



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 14 December 2012**

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**LIMITE**

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**"I/A" ITEM NOTE**

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from: General Secretariat of the Council

on: 14 December 2012

to: COREPER/Council

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Subject : **Relations with Jordan**

- Adoption of the European Union's position for the Association Council's tenth meeting

(Brussels, 19 December 2012)

**COMMON GUIDELINES**

**Consultation deadline for Croatia: 17 December 2012**

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1. In preparation of the tenth EU-Jordan Association Council, the "Mashraq/Maghreb" Working Party has finalised the European Union's position as follows:
  - Annex I: draft EU statement;
  - Annex II: draft agenda.
2. Subject to confirmation by the Permanent Representatives Committee, the Council is asked, as an "A" item at its next meeting, to approve the draft EU statement and the draft agenda as set out in Annexes I and II hereto.

**TENTH MEETING OF THE  
EU-JORDAN ASSOCIATION COUNCIL  
(Brussels, 19 December 2012)**

**Draft Statement by the European Union**

1. The European Union welcomes this **tenth Meeting of the EU-Jordan Association Council** which provides an excellent opportunity to take stock of the development of our relations and bilateral cooperation. The EU values Jordan as a key partner in both the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and the Union for the Mediterranean and is committed to further strengthening a close, constructive and mutually beneficial partnership with Jordan.
2. The “**advanced status**” **partnership** and the **EU-Jordan ENP Action Plan** set the framework of our enhanced relations and reflect our mutual commitment to achieving closer integration. This year we also celebrate the tenth anniversary of the entering into force of the Association Agreement, a milestone in our relationships that provided for many opportunities of cooperation and dialogue. Moreover, the respect for **democratic principles, human rights and fundamental freedoms** constitutes an essential element of the Association Agreement between the EU and Jordan and of the ENP Action Plan.
3. The EU remains a **strong supporter of Jordan’s reforms**. The EU has expressed its readiness, as reiterated during the **EU-Jordan Task-Force** in February 2012, to support Jordan, particularly under current trying circumstances, in the on-going reform process, notably through measures and initiatives aimed at strengthening democracy, the rule of law and the respect for human rights. The EU encourages Jordan to continue to engage in the reform process, including by speeding up implementation.

4. The EU values **Jordan's commitment** to the implementation of the measures agreed in the ENP Action Plan, based upon Jordan's objectives of political and economic reform and of further integration into European economic and social structures. The EU has acknowledged the efforts made and the results achieved in the progress reports on the implementation of the Action Plan (the latest one released in May 2012). The report also highlighted the areas where Jordan should take further steps to consolidate the rule of law, the independence of the judiciary, freedom of expression, gender equality and fighting corruption.
5. The EU has taken a careful note of the new **electoral framework**. The EU considers that the **electoral law** should be an essential part of an inclusive and continuous process whose objective should be improved representation, governance and democratic accountability. The EU considers it very important that the **forthcoming parliamentary elections** and their preparation take place in a free, fair and transparent manner.
6. In this respect, the EU welcomes the recent **establishment of the Independent Electoral Commission** in line with the commitment foreseen in the ENP Action Plan. The EU also appreciates the **formal invitation** of Jordan's Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) to observe the upcoming parliamentary election. Following the exploratory mission that took place in mid-September, the EU is pleased to confirm the deployment of a **fully-fledged EU electoral observation mission** (EOM). The EU EOM will provide a comprehensive analysis of the forthcoming elections and a set of recommendations, which can serve as a reference point for future electoral reforms.
7. The EU calls on Jordan to maintain full respect for **freedom of expression**, one of the key priorities of the joint ENP Action Plan, including on media and internet. The EU recalls that the new regulatory framework should not undermine the ultimate objective of guaranteeing this fundamental freedom.

8. The EU recalls the historic trend towards the progressive abolition of the **death penalty** worldwide. The EU acknowledges Jordan's de-facto moratorium on executions in place since May 2006 and strongly encourages Jordan to consider proceeding towards a *de-jure* abolition of the death penalty.
9. The EU appreciates Jordan's commitment to strengthening cooperation in the justice sector. At the same time, the EU invites Jordan to continue reinforcing the **independence of the judiciary**.
10. Jordan is invited to further intensify the **fight against corruption**. Corruption weakens citizens' trust in democratic institutions and their political leaders and undermines the country's economic and social development.
11. The EU calls on Jordan to pursue further efforts in the area of **protection of rights of women and children** and fighting **discrimination on all** grounds such as gender, religion or belief, ethnic origin, disability, etc..
12. The EU welcomes the **constitutional amendment** adopted in September 2011 outlawing **torture**. In the light of this positive development, the EU calls on Jordan to ratify the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture and to implement the recommendations of the Committee against Torture adopted in May 2010.
13. The EU invites Jordan to continue implementing the recommendations endorsed by it at the conclusion of the **Universal Periodic Review (UPR)** process, to which Jordan was subject, as stated in the 2009 report of the UPR working group and looks forward to the next UPR to take place in October 2013.

