

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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Excellency Minister of State Panos Manjian,
Representatives of the ministries and security agencies involved in border management,
Excellencies,
ICMPD Colleagues,
Dear Friends,

Thank you for putting forward the achievements of the Integrated Border Management programme with a stock taking exercise of the activities carried out so far, and for suggesting how to move ahead with promoting further the concept of Integrated Border Management with all stakeholders, national and international.

I think that the presentations that were held this morning gave you a good overview of what has been achieved so far. I believe that the results of this first year, the awareness raising on the very concept of IBM, IBM gaps and needs analysis, the training needs assessment, the equipment needs assessment and the action plans that derive from each of these - provide a

solid foundation on which we can all build our respective efforts to contribute to a better and more coordinated management of Lebanon's borders.

Most importantly, I thank Minister Manjian for his commitment to take Integrated Border Management in Lebanon forward. I also thank all the agencies that have embraced this work with high professionalism and commitment. This is particularly important for two reasons:

Firstly, because any effort to improve the management of the country's borders is to facilitate your work, and it is therefore important that the results and outputs derive from your own reflections and your own deep knowledge of the context and on your readiness to enhance operations.

Secondly, because this year has been a particularly challenging one for Lebanon. Despite the difficult circumstances, you have shown a great commitment to improving border management, thus showing that IBM is not an optional accessory to be eventually applied in the far future, but a well-conceived strategy, with a sound action plan and procedures to operationalise it, fit to respond even to the current challenges that Lebanon is facing, not last those resulting from the massive influx of refugees.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Enhanced coordination both on the institutional and operational levels, will enable Lebanon to face the current situation but will also provide an

improved framework to facilitate legal migration flows, trade, and help fight against cross-border crime.

I am encouraged by the spirit of cooperation that prevails in the programme's work, among the agencies involved and with other donors that are supporting Lebanon in the field of border management.

Finally, I wish to thank you very much for your efforts and commitment to this programme. A big thank you to the members of the ICMPD team for providing high quality expertise: I look forward to the work that we will continue together this year, as we all take forward the objective of improved integrated border management in the coming period, as a time when Lebanon needs our support, particularly in this field, more than ever before.