



LEBANON AND THE EUROPEAN UNION: A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE COOPERATION SINCE 2002

- 17 June 2002** | Signature of the Association Agreement and the Interim Agreement.
- 1 March 2003** | **Entry into Force of the Interim Agreement**
The Interim Agreement regulates the commercial aspect of the Association Agreement, which entails the implementation of new rules between the European Union and Lebanon, particularly the opening of the respective markets through tariff dismantling. As of 1 March 2003, Lebanese industrial products and the majority of agricultural products started entering the EU market tariff free. The progressive elimination of Lebanese tariffs on EU imports will begin in March 2008.
- March 2005** | The Lebanese Council of Ministers approved the participation of Lebanon in the European Neighbourhood Policy.
- 1 April 2006** | **Entry into force of the Association Agreement** upon its ratification by the Lebanese Parliament, the European Parliament and the national Parliaments of the European Union Member States.
- Autumn 2006** | The EU and its Member States underlined their commitment to the full implementation of Security Council Resolution 1701. Soldiers from the EU Member States make up 60% of the UNIFIL.
- 19 January 2007** | Entry into force of the Action Plan which will govern the cooperation between Lebanon and the European Union within the scope of the European Neighbourhood Policy. The Action Plan was approved in autumn 2006 and adopted by the European Union on 17 October 2006 and by Lebanon on 12 January 2007.
- 25 January 2007** | During the Paris III Conference, the European Commission allocated € 500 million to Lebanon, which brings the European Union assistance to 40% of the total amount allocated during the conference (US\$ 7.66 billion).