14. The EU remains gravely concerned about the situation in **Syria**. It reiterates its full support to the UN-LAS Joint Special Representative Brahimi in finding a political solution to the crisis based on the principles included in the Geneva communiqué and continues to call on all members of the UNSC to uphold their responsibilities. The EU accepts the National Coalition for Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces as legitimate representatives of the Syrian people. It welcomes the results of the 4<sup>th</sup> Ministerial meeting of the Group of the Friends of the Syrian people held in Marrakech on the 12<sup>th</sup> of December and encourages the Coalition to continue working to set up its structures and to remain committed to the respect of the principles of human rights, inclusivity and democracy. The EU recalls that those responsible for widespread, systematic and gross human rights violations must be held accountable. The EU is seriously concerned about the potential use and transfer of chemical weapons in Syria and reminds the Syrian regime and other parties that, in case of their use, those responsible will be held accountable. The EU remains engaged in providing assistance to the people affected by the crisis in Syria and in the neighbouring countries. It reiterates its call on all parties to the conflict to facilitate humanitarian access and aid delivery to the people in need, to protect medical personnel and facilities, to ensure the neutrality of humanitarian aid and to abide by International Humanitarian Law.

15. The EU commends the Jordanian authorities for their significant efforts to **support those fleeing the violence in Syria**, and encourages the Government of Jordan to continue meeting its responsibilities based on international humanitarian principles, including cooperation with the UNHCR. Recalling its recent further increase of funding, the EU reaffirms its readiness to continue providing assistance to Jordan in this respect.

16. Regarding the **Middle East Peace Process**, the EU commends the important role Jordan plays in promoting the stability of the region and the special role of Jordan regarding Holy Sites in Jerusalem. In light of recent developments, the European Union firmly believes that now is the time to take bold and concrete steps towards peace. The parties must engage in direct and substantial negotiations without preconditions. The European Union underlines the urgency of renewed, structured and substantial peace efforts in 2013, and towards this end it is ready to work with the US and other international partners, including within the Quartet. There will be no sustainable peace until the Palestinians' aspirations for statehood and sovereignty and those of Israelis for security are fulfilled through a comprehensive negotiated peace based on the two-state solution. The European Union welcomes the ceasefire in the Gaza Strip and Israel and commends the efforts of Egypt and all those who engaged in the mediation. The European Union is committed to facilitating the economic development of the Gaza Strip and to help counter the smuggling of weapons into Gaza. The European Union is deeply dismayed by and strongly opposes recently announced Israeli plans to expand settlements in the West Bank including in East Jerusalem, in particular plans to develop the E1 area. The E1 plan, if implemented, would seriously undermine the prospects of a negotiated resolution of the conflict by jeopardizing the possibility of a contiguous and viable Palestine and of Jerusalem as the future capital of two states. The EU will closely monitor the situation and its broader implications and act accordingly. The EU calls on the Palestinian leadership to use constructively the new status granted by the UNGA on 29 November and not to undertake steps which would deepen the lack of trust and lead further away from a negotiated solution.

17. The European Union welcomes the intensification of its relationship with the League of Arab States, symbolized by the meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs which took place on 13 November in Cairo and by the joint declaration adopted on this occasion.

18. The EU would like to reiterate the special importance of the EU-Jordan cooperation in **non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD)** and their delivery systems. The EU attaches great importance to the participation of Jordan to the process aiming at establishing an effectively verifiable Middle East zone free of WMD and their delivery systems.

19. The EU congratulates Jordan to become the **first country in the Middle East to have removed all minefields from its territory** in accordance with its international obligations as a State Party to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

20. The European Union in its **new European Neighbourhood Policy**, revised by the Council Conclusions of 20 June 2011, expressed its commitment to fully implement a partnership for democracy and shared prosperity in its Southern Neighbourhood on the basis of mutual accountability and shared commitment to universal values of liberty, democracy, respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law. In this regards, the EU will provide greater support to partners engaged in building deep democracy and inclusive economic development. The EU is ready to work with Jordan on these objectives in the framework of the ENP Action Plan.

