



EUROPEAN UNION

Delegation of the European Union to
the Republic of Lebanon

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PRESS RELEASE

The European Union listens to the concerns of Lebanese environmental NGOs

European Union representatives met on Tuesday 14 October 2014 with members of the Lebanese EcoMovement, a network of associations working in the field of environment protection, a day ahead of the EU-Lebanon political dialogue in the framework of a sector-focussed meeting.

"Improving the participation of civil society organisations engaged in environmental actions is one of the priorities of EU-Lebanon relations. This meeting is therefore all the more relevant", stated Ms Esther Pozo Vera, representative of the Directorate General for the Environment of the European Commission. "The involvement of local associations on the ground allows us to follow closer the developments that are taking place in the environmental field in Lebanon", she added.

The EU presented the latest developments in the field of environment at regional level, in particular the results of the Union for the Mediterranean Ministerial meeting on Environment and Climate Change held on 13 May in Athens, and the preparation of the second phase of the Horizon 2020 Initiative for a cleaner Mediterranean. Ms Pozo Vera stressed the significant role that civil society organisations can play in achieving environmental objectives and addressing the significant environmental challenges in Lebanon.

The NGOs were able to express their concerns regarding the Jannah dam and the Naameh landfill as well as more general issues regarding hunting and biodiversity. These were considered examples of the challenges in the implementation and enforcement of environmental legislation in Lebanon.