

# Developing National Capability for Integrated Border Management in Lebanon

Closing remarks by Ambassador Angelina Eichhorst  
Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Lebanon

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Friday 8 February 2013  
Hotel Hilton Habtoor – Sin el Fil

*CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY*

Excellency Minister of State Panos Manjian

Mr. Derek Plumbly, UN Special Coordinator for Lebanon

Representatives of the security agencies and ministries involved in border management,

Excellencies,

Colleagues, Dear Friends,

Let me first of all thank you for being here today . I am particularly grateful to Minister Manjian for his commitment to take Integrated Border Management in Lebanon forward. The presentation and discussions have shown that ensuring continuity of work in important files such as this one is key, as well as the continued engagement of all relevant agencies and ministries to ensure that the comprehensive concept of Integrated Border Management is fully understood and implemented.

Indeed, an *integrated* approach for border management covers areas such as migration flows, trade facilitation and the fight against cross-border crime. Integration, which represents the basis for our cooperation in this

field, also means a high degree of coordination within each agency and of cooperation between agencies and ministries involved.

As we saw in one of the presentations, this is the approach that the European Union is promoting across the globe. Around 870 million Euros have already been committed to Integrated Border Management in more than 44 countries since 2002. In Lebanon we worked with the Lebanese authorities and other partners, on a common Donor Position and a proposal for a Roadmap which was jointly proposed to the Lebanese authorities in 2010. While these still represent the guidelines for our engagement, we also managed to step up our assistance to further support the development of *national capabilities* in Lebanon.

As part of the programme implemented by ICMPD, the European Union will work with Minister Manjian and all the security agencies involved in the management of the borders (to further support the development of an Integrated Border Management approach and operational capacities.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we saw again today how challenging the current situation is along the borders. The legal crossing points in particular are affected by poor physical infrastructure and equipment, unsuitable location, which make coordination between the different services even more challenging. We have a collective responsibility to ensure that the EU support will result in tangible improvements. Engagement is necessary from the national authorities and all donors to help address the many challenges.

In this respect, allow me to also thank Mr. Derek Plumbly for being here with us today and for the important support that UNSCOL has provided on border management in the last few years, contributing to a peaceful, stable and sovereign Lebanon, a cause to which all other partners present here today are equally committed.

Thank you.