



EUROPEAN UNION

Delegation of the European Union to
the Republic of Lebanon

Beirut, 18 July 2011

Press Release

European Ambassadors visit UNIFIL

A delegation of European Union Ambassadors accredited to Lebanon visited the United Nations Interim Force (UNIFIL) in Lebanon today. It was composed of Ambassador Angelina Eichhorst (Head of the Delegation of the European Union), Ambassadors Eva Maria Ziegler (Austria), Homer Mavrommatis (Cyprus), Svatopluk Cumba (Czech Republic), Harri Maki-Reinikka (Finland), Birgitta Siefker-Eberle (Germany), Daniel Tanase (Romania), Juan Carlos Gafo Acevedo (Spain), and Frances Guy (United Kingdom), as well as the Deputy Head of Mission at the Polish Embassy, Wojciech Gawrysiuk.

This was the first joint visit to UNIFIL by EU Ambassadors from both contributing and non contributing Member States to the Interim Force. The EU delegation was welcomed at UNIFIL headquarters in Naqoura by the Force Commander, Major General Alberto Asarta, with whom the Ambassadors discussed the Force's activities in its area of operation. They toured along the Blue Line and were specifically briefed on Ghajar and Shebaa farms from the nearest UN inspection points.

Taking note of the fact that thirteen EU Member States provide over 40% of UNIFIL troops, the EU Ambassadors reaffirmed their support for the professionalism of UNIFIL. EU Ambassadors welcomed the Lebanese government's commitment to cooperate with UNIFIL as stated in the Ministerial Declaration. They also reasserted the necessity for Lebanon to fully implement the UN Security Council Resolution 1701 as confirmed by Prime Minister Nagib Mikati during his recent visit to UNIFIL headquarters.