



AID DEVELOPMENTS

Reconstruction of the Nahr El-Bared Camp and surrounding areas

On 19 April 2010, the Nahr El-Bared Multi-Donor Donor Trust Fund (NBC-MDTF), managed by the World Bank, disbursed the remainder of the MDTF funds, USD 8 million, to UNRWA to cover the shortfall under Package-2 of the NBC Reconstruction Program.

European Commission announced additional funding for the QUALEB program

On 20 April 2010, Ambassador Patrick Laurent, Head of the Delegation of the European Union, and H.E. Mohammad Safadi, Minister of Economy and Trade, visited the Laboratory for Food and Animal Sanitary Control at the Lebanese Agricultural Research Institute (LARI) in Fanar (together with H.E. Hussein Hajj Hassan, Minister of Agriculture), and the Laboratory of Metrology and Isotopic Fractioning at Université Saint-Joseph Sciences campus in Mkalles. European Union funds under the Euro 14 million "Quality Programme" implemented by the Ministry of Economy and Trade (MoET) through its Qualeb Unit were used to equip both laboratories and train their staff. The delegation announced that Euro 4 million and capacity building will be provided this year by the EU to the Qualeb Unit in order to continue upgrading the Lebanese Quality Infrastructure.

Ambassador Laurent also visited Berytech Technological Pole at the Université Saint-Joseph Science Campus in Mkalles. Berytech is an EU-funded Business Incubator (under the Euro 17 million Integrated Support to Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises program) that provides state of the art technological incubation and business development services. It has already incubated more than 50 companies which have created more than 300 high-added value jobs. The EU will provide further support to Berytech for the period 2010-2012, allowing the incubator to expand its services.

AID COORDINATION

Ministry of Finance Paris III Twelfth Progress Report

The Ministry of Finance decided that the Twelfth Progress Report on the International Conference for Support to Lebanon - Paris III will be released in July 2010 and will detail achievements and progress made in reform implementation and resource mobilization in the first half of 2010. The report will be published by the Ministry of Finance, in cooperation with the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, the Council for Reconstruction and Development, and the natural owners of the reform program.



AID COORDINATION

Tenth Meeting of the Facility for Euro-Mediterranean Investment and Partnership Advisory Committee

On 13 April 2010, the Tenth Meeting of the Advisory Committee of the Facility for Euro-Mediterranean Investment and Partnership (FEMIP) was held in preparation for the Tenth FEMIP Ministerial Meeting, which will be held in Brussels on 18 May 2010. FEMIP is the vehicle through which the European Investment Bank operates in the Mediterranean partner countries since October 2002. FEMIP supports infrastructure projects, investment in human capital and environmental protection schemes through loans, private equity and technical assistance. The meeting discussed the Mediterranean Business Development Report, the terms of reference of the FEMISE study on the economic and social impact of the financial crisis on the Mediterranean partner countries as well as the FEMIP Trust Fund study "PPP Legal Framework in the FEMIP region".

The purpose of the advisory committee, created in 2006, is to discuss topics related to the modernization and opening-up of the Mediterranean economies, with a specific focus on the overall business climate in the region and on the promotion of an investment-friendly environment conducive to private sector development and in particular to keeping the momentum of the relations between the European Union countries and the Mediterranean region.

Reconstruction of the Nahr El-Bared Camp and surrounding areas

Greece approved the Government's technical and financial proposal for implementing a basic infrastructure project in the Nahr El Bared Camp Adjacent Areas. The project will be fully funded by a Euro 1 million grant from the Greek Government.

On 21 April 2010, the Council of Ministers exempted UNRWA from the construction permits for the NBC UNRWA compound. The Government also approved the detailed designs of the first two schools to be built in the compound.

The NBC Recovery and Reconstruction Cell at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers issued its Briefing Note No.4 (dated March 2010), which is available on www.pcm.gov.lb. The note provides a comprehensive progress update on the reconstruction of the NBC as well as donor activities in the NBC Adjacent Area and surrounding municipalities.

A Lebanese delegation attended the World Bank and International Monetary Fund Spring Meetings

A Lebanese delegation, led by the Minister of Finance and including the Deputy Governor of the Central Bank and representatives of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and the Council for Reconstruction and Development, participated in the World Bank/IMF Spring Meetings on April 24-25 in Washington, DC. The delegation updated the International Financial Institutions and donors on progress achieved in the implementation of the government reform program, discussed the 2010 Budget and funding requirements and approaches, reviewed technical assistance needs, and followed up on resource mobilization in a number of bilateral meetings.

A Lebanese delegation attended the ECOFIN EUROMED Senior Officials' Meeting

On 30 April 2010, a representative from the Ministry of Finance attended the Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) in Brussels in preparation of the ECOFIN EUROMED and FEMIP Ministerial meetings, which will be held jointly on 18 May 2010 in Brussels. The purpose of the SOM, attended by representatives from Mediterranean partner countries, was to discuss and finalize the agenda of the ministerial meeting.