



**EUROPEAN UNION**  
European Union Delegation to  
Egypt

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**Press Release**

## **European Union Continuing support for Water and Irrigation Sector in Egypt**

**Ambassador James Moran, Head of the European Union Delegation to Egypt, and Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation inaugurated the launching ceremony of the EU Technical assistance cooperation in the water sector at the Conrad Hotel on January 18. The EU will show its full support to donor coordination and investment harmonization in the water sector. The event is part of the EU's continued commitment to sustainable development and to achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the water sector in Egypt.**

The EU has a long lasting commitment to work with Egypt to ensure proper and adequate service. It aims at providing support in improving the quality of life and supporting the socio economic development of the country. The EU believes that water is a key to sustainable development in Egypt as it is needed for health, food security and economic progress. However, recent developments brought new pressures; with one of three people worldwide currently experiencing high water stress. In Egypt, fifty per cent of the populations do not have access to sanitation. By 2030, nearly half the global population could be facing water scarcity with demand outstripping supply by 40 per cent. The issue of water is associated with the limited availability of fertile land exercises which puts an overwhelming shadow over Egyptian agriculture, keeping Egypt as a food deficit country. Innovative approaches are a necessity in order to utilize the strategic groundwater reserve and to optimize reuse of drainage in agriculture. In this way, the widening gap between water needs and the insurance of food security and safe access to water for drinking and agricultural purposes can be closed.

Ambassador James Moran, Head of European Union Delegation to Egypt said: *“The EU Egypt cooperation in the water sector stretches over a wide portfolio of programmes covering 9 Egyptian Governorates and total direct Grant funds of nearly **300 Million EUR** in six different Programmes, leveraging funds of nearly **1 billion EUR** in the sector with other European Development Partners, covering 9 Egyptian Governorates, with estimated end users benefiting from these projects up to **8.5 Million inhabitants**. Estimated permanent created jobs is **6000** and **150,000** created Jobs during constructions”.*

## **Background**

The event is funded by the EU's Water Sector Reform Programme-II (WSRP-II). Following the success of WSRP-I, in which **€80 million was granted**, the Government of Egypt and the European Union agreed to allocate an additional grant of **€120 million**, disbursed on the basis of a new set of jointly agreed reform benchmarks in this second phase of the WSRP (2011-2015). The beneficiary Ministries and institutions are the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, the Ministry of Finance and the Holding Company for Water and Wastewater. The overall objective of the WSRP-II is to support the Egyptian government in continuing the reform programme of the water sector in accordance to the objectives of the National Water Resource Plan 2005-2017 (NWRP 2005-2017) and the recently adopted Water and Wastewater Sector Development Policy (WWSDP). The overall budget is 120 Million EUR of which 10 Million EUR **is dedicated** to technical assistance to the ministries.

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