



EUROPEAN UNION

Delegation of the European Union to
the Republic of Lebanon

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PRESS RELEASE

The Political and Security Committee of the European Union wraps up its visit to Lebanon

The Political and Security Committee (PSC) of the European Union paid a visit to Lebanon on 13-14 June. The visiting delegation included Chairman Ambassador Walter Stevens and the 28 Ambassadors representing EU Member States at the PSC, the Chairman of the EU Military Committee, the Representative of the European Commission to the PSC, and the Deputy Director General of European Commission Directorate for Neighbourhood and Enlargement.

The delegation met Speaker of the Parliament, H.E. Mr. Nabih Berri, the President of the Council of Ministers, H.E. Mr Tamman Salam, and the Minister of Interior and Municipalities, H.E. Mr. Nouhad Machnouk. The PSC was also briefed by the Lebanese Armed Forces on the security situation, their current capabilities and their on-going operations. An exchange of views with members of the Lebanese civil society also took place during the visit.

The PSC visited UNHCR premises and an informal refugee settlement in Zahle, where it was briefed about living conditions and legal status of refugees fleeing the conflict in Syria.

Ambassador Christina Lassen, Head of the Delegation of the European Union, made the following statement: "This important visit shows once again the EU and EU Member States' strong willingness to engage with Lebanon in all fields, and to help the country overcome the many challenges that it is now facing, be it on the security front, the political front, or in dealing with the challenges caused by the Syrian crisis. It was also an opportunity to have an in-depth dialogue on regional issues." "The stability and security of Lebanon are paramount for the European Union and we see a need to strengthen State institutions and find a way out of the current political crisis. Lebanon remains an example of freedom, diversity and tolerance for the region," she added.

Background

The Political and Security Committee (PSC) is a permanent structure of the Council of the European Union. The mission of the PSC is to monitor the international situation in the areas covered by the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy. The PSC plays a key role in the EU's political dialogue by maintaining a privileged link with the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, and is the Council body which deals with the EU's crisis response.