



EUROPEAN UNION

Delegation of the European Union to
the Republic of Lebanon

Beirut, 14 January 2015

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

On 14 January, the Ambassadors of the European Union and EU Member States met H.E. Prime Minister Tammam Salam. They discussed the current political, security, economic and humanitarian situation in Lebanon, including the latest developments. The Ambassadors strongly condemned the terrorist attack in Tripoli on 10 January.

Ambassador Angelina Eichhorst said: "We extend our sincere condolences to the families of the victims in Tripoli, as well as to the government and people of Lebanon. We are confident that with concerted efforts of the Lebanese Army, the Internal Security Forces and all security agencies coupled with a renewed economic push, the situation of Tripoli will be improved. We hope to visit the city together soon."

She added: "We also commend the security operation led by the Internal Security Forces and the Lebanese Army in Roumieh prison. We support all efforts by the Lebanese Government to bring an end to the hostage crisis. The Dialogue undertaken by different political parties is also an important sign that measures are being taken step by step to diffuse tensions."

The EU Ambassadors expressed their support to the considerable efforts by the Lebanese Government to improve the conditions of all people in poverty in Lebanon and to manage the refugee crisis by assisting and protecting the highest number of refugees from Syria. Ambassador Eichhorst stated that "the EU will continue to provide maximum support to all efforts according to international humanitarian law standards."

The EU Ambassadors called for a solution to the most pressing institutional questions in Lebanon. They stressed the need for Lebanon to elect a President and organise parliamentary elections in the shortest timeframe possible, which will allow to restart the legislative process and to tackle the most urgent economic and social challenges. Ambassador Eichhorst stressed: "Today a number of laws remain stalled at Parliament level and a national budget has not yet been adopted." "Stronger institutions will have a positive impact on the well-being of all people living in Lebanon," she added.

Finally, the EU Ambassadors reiterated the European Union's commitment to a deep and strong partnership with Lebanon, to help the country move forward in these challenging times.