



EUROPEAN UNION

Delegation of the European Union to
the Republic of Lebanon

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PRESS RELEASE

The European Union supports Local Development and Municipal Finance Reform

The Minister of Interior and Municipalities, H.E. Mr. Marwan Charbel, the Head of the Delegation of the European Union, Ambassador Angelina Eichhorst, and the President of the Council for Development and Reconstruction, Mr. Nabil El-Jisr, launched today the "Support to Municipal Finance Reform" (MuFin) programme.

The MuFin programme is part of EU-Lebanon cooperation on local development and decentralisation and is funded by the European Union with a €20 million grant.

The MuFin programme aims to contribute towards more balanced socio-economic development through modernised municipal administration and effective central support to the local administration. Its specific aims are to improve the municipal finance framework, enhance the capacities of municipal sector to assume its mandate, and provide financial support to local development initiatives and projects.

The main expected results of the programme are: (i) strengthening capacities both at central and local levels to foster and manage local development, (ii) improving the regulatory framework to enhance municipal revenues and (iii) improving service delivery and revenue generation at the local level.

Minister Marwan Charbel said: "We appreciate the European Union's efforts in terms of the support it provides in the fields of local development and decentralised cooperation, and we value this programme that supports the reform process in the field of municipal financing, for it will enhance the municipalities' capabilities on both the administrative and financial levels, and tackle the social and economic disparities between the regions".

Ambassador Eichhorst indicated: "With this new programme of 20 million Euros, the European Union seeks to revive the link between the municipalities and their central administration by addressing the issue of municipal finance. We strongly believe that addressing the need for reforms at central level while at the same time working at local level through targeted grants will contribute to solving some of the structural challenge".

The contracting authority will be the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities supported by a technical assistance provided by the European Union. The Council for Development and Reconstruction is the national coordinator.

