



## AID DEVELOPMENTS

### **European Commission provides Euro 43 million**

On 19 October 2009, the European Commission announced that it will make available to Lebanon an aid package of grants worth Euro 43 million under the 2009 Annual Action Program of the European Neighborhood Partnership Instrument. The 2009 Annual Action Program provides continued support for the implementation of the Lebanese reform agenda, endorsed by the international community at the Paris III International Conference, and as well in a variety of areas, including human rights and democracy, education, and demining.

### **United States provides American University of Beirut scholarship assistance**

On 27 October 2009, the United States Ambassador provided the American University of Beirut with the last installment of a \$2.3 million educational scholarship fund in the amount of \$457,475. The total assistance, which was given over the past fiscal year, is part of the United States' commitment to higher education in Lebanon.

### **Italian embassy pledged support for mental health care in South Lebanon**

On 27 October 2009, the Italian Embassy pledged support for a rehabilitation project at the Al-Fanar Psychiatric Hospital in the Zahrani region. The project was launched by the hospital administration and the Italian NGO CTM and is funded by the Italian Cooperation Office of the Embassy of Italy in Beirut as part of its emergency program ROSS (Italy's rehabilitation of employment, social services and development organizations).

The rehabilitation of the hospital, which costs Euro 470,000, includes restoring hygienic conditions, rebuilding sanitary services, building and equipping a new kitchen and a new laundry, and installing a solar heating system and two green houses.

### **United States launched a project to assist Lebanese farmers**

On 28 October 2009, the embassy of the United States announced that USAID launched a quality assurance project for Lebanese farmers. This project will cost \$3 million and will be implemented directly by USAID.



## AID COORDINATION

### **A Lebanese delegation attended the World Bank Annual Meetings**

A Lebanese delegation, led by the Minister of Finance and including the Governor of the Central Bank and representatives of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and Ministry of Economy and Trade, participated in the World Bank/IMF Annual Meetings on October 3-7 in Istanbul, Turkey. The delegation updated donors on progress achieved in the implementation of the reform program and discussed funding requirements and resource mobilization in a number of bilateral meetings.

### **Meeting of the EU Sub-Committee on Customs Cooperation and Taxation**

On 5 October 2009, the EU Sub-Committee on Customs Cooperation and Taxation held its first meeting in Beirut. The Sub-Committee is a forum for discussion aimed at strengthening the cooperation between the European Union and Lebanon on subjects related to the implementation of the EU/Lebanon Neighborhood Action Plan agreed in 2006. The next meeting of the Sub-Committee will be held in Brussels in 2010.

### **Ministry of Finance participates in the First Annual Conference of the International Aid Transparency Initiative**

On October 20-21, 2009, the Director General of Finance attended the First Annual Conference of the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) in The Hague, Netherlands. The Conference addressed the topics of transparency and effective and accountable aid, and the role of IATI in improving transparency. The conference was attended by high-level representatives from countries such as Bangladesh, Brazil, Jordan, Nepal, and Rwanda; from donors such as Germany and Spain, and the World Bank and UNDP. The IATI is a new initiative which aims to make information about public and private aid flows more available and accessible to all stakeholders, particularly partner countries, in order to increase the accountability, predictability and effectiveness of aid and reduce transaction costs.

### **Ministry of Finance released the Paris III Tenth Progress Report**

In the last week of October, the Ministry of Finance, completed the International Conference for Support to Lebanon - Tenth Progress Report. The report details achievements and progress in the second and third quarters of 2009 in reform implementation and resource mobilization. The report builds on the Ninth Progress Report that gave an overview of progress made in the first quarter of 2009. The Tenth Progress Report will be disseminated early November and is available on [www.finance.gov.lb](http://www.finance.gov.lb). The preparation of the report is a collaborative effort of the Ministry of Finance, the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and the Council for Reconstruction and Development, with inputs provided by natural owners of the reform program.