

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

**Ceremony of inauguration of upgraded infrastructures at Siblin  
Training Centre**

Siblin Training Centre, 15 April 2014

*CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY*

H.E. Ambassador of Palestine Ashraf Dabbour,  
Excellencies Ambassadors of European Union Member States,  
Head of UNRWA in Lebanon Ann Dismorr,  
Ms Lina Hamdan, representing the Lebanese Palestinian  
Dialogue Committee,  
Mr. Mayor of Siblin Mohammad Omar,  
Mr. Mayor of Saida Mohammad el Seoudi,  
Representatives of national and local authorities,  
Representatives of the popular committees and the Palestinian  
Business Forum  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Dear friends,

I am pleased to be here today at the Siblin Training Centre for  
the inauguration of its new facilities, including this great football  
pitch.

This Training Centre, with its spacious classrooms, green campus and outstanding sea view is a really motivating and attractive environment that invites you all to learn and offers a new space.

The European Union is the first contributor to UNRWA at the regional level and in Lebanon. We fully support UNRWA education and vocational training programmes.

We work in order to create new learning opportunities for those who do not have access to formal education.

There is a great number of children with special needs and it is unfortunate that too many children of Palestinian parents living in Lebanon do not have access to formal education. Children have a right to education. It is their protection, their future.

The works completed under this project in the Sibling Training Centre, with ramps and other enabling works, will allow better access to training to children with special needs.

I would like to thank UNRWA, in particular Ms Dismorr, and all those involved in the project including the Training Centre

Director and staff and UNRWA, for their efforts and the achieved results.

I am particularly pleased to inaugurate the football pitch with a match with joint teams bringing together the different actors that took part in this endeavour as a proof of this common work: the students, their parents, the teachers, UNRWA and my own staff.

I am grateful to see the teams, our teams, getting ready to play for the first time.

Thank you for your attention.