



AID DEVELOPMENTS

European Union funds a project to support the Lebanese authorities with integrated border management

On 30 September 2012, the European Union signed a contract with the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) for the implementation of a project entitled Developing National Capability for Integrated Border Management in Lebanon, through the Customs and General Security. The objective of the project is to provide support to the Lebanese authorities to secure and control the borders in accordance with national and international Integrated Border Management (IBM) standards, thus increasing the security of its citizens, promoting regional stability and facilitating trade, development and human contact. Activities will focus on the definition and implementation of a national strategy for integrated border management, supporting the operations of General Security and Customs at legal crossing points along the northern and eastern borders, and supporting inter-agency cooperation and increased outreach to border communities. The project has a budget of Euro 3.6 million and will be implemented over a period of three years.



AID COORDINATION

Euro-Arab Economic Forum 2012

On 12-13 September 2012, the General Union of Arab Chambers (UAC), the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the Central Bank co-organized the European-Arab Economic Forum. The Euro-Arab Economic Forum aims at shedding light on the current status of the Euro-Arab economic relations, and exploring the future of these relations in light of the major developments that the European Union and the Arab region are currently witnessing. It also aims at identifying the areas where the European Union can support the Arab world in its new transformations, particularly on the economic level, identifying investment opportunities and projects in the Arab world in various economic fields, such as infrastructure, clean energy, communication and technology, industry, education, health, SMEs, banking and financial sector.

Third Beirut Energy Forum

On 13 September 2012, the third Beirut Energy Forum took place in Lebanon under the patronage of the Ministry of Energy and Water. The Forum focused on energy efficiency, renewable energy and green buildings. Beirut Energy Forum 2012 brought together energy solutions suppliers and producers, independent power and energy producers, architects, urban planners, banks and financial institutions, investment firms, research and development institutions, as well as associations and agencies. The event was supported by the European Union, United Nations Development Program (UNDP), League of Arab States, and Order of Engineers and Architects in Beirut in partnership with Le Salon des Energies Renouvelables de Paris, and the Lebanese Center for Energy Conservation (LCEC) being the strategic partner.

Ministry of Finance participated in the FEMIP Ministerial Meeting

On 14 September 2012, the Director General of the Ministry of Finance, representing the Minister of Finance, participated in the 12th Ministerial Meeting of the Facility for Euro-Mediterranean Investment and Partnership (FEMIP) in Nicosia, Cyprus. FEMIP is the key player in the financial partnership between Europe and the Mediterranean countries. The agenda of the Ministerial Meeting, marking the 10th anniversary of FEMIP, provided Ministers an opportunity for feedback on the action of the European Investment Bank in the Mediterranean region in the past ten years and to reflect on its future role to accompany the development of the Mediterranean partner countries. Finance Ministers approved the FEMIP 2011 annual report and the FEMIP Operational Plan 2012-2013.



AID COORDINATION

Donors, officials recommit to improve situation of Palestinians in Lebanon

On 17 September 2012, donor organizations, representatives of the Lebanese-Palestinian Dialogue Committee (LPDC) and the Government renewed their commitment to improve the living conditions of the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, in particular to rebuilding Nahr-El Bared camp. All approved that a plan to administer the camps should be prepared.

Lebanese Government discusses the Economic and Social Reform Action Plan with Donors

On 18 September 2012, the Office of the Prime Minister presented the Economic and Social Reform plan to representatives of donor countries, the European Union (EU) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). The plan aims at ensuring economic growth and social justice in Lebanon. The Government emphasized the role of the private sector-public sector cooperation in achieving economic growth, with the Government assuming its legislative and regulatory roles, in addition to ensuring security, justice, education and health services to all citizens.

Fourth Meeting of the European Union-Lebanon Sub-Committee on Economic and Social Affairs

On 26 September 2012, the European Union and the Lebanese Government held the fourth session of the EU-Lebanon Sub-committee on Economic and Social Affairs. The meeting is one of a series of thematic meetings held to enhance dialogue between the EU and Lebanon, to discuss ongoing and planned reforms, and to update each other on their respective fiscal and macroeconomic circumstances. Sub-committee meetings take place within the context of the European Neighborhood Policy of the Europe-Lebanon Association Agreement. The meeting touched upon a range of topics of joint interest to the EU and the Lebanese officials. Lebanon focused on the impact of regional events and the global economic situation on the Lebanese economy, and steps taken by the Lebanese authorities to overcome the difficulties faced. In addition, the Lebanese delegation addressed measures taken to ensure overall macroeconomic stability, efforts towards debt reduction, proposed reforms in public finance management and the overall management of the financial sector. The EU highlighted the need to ensure that economic development addresses the needs of all sections of society, a key message that forms the backbone of their new approach to the entire Neighborhood. The meeting also served as an opportunity for both sides to discuss elements related to economics and finance to be included in the new EU-Lebanon Action Plan for EU-Lebanon Partnership and Cooperation 2013-2015, which is currently under discussion.