



EU-Funded Project



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PRESS RELEASE

The European Union and OMSAR launch the solid waste sorting and composting plant in Minieh

In the framework of the EU-funded Solid Waste Management Programme, the Union of Municipalities of Minieh launched today the waste sorting and composting plant in Minieh. The launch took place in the presence of the Minister of State for Administrative Reform Nabil De Freige and the Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Lebanon Ambassador Christina Lassen.

The ceremony was attended by Minieh's deputies, the Mohafez of North Lebanon, the Qaimmaqam of Minieh-Dinnieh, the commanders of security agencies in the region and the Presidents of the Municipalities of the Union, in addition to a number of experts in the field of solid waste management.

The solid waste sorting and composting plant in Minieh was built and equipped thanks to an EU grant of 1,364,000 Euros. OMSAR will also fund operations and maintenance from the Lebanese Government's budget. The plant, which will treat 77 tons of waste per day, serves five municipalities (Minieh, Yahoudieh, Bourj al Yahoudieh, Deir Amar and Markabta) that are members in the Union of Municipalities of Minieh, i.e. around 150,000 people, including Syrian refugees.

Minister De Freige said: "By operating this plant, we are contributing to solving the chronic problem of waste that many Lebanese regions are suffering from, including Minieh, and hence, we are offering an optimal solution to the majority of municipalities. We will not spare any effort to contribute, in cooperation with other ministries and public institutions, to finding solutions to the problems that citizens are facing in this region as well as in other regions. We are also supporting and funding the operation and maintenance of other plants that we built in Ain Baal-Tyr, Nabatieh, Khirbet Selem, Kabrikha, Khiam, Baalbek, Shouf Swaijani, Michmich-Akkar, and soon in Tripoli. This means treating around 1,200 tons per day with an annual total amount of 11 million dollars."

Ambassador Lassen said: "We realised in the past year that Lebanon is clearly facing severe challenges when it comes to managing adequate infrastructure to treat municipal waste. So if anything good came out of the crisis, it is that today in Lebanon, there seems to be a much higher awareness of the need to have well-functioning waste management systems and at the same time the need to focus much more on recycling and composting." She added: "The Minieh waste treatment plant we are reopening today will handle more than 75 tons of waste per day. But this is not the European Union's only solid waste project in this region. We will also support the construction of a new sorting and composting facility and a sanitary landfill in Koura and Zgharta. Once operational, these sites will cover all the needs of the Governorate of North Lebanon."