



## **EUROPEAN UNION**

Delegation of the European Union to  
the Republic of Lebanon

Beirut, 27 August 2014

### **PRESS RELEASE**

## **The European Union supports Lebanon's Ministry of Agriculture vocational schools**

A memorandum of cooperation was signed today at the Ministry of Agriculture between H.E. Minister of Agriculture, Akram Shehayeb and the Country Representative of AVSI Foundation, Marco Perini, in the presence of Ambassador Angelina Eichhorst, Head of the European Union Delegation to Lebanon, for the implementation of the European Union funded action '*Peaceful And Comprehensive Education in Seven Districts of Lebanon.*'

This action, which is funded by the European Union with a €700,000 grant, aims to support the seven Ministry of Agriculture vocational schools and to provide educational opportunities for aspiring agricultural technicians. It will assist the Ministry of Agriculture to develop its curricula and provide the school teachers with an opportunity to further enhance their skills. The schools in question will benefit, through this action, from rehabilitation support, and Lebanese, as well as Syrian pupils, will have access to an agricultural vocational training that will help increase livelihood and job opportunities. The action will ultimately support Lebanese farmers increase the yield from their land and offer consumers better produce.

"This intervention links support for development to the response to emergency needs. The challenge to expand the capacity of Lebanon's agricultural schools has existed for many years. It is the support provided by the European Union in light of the current crisis that made the funding possible," stated Ambassador Eichhorst.

In turn, Minister Shehayeb said: "We would like to express our gratitude to the European Union for the long partnership with Lebanon in all the fields of development, particularly for its active role in peaceful development and in consolidating mutual cooperation."

Mr Perini said: "The rural heritage and the modern techniques, joined together in the new school curricula, will allow the improvement of the technicians' skills, as well as lead to a better quality of Lebanese rural production."

The funding provided by the European Union for this action is part of the €319.1 million so far allocated by the European Commission, in response to the Syrian crisis in Lebanon. The aim of this response is to alleviate the pressures that the crisis is imposing on Lebanon and to support the country in dealing with the consequences of the large influx of refugees from Syria.