



EUROPEAN UNION

Delegation of the European Union to
the Republic of Lebanon

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PRESS RELEASE

EU Ambassadors meet with Minister of Interior and Municipalities to discuss elections

A group of EU Ambassadors and representatives met today with Minister of Interior and Municipalities, H.E. Nouhad al-Mashnouq, to discuss the recent municipal elections and lessons learned.

The EU representatives congratulated Minister Al-Mashnouq on the good administration of the municipal elections, and thanked him for the possibility granted to representatives of EU Embassies to visit polling stations all over the country.

The EU representatives noted that the recommendations of the EU Election Observation Mission deployed during the 2009 parliamentary elections remain very relevant, and called to take these proposals on board in case a new election law is adopted.

In particular, the EU side referred to the necessity to set up the supervisory commission foreseen by the law to ensure oversight over campaign expenditure and media access. Other recommendations from 2009 stress the need for pre-printed ballots and for accessibility of polling stations for senior citizens and persons with reduced mobility.

The EU side also highlighted that while women voted in large numbers, the very small number of women candidates reaffirms the need for appropriate measures to increase the number of women in politics.

The EU representatives underlined that the European Union and its Member States remain convinced that Lebanon is able to hold parliamentary elections on schedule or at an earlier date if this is so decided.