



WESTMINSTER
FOUNDATION FOR
DEMOCRACY

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PRESS RELEASE

The European Union supports the Lebanese Parliament

The Speaker of the Parliament, H.E. Nabih Berri, and the Chief Executive Officer of Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD), Mrs Linda Duffield, signed today the Memorandum of Understanding to mark the launch of a programme aiming at strengthening good governance in Lebanon. The signature took place in the presence of H.E. Mrs Angelina Eichhorst, Ambassador Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Lebanon. The European Union contributes to this programme, which will be implemented by WFD, by a €500,000 grant (80% of the total budget of €625,000).

The programme aims most particularly to strengthen the Lebanese Parliament's capacities and resources to perform effectively its legislative and budgetary oversight functions, which are regarded as key functions towards establishing sustainable democracy. Over the course of 21 months, the programme will focus on working with Members of Parliament and developing an Advisory Unit to provide technical support and expertise for two key parliamentary committees: the Finance and Budget Committee, and the Administrative and Justice Committee. This will:

- Improve parliamentary financial oversight of the government by strengthening the Finance and Budget Committee in its financial and budgetary roles and its role as Public Accounts Committee;
- Support the Administration and Justice Committee in its legislative role, mainly on the passing of new legislation and key policy issues in line with best practice and international conventions.

The programme will also include exchanges between Members of Parliament from the United Kingdom and Lebanon, workshops and seminars.

The Westminster Foundation for Democracy will work in partnership with The Basel Fuleihan Institute of Finance, The Faculty of Law and Political Science at the Lebanese University and the National Audit Office in the UK which will provide key expertise during the course of the programme.