

The EU and Egypt: Partners in Development
Speech by Ambassador James Moran, Head of the European Union to
Egypt
Egyptian Museum 30th May 2016

Ministers, Excellences Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

- This wonderful museum embodies many things, among them over a century-long history of collaboration between Egypt and Europe, which continues today. Indeed the EU is contributing to the ongoing renovation of the Tutankhamun Gallery here, as some of you might know. May is also the month when we celebrate the founding of the European Union.
- So this is perhaps the ideal place and time to mark the EU-Egypt partnership for development. And let me give special thanks to Minister Khaled El Enany for his help in staging this event here.
- We want to share with you information and experience about our cooperation in the strategic sectors of education, culture, rural development, research and innovation, water and irrigation, energy, and support to civil society organisations.
- To do so, I would invite you to take a look at the information booths, which highlight these areas, and to interact with our

project teams. Let me thank all of them for their exemplary effort and commitment to make today's event possible.

- A major aim tonight is to help make our cooperation **more accessible and tangible**, to let you to get **first-hand knowledge and information** from our projects and project partners, especially EU member states, where we combine our actions in many areas.
- So let me keep this short, in order for you to discover our projects yourself when visiting the stands and meeting the stakeholders.
- Just let me say that ongoing EU assistance here is now over **EUR 1.1 billion**, exclusively in **grant form**. This is in addition to the assistance provided by EU member state programmes.
- Let me add that almost **45%** of the more than EUR 1.1 billion in EU grants have been allocated to provide key support to **social, human and economic development** in Egypt, much of this in **education and rural development**.
- Over 2/5ths of EU grants contribute to improving the country's **infrastructure and its environment**, mainly by supporting strategic investment projects in the areas of water management and irrigation, energy, in particular clean energy, and also transport. These contributions have helped to leverage major additional concessional loans of over 2.3 Billion Euro from European Development Banks, like the EIB, for these purposes.

- We also support actions in **economic development and trade**, and in **governance**, institution building, support for the judiciary, gender equality programmes and human rights, as well as in Research & Innovation, which involves hundreds of Egyptian Universities and Institutes working with European counterparts under the Horizon 2020 and RDI programmes.
- Finally, I want to draw your attention to the booth on EU support to Civil Society Organisations (CSOs): All over the world, a healthy and active Civil Society is key to inclusive development, better governance and poverty reduction, and it is an essential element in our development partnerships everywhere.
- At the end of the day, this is all about helping people to better themselves and their lives. We all know that Egypt's success depends on that, and let me be clear: the EU badly wants this country to succeed: so it is good that over 10 million Egyptians, in every Governorate, are benefitting from these programmes.
- Cultural cooperation is a very important part of our partnership and after the speeches; we would like to present some short performances by EU-supported local artists that reflect Egypt's vibrant and rich cultural life and heritage.

I wish you a fruitful and enjoyable evening.

Ambassador James Moran

Head of the European Union Delegation to Egypt