



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

MEMO

Brussels, 27 October 2015

EU provides €135 million to support energy reforms and private sector development in Jordan

The European Commission has adopted a new assistance package for Jordan totalling €135 million. It is funded under the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) and consists of the following programmes:

- **Renewable energy and energy efficiency programme (€90 million):** Energy imports are a major drain on Jordan's public finances. Access to modern energy services is an important engine for economic stability and growth and will have a direct impact on poverty reduction. Adequate, reliable and competitively priced green energy is an essential element for economic competitiveness. Therefore, development of new renewable energy and introduction of energy efficiency measures is necessary to foster further business development, job creation and income generation opportunities.

This programme will help Jordan in reducing its dependence on imported energy. It should further improve the economic situation by harnessing the country's own natural resources, while at the same time, contributing to poverty reduction and to the fight against climate change.

- **Support to private sector development (€45 million):** An effective private sector development programme is critical to economic recovery and inclusive growth. The country has been severely impacted by the downturn in the world economy as well as the continuing influx of refugees from neighbouring Syria.

Through this programme, the EU is supporting the government's efforts to develop the private sector. This will help foster inclusive growth and economic recovery, through increasing the productivity and competitiveness of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises. It will also boost domestic and foreign investment and strengthen linkages between investment and the local economy.

The two programmes implement the priorities set out for EU cooperation with Jordan for 2014-2017, namely: 1) reinforcing the rule of law for enhanced accountability and equity in public service delivery; (2) employment and private sector development; and (3) renewable energy and energy efficiency.

For more information

EU support to Jordan:

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

EU Delegation to Jordan: http://eeas.europa.eu/jordan/index_en.htm

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