



EUROPEAN UNION

Delegation of the European Union to
the Republic of Lebanon

Beirut, 6 November 2015

PRESS RELEASE

EU provides €25 million to support private sector development, governance and civil society in Lebanon

The European Union has adopted the 2015 second assistance package for Lebanon totalling €25 million. It consists of the following three programmes:

- **Supporting private sector development (€15 million)** Despite remarkable resilience and willingness of businesses to develop in the context of persistent crisis and uncertain geo-political conditions, the Lebanese private sector needs assistance in order to reach a more competitive position. To respond to these challenges, this action is aimed at stimulating private sector development by assisting micro, small and medium-sized enterprises to be more competitive.
- **Technical assistance to the Lebanese government (€5 million)**: The EU has already provided considerable technical assistance to Lebanon over several decades. However, further support is still needed due to the difficult situation in the country, exacerbated by the Syrian refugee crisis. The assistance will help improve governance and strengthen the capacities for administrative and institutional reform within the Lebanese public administration.
- **Civil society partnership to promote reform and local development (€5 million)** Civil society in the country is vibrant and one of the most active in the region, but it nevertheless struggles to make significant impact on government policy. The funding will help civil society support reforms and increase public accountability in the fields of health, education and environment (including water and energy). Moreover, it will support grassroots organisations to allow their engagement in local socioeconomic development.

The programmes implement the priorities set out for EU cooperation with Lebanon for 2014-2016.

For more information

EU support to Lebanon:

http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/neighbourhood/countries/lebanon/index_en.htm

EU Delegation to Lebanon: http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/lebanon/index_en.htm

EU Neighbourhood Info Centre: <http://www.enpi-info.eu/>

Memo on first 2015 assistance package:

http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/lebanon/documents/news/20150917_1_en.pdf

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