



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

MEMO

Brussels, 27 October 2015

EU provides €25 million to support private sector development, governance and civil society in Lebanon

The European Commission has adopted this year's second assistance package for Lebanon totalling €25 million. It is funded under the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) and consists of the following three programmes:

- **Supporting private sector development (€15 million):** Despite remarkable resilience and willingness of businesses to develop in the context of persistent crisis and uncertain geo-political conditions, the Lebanese private sector needs assistance in order to reach a more competitive position. To respond to these challenges, this action will stimulate private sector development by assisting micro, small and medium-sized enterprises to be more competitive.
- **Technical assistance to the Lebanese government (€5 million):** The EU has already provided considerable technical assistance to Lebanon over several decades. However, further support is still needed due to the difficult situation in the country, exacerbated by the Syrian refugee crisis. The assistance will improve governance and strengthen the capacities for administrative and institutional reform within the Lebanese public administration.
- **Civil society partnership to promote reform and local development (€5 million):** Civil society in the country is vibrant and one of the most active in the region, but it nevertheless struggles to make significant impact on government policy. The funding will help civil society support reforms and increase public accountability in the fields of health, education and environment (including water and energy). Moreover, it will support grassroots organisations to allow their engagement in local socioeconomic development.

The programmes implement the priorities set out for EU cooperation with Lebanon for 2014-2016, namely: (1) justice and security system reform; (2) reinforcing social cohesion, promoting sustainable economic development and protecting vulnerable groups; and (3) promotion of sustainable and transparent management of energy and natural resources.

For more information

EU support to Lebanon:

http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/neighbourhood/countries/lebanon/index_en.htm

EU Delegation to Lebanon: http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/lebanon/index_en.htm

EU Neighbourhood Info Centre: <http://www.enpi-info.eu/>

Memo on first 2015 assistance package:

<http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/neighbourhood/pdf/key-documents/lebanon/20150910-memo-lebanon-aap-2015-part-1.pdf>