

Speech of Ambassador Angelina Eichhorst

Head of Delegation of the European Union to Lebanon

Berytech Gala Dinner '10 Years Anniversary'

Hotel Four Seasons – Grand Ball Room
December 16, 2011 at 21:00.

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السيد مارون شماس، رئيس مجلس إدارة بيريتك،
الأب الدكتور رينيه شاموسي، رئيس جامعة القديس يوسف،
حضرة السيدات والسادة،
الصديقات والأصدقاء الأعزاء،

- إنه لشرف وسعادة أن أكون معكم الليلة للاحتفال بالعيد العاشر لمؤسسة بيريتك.

Tonight is also an excellent occasion to celebrate already 6 years of close and fruitful cooperation between the European Union and Berytech towards nurturing and supporting the Lebanese private sector.

A competitive private sector is essential to improve living conditions of the Lebanese people. Since 2003 we have provided more than 68 million euro to develop the capacity of more than 500 Lebanese small and medium enterprises to compete in the global market, to create more than new 5.500 quality direct jobs and to contribute to a friendlier business environment conducive to business creation and foreign investment.

Berytech is having an instrumental role in this, and that is why we are supporting you since 2006 with more than 1.5 million euro in expertise and benchmarking with the European best experience in Incubation techniques.

Berytech has come a long way doing. The results are impressive:

- 70 entities have been hosted
- 40 entities have graduated and are now self sufficient mature companies
- More than 150 high-added value jobs have been created
- More than 200 entrepreneurs have been trained.

Berytech is a pioneer. It supports the Lebanese creative spark and nurtures inspiring innovative ideas able to compete at international level.

The European Union continues its commitment to support the development of the Lebanese private sector and in particular small and medium enterprises. We have provided substantial support to SMEs in the last years with successful programmes such as QUALEB, ELCIM and KAFALAT. For many of you these have become business partners and advisers on facilitating business creation and growth.

The EU has confidence in the potential and the future of this country. Its own citizens are the key actors in shaping its future. Berytech is one of the many tools Lebanese young entrepreneurs should use if they do not have chances to use their potential otherwise.

I feel privileged to be amongst you because as entrepreneurs, businessmen, businesswomen, start ups, investors, you are the engine for growth and job creation. You can make a significant contribution to the socio-economic development of this region helping to bring progress and stability to Lebanon.

Thank you.

طاب مسأؤكم.