



EUROPEAN UNION

Delegation of the European Union to Lebanon

Beirut, 31 May 2012

PRESS RELEASE

The European Union supports Reform and Environmental Governance

The Minister of Environment, H.E. Mr. Nazem El-Khoury, the Head of the Delegation of the European Union, Ambassador Angelina Eichhorst, the Secretary General of the Council of Ministers, Dr Souheil Bauji, and the President of the Council for Development and Reconstruction, Mr. Nabil El-Jisr, launched today the Support to Reform and Environmental Governance (StREG) programme. This programme is funded by the European Union with a €8 million grant.

The StREG programme aims at improving the environmental governance. It aims specifically at creating an effective capacity at the Ministry of Environment in order to plan and implement environmental policies, including enforcement and mainstreaming through coordination with other key line-ministries.

The main expected results of the programme are: (i) the strengthening of environmental inspection and enforcement; (ii) the improvement of the Ministry of Environment's administrative capacity; (iii) the development of fiscal instruments; (iv) the enhancement of environmental policy in Lebanon.

Minister El-Khoury extended the thanks of the Government of Lebanon to the European Union and its Member States and its citizens at large for the support provided. He highlighted the strategic importance of the StREG to the Ministry of Environment, and welcomed the participatory approach adopted by the EU in preparing for this programme.

Ambassador Eichhorst indicated that "with an 8 million euro support from the European Union, the goal of this StREG programme is to give further impetus to improving environmental governance in Lebanon. Why? Because we believe that a strong environmental legal framework is a prerequisite for sustainable development".

The national supervisor will be the Ministry of Environment, which will deal with the technical preparation and coordination of the implementation of the programme. The contracting authority will be the Presidency of the Council of Ministers.

