deemed an historic day, that opened a new page for the countries of the continent. Calling for assisting this African Union which means helping the future of Africa.

In this connection, he praised the Jamahiriya role in promoting this Union and he said that Libya has played great role in the triumph of the African Union, calling upon other countries to follow the Jamahiriya example in its firm stands. He said that we see Libya as an example that must be followed and that Europe must follow this example.

Prodi highlighted the treasures and wonderful tourist sites enjoyed by the Great Jamahiriya, in addition to its beautiful beaches, historical ancient ruins and its attractive desert.

He said: we anticipate a prosperous future for tourism in Libya due to beautiful beaches, ancient sites and splendid desert that amazed me.

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