

EU-Jordan Human Rights, Governance and Democracy Subcommittee

Press Release

(Amman, 27 January, 2010) – The fifth round of the Human Rights, Governance and Democracy Subcommittee between Jordan and the European Union took place in Amman today.

To date, the European Union is engaged in dedicated human rights discussions with close to 40 countries around the world. This human rights dialogue with Jordan takes place in the context of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP). Jordan has been the first ENP partner to hold regular human rights subcommittee meetings with the EU.

The Jordanian delegation was headed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and included representatives of numerous line ministries. The EU delegation was headed by the European Commission and Spanish Presidency. A number of EU Member States attended the meeting.

The EU-Jordan human rights dialogue was held in a collaborative and open atmosphere, with an exchange on a wide range of issues of mutual interest and concern. The agenda for the Human Rights, Governance and Democracy Subcommittee meeting provided for a review of the implementation of the EU-Jordan ENP Action Plan in this area. Discussions addressed homegrown reforms, including the reform of the electoral framework, freedom of the media and freedom of expression and women's rights.

The agenda also included a first exchange of views on the content of the enhanced relations in the area of human rights, governance and democracy. As an answer to Jordan's request to enhance the relations with the EU, the EU-Jordan Association Council in November 2009 reiterated a commitment from both sides to upgrade the relations.

This fifth round of the Human Rights, Governance and Democracy Subcommittee was preceded by a meeting with civil society organisations in Brussels.

Ten different expert-level technical groups established under the EU-Jordan Association Agreement review the progress under the current Action Plan and exchange views on the content for the future enhanced relations, which will be based on a new EU-Jordan Action Plan.