

19 February 2014

Press statement

Press statement from the Delegation of the European Union to Lebanon following the EU Ambassadors meeting with H.E. Prime Minister Tammam Salam

The Ambassadors of the European Union and EU Member States met today with H.E. Prime Minister Tammam Salam.

The EU Ambassadors congratulated H.E. Prime Minister Salam for the formation of the new Lebanese Government and thanked him for this opportunity for dialogue.

The EU Ambassadors strongly condemned today's bomb attacks in Beirut, which killed and maimed again so many, including children. They extended heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims and wished a speedy recovery to those injured, and called for the perpetrators of these heinous acts to be brought to justice.

The EU Ambassadors discussed with the Prime Minister his priorities for the new Government, starting with the agreement on a Ministerial Statement and the parliamentary approval thereof.

Ambassador Angelina Eichhorst underlined that "the announcement of the Government is a key step in Lebanon's efforts to tackle effectively the extraordinary security, economic and political challenges the country is facing, in particular the unprecedented refugee influx."

The EU Ambassadors look forward to a continued strong engagement with the Government of Lebanon and assured the Prime Minister of the EU's steadfast support to the country in meeting the pressing challenges. They underlined the need to address security and stability, to ensure the effective functioning of State institutions, to hold elections in line with the Constitution and international standards, to enhance economic and social development, and to address the consequences of the Syrian crisis including the management of the refugees. They also expressed the EU's willingness to further assist with the implementation of the EU-Lebanon Action Plan.