



EUROPEAN UNION

Delegation of the European Union to
the Republic of Lebanon

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PRESS RELEASE

EU Ambassador Christina Lassen visits Tripoli

Ambassador Christina Lassen, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Lebanon, visited Tripoli today where she met with the President of the Municipality, Ahmad Kamareddine, as well as political leaders and deputies. Discussions focused on the situation in the city and the needs of the local population. The visit was also an occasion to discuss some of the important programmes the European Union is carrying out in Tripoli, including support to the Municipality, social services, education, upgrading of the water sector, support to the private sector and a future project that will target youth and vulnerable areas.

Ambassador Lassen met with representatives of local NGOs in Bab al-Tebbaneh and Jabal Mohsen neighbourhoods. She also visited the Cultural Café in Syria street to underline EU's support for dialogue and reconciliation between the two communities.

The trip to Tripoli was a chance to visit two EU-funded projects. One project aims to make the Municipality of Tripoli able to better coordinate with civil society organisations on development issues and to improve health and education services for the local population. The project also foresees establishing a community centre for Bab al-Tebbaneh and Jabal Mohsen neighbourhoods. The second project aims at improving public services at municipal level while enhancing municipal finance efficiency. It focuses on improving and extending water supply facilities and will result in the drilling and equipping of a new water well. The well will be connected to the main water supply line in Al Qobbeh and Bab al-Tebbaneh, which will improve the water supply conditions of the population in both areas. The project is implemented by the Social and Economic Fund for Development.

Ambassador Lassen said: "Tripoli has undergone a difficult period during the past years marked by security incidents and continuing economic problems, especially unemployment that has in particular affected its young population. It is therefore a priority for us all to ensure that the city prospers as a vital economic and cultural centre for the benefit of North Lebanon." She underlined that "it is essential to dedicate special attention to communities which are most vulnerable. Without job opportunities and access to basic services, citizens cannot develop their full potential." Ambassador Lassen added: "The European Union has welcomed the successful holding of the municipal elections, and is eager to work with the Municipality of Tripoli and all parties to handle these challenges. To that effect, we have embarked on ambitious development initiatives across many areas, in particular in the most underprivileged parts of the city."