



AID DEVELOPMENTS

European Union allocates funding to Lebanese small and medium-sized enterprises

On 11 June 2010, the Director for Europe, Southern Mediterranean, Mideast and European Neighborhood Policy at the Cooperation Office of the European Commission, announced that the European Commission allocated Euro 15 million to a new facility to support investments in energy efficiency of Lebanese small and medium-sized enterprises. The grant will support the strategic development of products and services in the areas of renewable energy and energy efficiency with the aim of creating a local market on sustainable energy.

United Nations Development Program calls for proposals for LIVE LEBANON

On 11 June 2010, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) called for ideas and proposals for development projects, to be submitted by individuals, municipalities and members of civil society for funding from the LIVE LEBANON project. LIVE LEBANON, a UNDP initiative launched in November 2009, offers Lebanese expatriates an opportunity to be involved in the local development of their villages and hometowns. The initiative adopts projects in all areas of Lebanon and acts as a transparent and efficient platform where expatriates participate in the development of their country.

United Nations Development Program and the Central Bank of Lebanon signed an agreement

On 14 June 2010, the Governor of the Central Bank of Lebanon and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Resident Representative signed a memorandum of understanding on technical cooperation for launching a national initiative for the improvement of energy and resource use efficiency. The memorandum of understanding concerns the establishment and development of a complete funding mechanism, which - for the first time in Lebanon - will allow organizations from different sectors to implement models of energy conservation.

United States and the Ministry of Energy and Water signed two agreements

On 15 June 2010, the Director of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Minister of Energy and Water signed two memoranda of understanding valued at \$27.5 million to provide in-kind assistance and capacity building support for Lebanon's water sector. The bulk of the assistance (\$20 million) will go towards improving the management, operations and services of Lebanon's water establishments in the South and North of Lebanon, the Bekaa, and Beirut. The remaining \$7.5 million will be used for the Litani River Basin Management Support Program.



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The International Fund for Agricultural Development signed an agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture

On 21 June 2010, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Ministry of Agriculture signed a \$4.6 million agreement for a rural development program in Lebanon, the Hilly Areas Sustainable Agricultural Development program. It aims at helping small-scale farmers and rural communities fight water scarcity in the areas of Akkar-Dannieh, North Baalbeck and Hermel, South and Lower Litani, and Mount Lebanon. IFAD provides a \$4 million soft loan and a \$600,000 grant to finance the project. The OPEC Fund for International Development signed a loan agreement with the Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR) for \$8.4 million as co-financing for the overall program which would add value to farmers' produce through the development of post-harvest support services.

Italy and the Central Bank of Lebanon signed an agreement

On 24 June 2010, the Governor of the Central Bank of Lebanon and the Ambassador of Italy signed a memorandum of understanding, which covers cooperation in technology through a soft loan amounting to Euro 8.5 million. The program's objective is to extend the services of the central bank to the entire banking sector.



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Ministry of Finance Paris III Progress Report

The Ministry of Finance decided to release an annual report on the achievements of the national unity government at the end of 2010 (in lieu of the quarterly reporting), which will detail achievements and progress made in reform implementation and resource mobilization during the year 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.

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