



## **EUROPEAN UNION**

Delegation of the European Union to  
the Republic of Lebanon

Beirut, 20 May 2016

### **PRESS RELEASE**

## **EU Ambassador Christina Lassen informs Prime Minister Tammam Salam of new EU support**

Ambassador Christina Lassen, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Lebanon, visited Prime Minister Tammam Salam to inform him of the support provided by the European Union to Lebanon following the London Conference.

Since then, the EU has intensified its political dialogue with Lebanon in line with its increased pledge in order to speed up the delivery of EU support to Lebanon as part of the new European Neighbourhood Policy.

The EU has lost no time to implement its London pledge. Out of the €1 billion EU pledged for Lebanon and Jordan for 2016 and 2017, projects worth €125 million have already been awarded for Lebanon by the EU Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian crisis, the MADAD Fund, including €41 million for the RACE (Reaching All Children with Education) programme. The other projects will address needs in livelihoods, water sanitation and hygiene, higher education, non-formal education and social services, and benefit both Syrian refugees and vulnerable Lebanese communities. In addition, €87 million have been made available for humanitarian assistance in Lebanon. They will take the form of multi-purpose cash assistance, secondary health care, and protection measures. These projects are in line with the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan and with the Lebanese Statement of Intent in particular regarding education and support to municipalities.

The EU-Lebanon bilateral co-operation beyond the refugee needs is also gaining in intensity. An important programme to boost key sectors of Lebanon's economy such as agriculture and wood processing has just been launched (€15 million) while a programme to support the justice sector (especially juvenile justice) and a programme to support municipalities in the Tripoli area for a total of €29 million are under preparation.

The EU is willing to engage in an enhanced partnership with Lebanon to define a shared response to their common challenges. The EU believes that Lebanon's stability remains crucial in these turbulent times. To this purpose the EU offers its strongest support to the Lebanese people and Government.