

**Speech by Ambassador Angelina Eichhorst,  
Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Lebanon**

*UNRWA campaign "Dignity for all" funded by the European Union through the Humanitarian Aid  
department of the European Commission (ECHO)*

**Rugby Match between Palestinian team vs. American University of Beirut team**  
Friday 18 February – American University of Beirut

**Excellencies,  
Colleagues and friends,  
Dear members of both teams,**

- Today is the first rugby match between the AUB team and the Palestinian team. This event is part of a larger campaign 'Dignity for all' of UNRWA, which is funded by the European Union through ECHO – its Humanitarian Aid department. We will see more sports events, as well as encounters and round-tables, with the aim of improving mutual understanding between the Lebanese and Palestinian communities.
- The situation of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon has very important political, economic and social dimensions. The European Union plays a major role in improving their living conditions, including through humanitarian aid, reconstruction, basic infrastructure, and functioning of schools, as well as in promoting better enjoyment of their rights.
- Lebanese and Palestinian people live side-by-side, and have more in common than they sometimes believe. Sports are an invaluable way to convey values of solidarity and dialogue, respect and dignity. We are here today to celebrate the talents and qualities of young rugby players.
- I thank the American University of Beirut for hosting this event, and UNRWA for its longstanding commitment. To the players, I want to say that participating is good, and that playing is even better.
- Thank you, and let's enjoy the game.