



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 13 April 2015

### **Barcelona Informal Ministerial Meeting: Consultation with the Southern Partners on the ENP review – Lebanon**

#### The European Neighbourhood Policy

Lebanon is part of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP). The ENP was designed in 2003 to develop closer relations between the EU and its neighbouring countries. It covers to the South: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria and Tunisia; to the East: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. The objective of the ENP, revised in 2011 following the "Arab Spring", is to support partners who undertake reform towards democracy, rule of law and human rights; to contribute to their inclusive economic development and to promote a partnership with societies alongside the relations with governments.

A consultation on the future of the ENP is underway. The ENP was last reviewed in 2011. Given the significant developments in the neighbourhood since then, it is now essential to undertake a fundamental review of the principles on which the policy is based as well as its scope and how instruments should be used. The aim is to consult as widely as possible both with partners in the neighbouring countries and with stakeholders across the EU until the end of June. After this public consultation, a Communication setting out proposals for the future direction of the ENP will follow in the autumn. The consultation will follow four priorities: differentiation; focus; flexibility; ownership and visibility. Five areas where both sides share common interests have already been identified: trade and economic development; connectivity; security; governance; migration and mobility.

More on the consultation process:

[http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/neighbourhood/consultation/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/neighbourhood/consultation/index_en.htm)

#### Lebanon's progress in 2014

Lebanon continued to exercise a high degree of resilience against the challenges and threats that resulted from the turbulences in the region. The fourth year of the conflict in Syria challenged Lebanon's stability and increased pressure on Lebanon's institutions, the country's economic activities, its social balance and infrastructures. By the end of 2014, Lebanon hosted almost 1.2 million refugees from Syria and Iraq, making it the country with the highest number of refugees per capita in the world. Lebanon's security situation remained highly volatile and escalated in August 2014 when extremist groups spreading from Syria started to attack the security forces. Lebanon's security agencies have shown commitment and determination in maintaining the stability and security of Lebanon with joint efforts. Lebanon's institutions were put under pressure in 2014. Failure to elect a new President since May, affected the functioning of the institutions. Lebanon achieved progress on human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular regarding the protection of women and children's rights. Weakened institutions did not allow for the adoption and implementation of strategic policy choices in economic and social areas. Issues such as high unemployment, growing poverty, the widening gap in public finances,

coupled with shrinking energy and water supply, remained. Lebanon applied a successful security policy, maintained internal stability and provided ongoing economic resilience, against significant odds. The most significant achievement can be considered to be that stability and the unity of the country have been maintained.

In 2014, EU funding through the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) amounted to €67 million and supported: Protection and sustainable development of maritime resources (€19 million); Upgrading solid waste management capacities (€21 million); Building national stability (€12 million), and Provision of waste water services for vulnerable populations (€15 million). In addition, the EU provided €79.1 million to Lebanon as a contribution to help the country cope with the consequences of the Syrian crisis. This special assistance, that includes a financial contribution from The Netherlands (€2.75 million), focuses on the most vulnerable population, including hosting communities. It aims at providing access to social services including education, health and basic infrastructure.

The indicative bilateral financial allocation under the ENI for the period 2014-2016 will be in the range of €130 - €159 million, focusing on justice and security system reform; social cohesion, promoting economic development, protecting vulnerable groups; as well as energy and natural resources.

In addition to ENI, Lebanon also benefitted in 2014 from other EU support such as the thematic programme for Civil Society and Local Authorities (€1.4 million), the Instrument contributing to Peace and Stability (€25 million) and the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (€0.6 million).

Further information on financial cooperation:

[http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/neighbourhood/countries/lebanon/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/neighbourhood/countries/lebanon/index_en.htm)

More on Lebanon's progress: [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release MEMO-15-4683\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-15-4683_en.htm)

#### Regional cooperation

Regional cooperation in the European Neighbourhood complements national assistance programmes. It is funded, mainly by the European Neighbourhood Instrument, to address regional challenges and promote cooperation amongst partners at relevant levels. It encourages South-North as well as South-South cooperation.

Regional cooperation activities are designed to initiate and enhance dialogue, facilitate knowledge sharing and build networks in a whole range of sectors including private sector development, energy, transport, justice, security, civil protection, migration, democratic reforms, civil society, culture, media reform, youth and women empowerment. They support priorities agreed jointly by the partners in regional Ministerial meetings such as the Union for the Mediterranean Conference on environment and climate change which took place in May 2014. Most of the activities include all southern partner countries.

#### **For more information**

Website of DG Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations:

[http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/neighbourhood/neighbourhood-wide/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/neighbourhood/neighbourhood-wide/index_en.htm)

Website of EEAS:

[http://eeas.europa.eu/enp/index\\_en.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/enp/index_en.htm)

European Neighbourhood Info Centre:

<http://www.enpi-info.eu/>