21. The EU remains fully committed to the **Union for the Mediterranean**, in which 43 partners from the EU and the Mediterranean engage with a view to effectively addressing common regional challenges. The EU warmly congratulates Jordan on its decision to assume the Southern co-presidency showing its clear commitment to reinvigorate the UfM. Building on the long EU-Jordan partnership, in close synergy with the ENP and together with the Secretary General of the UfM Secretariat, we now have the opportunity to overcome the difficulties that have affected the process and focus our work in developing concrete projects on the ground and revitalize the process of sectoral cooperation that should receive political guidance through ministerial meetings in 2013.

22. On the **economic side**, Jordan has continued to face a series of exogenous shocks impacting on local economy. The EU encourages Jordan to move forward with the structural reforms that contribute to the reduction of macroeconomic vulnerability, promote growth by increasing the role of the private sector, generate employment and improve the effectiveness and efficiency of public finances.

23. The EU welcomes Jordan's agreement with the **IMF** on a \$ 2 billion **stand-by arrangement** to support the country's economic programme during 2012-15 to address fiscal and external challenges and foster high and inclusive growth and looks forward to its implementation. This agreement is an important pre-condition for the EU to consider granting a possible complementary EU Macro-Financial Assistance (MFA) for Jordan.

24. The EU welcomes Jordan's interest to embark on a **Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area with the EU**. The DCFTA will aim at improving market access opportunities and the investment climate and will be a comprehensive agreement on trade and economic relations covering a full range of regulatory areas of mutual interest. The DCFTA preparatory process has started in March 2012 in Amman and the EU encourages Jordan to move to the next steps as soon as possible. The EU has always been and continues to be a strong supporter of the Agadir Agreement. It encourages Jordan to make full use of the possibilities offered by the Agadir Agreement and by the ongoing regional negotiations on the revision of the Pan-Euro-Med rules of origin.

25. The EU welcomes Jordan's progress in the preparations for the **Agreement on Conformity Assessment (ACAA)**. The conclusion of a bilateral ACAA for specific industrial sectors will have the effect of facilitating the access of industrial products from Jordan into the EU internal market and vice-versa. Negotiations could be launched in 2013 if the pace of progress is maintained during the forthcoming months.

26. The signature of the **Protocol for the Dispute Settlement Mechanism** in 2011 for the resolution of trade disputes and its streamlined and effective procedures will enable to resolve swiftly and efficiently any trade dispute that might arise.

27. The EU encourages Jordan to take advantage of existing funding mechanisms of the European Investment Bank (EIB) and of the European Bank for Development and Reconstruction (EBRD).



28. The EU welcomes Jordan's interest to cooperate more closely on migration and mobility issues and recalls that the Southern Neighbourhood is a priority region for the EU for fostering closer cooperation in this field. The EU welcomes the launch of a Dialogue on Migration, Mobility and Security with Jordan.

29. With regard to **Research and Innovation**, the Science and Technological Cooperation Agreement with Jordan, signed in November 2009, has further reinforced the cooperation in the fields of common interest and substantially increased Jordan's participation in the research Framework Programme (FP). 42 projects with Jordanian participation were retained to-date for an EC contribution of € 4.63 million to Jordanian stakeholders. A new project, EU-Jordanet II, was notably selected out of the FP 2012 Calls for Proposals, to become the new reference platform for promoting bilateral research and innovation cooperation, notably in the context of the upcoming EU Horizon 2020 programme.

30. The EU welcomes the recent signature of a **working arrangement** between the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) and the Jordan Civil Aviation Regulatory Commission (CARC) on technical cooperation in the field of **civil aviation safety**.

31. Following the July 2012 Council Decision, the EU looks forward to the signature and the provisional application of the Protocol to the Association Agreement, allowing Jordan to participate in some **Union programmes**. The signature of the Protocol will be another tangible sign of our enhanced cooperation, opening-up new opportunities in a wide spectrum of fields.

32. In line with its commitment to support the reform processes in the Southern Mediterranean countries, the EU provided to Jordan in 2012 an additional allocation of € 70 million from the SPRING Programme, linked to the delivery of reform measures, complementing Jordan's National Indicative Programme 2011-2013.

33. The EU looks forward to a fruitful and constructive meeting of the EU-Jordan Association Council.

**ASSOCIATION  
BETWEEN  
THE EUROPEAN UNION  
AND JORDAN**

**The Association Council**

**Brussels, 12 December 2012**

**UE-RHJ 3306/12**

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

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meeting :	Tenth EU-Jordan Association Council
date :	19 December 2012
in :	Brussels

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1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Adoption of the minutes of the 9th session of the Association Council
3. State of EU-Jordan bilateral relations
  - Political/economic reforms in Jordan and their implementation.
  - Implementation of the Association Agreement and the European Neighbourhood Policy Action Plan.
4. Political dialogue on regional and international issues\*
5. A.O.B.

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\* Points to be dealt with in the informal session