



20.2.2017

# MISSION REPORT

following the mission to Lebanon (19-22 September 2016)

Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

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## **I. Background and objective of the mission**

The Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) decided to include this mission to Lebanon in its planning of missions for the second semester of 2016 in relation to the current refugee and migration crisis. The delegation visit was also related to the UNGA High-Level Meeting on Refugees and Migrants taking place in New York during the same week (LIBE delegation visit of 18-20 September) and the Leaders' Summit on Refugees, which appealed to governments to pledge significant new commitments on refugees.

Main topics were the challenges faced by third countries in receiving large numbers of refugees and how the EU could support these countries against the backdrop of the recent Commission Communication on establishing a new Partnership Framework with third countries under the European Agenda on Migration (LIBE opinion to the AFET/DEVE report “Addressing Refugee and Migrant Movements: the Role of EU External Action”, rapporteur: M.C. Vergiat) and the practice of resettlement from Lebanon to the EU as agreed among Member States in July 2015 in relation to the legislative proposal of the Commission to establish a Union resettlement framework (LIBE-Rapporteur: Malin Bjork).

The delegation visit aimed at providing a comprehensive overview of the situation in Lebanon, which hosts a large number of refugees (1.5 mio, compared to its population of 4.5 mio inhabitants, including about 500.000 long-term Palestinian refugees). The programme of the delegation visit included therefore meetings with a large variety of stakeholders including representatives of the Lebanese government, the Lebanese parliament, the EU Delegation Offices of Lebanon and Syria, UNHCR<sup>1</sup>, UNICEF and UNWRA<sup>2</sup>, as well as international and local NGOs.

Besides, the delegation members also visited initiatives supporting refugees and host communities. On 21 September, the visit of a Palestinian Refugee camp and the Siblin Training Centre of UNWRA took place together with the members of the Budgetary Control Committee (CONT) delegation to Lebanon and Jordan. The LIBE delegation also profited from the background briefing of Policy Department D on the situation in Lebanon and Jordan.

## **II. Briefing Meeting on 14 September 2016**

A preparatory meeting preceded the delegation visit, which took place in Strasbourg with visio-conference connection with Brussels.

**André RIZZO** from the EEAS (Division responsible for relations with Lebanon) focused on the negotiations for a new migration partnership (compact) with Lebanon, with mutually agreed priorities, which was at the time very close to an agreement<sup>3</sup>. A number of toolboxes were being developed to foster, among others, growth and education, notably in the host communities. It was important, though, that funding from the EU was made available on the basis of commitments, such as improving the protection and integration of refugees. The main objective is to stabilise Lebanon with regard to the response to refugee arrivals and protection. Significant

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

<sup>2</sup> UN Relief and Works Agency which is dedicated to provide basic services to Palestine refugees

<sup>3</sup> For the state of play see: <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2016/11/15-eu-lebanon-partnership/>

funds are ready to be released but delivery is awaited on commitments regarding the situation of refugees, notably the uncertain legal status, registration, access to labour market, and education<sup>1</sup>. It should be noted that, due to the governmental crisis<sup>2</sup>, no laws were adopted in Lebanon. Bottlenecks mean there is also great difficulty for the EU to deliver and for Lebanon to absorb assistance. Related challenges have been exacerbated due to the Syrian crisis.

**Dario VASCHETTO** from DG HOME (Unit for international coordination) highlighted the parallel negotiations for a mobility partnership with Lebanon, which are also close to an end. Priority areas included cooperation on preventing irregular migration, managing legal migration, assisting persons in need of international protection, and development linked to migration. He also clarified that refugees became victims of exploitation in Lebanon because of their uncertain legal status. He reminded that the EU-wide resettlement scheme included about 22,000 places for all priority regions (Middle east, North Africa, Horn of Africa, including persons covered by the EU-Turkey statement), with now more than 10,000 having been resettled, out of which about 6.000 from Lebanon<sup>3</sup>.

According to **Elke DE JAGHER** from UNHCR, 4.8 million Syrian refugees are present in the greater region, while a bit more than 1 million are present in Lebanon. Between April 2011 and August 2016, 831,547 asylum applications were lodged in the 28 EU Member States, Norway and Switzerland (EU+)<sup>4</sup>. In Lebanon, only 10% of Syrians live in camps, therefore the majority are “urban” refugees. Compared to 2014, there has been a rapid increase in the last two years. Refugees can usually only undertake informal work, as they have to sign a pledge not to work. Further, the renewal of the residence permit costs 200 dollars, while rental agreements, registering children and other administrative formalities are becoming impossible without residence permit. Since the start of the crisis, Lebanon UNHCR programmes have received 201 million euros from the EU. As to the type of assistance, cash assistance is considered the most dignified way which can also replace food vouchers. She urged the EU to set a positive example in responding to refugee flows by ensuring access to protection and stepping up their resettlement efforts. She drew attention to the fact that there had been frustration in Lebanon about Turkey being given so much attention by the EU. EU funding would have to be streamlined taking into account that the situation in Lebanon is going to be a long-term one, but UNHCR had not observed a clear shift in EU priorities.

**Matthias BURCHARD** from UNRWA highlighted the mission and role of UNRWA, which offers state-like services (education, healthcare etc.) to one group of people (Palestine refugees), in a defined region (Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Palestine). 260,000-280,000 Palestine refugees and descendants from 1948 are registered in Lebanon, of whom 65 % live below the poverty line. The Lebanon camps are characterised by very poor conditions, while Palestine refugees are socially marginalised and rely entirely on UNRWA services. As a result of the conflict in Syria, a number of Palestine refugees from Syria (PRS) fled to Lebanon (31,000 recorded now, +

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<sup>1</sup> See factsheet on EU support to Lebanon: [http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/background-information/docs/20160316/eu\\_support\\_to\\_lebanon\\_-\\_latest\\_update\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/background-information/docs/20160316/eu_support_to_lebanon_-_latest_update_en.pdf) and Annex IV

<sup>2</sup> It should be noted that in the meantime, a new President was elected: Michel Aoun. See [https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/lebanon\\_nl](https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/lebanon_nl)

<sup>3</sup> 6th Relocation and Resettlement report, Annex 3 on Resettlement (09/2016): [http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/proposal-implementation-package/docs/20161109/annex\\_3\\_resettlement\\_state\\_of\\_play\\_07\\_11\\_2016\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/proposal-implementation-package/docs/20161109/annex_3_resettlement_state_of_play_07_11_2016_en.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/asylum.php>

14,000 who are estimated to have already fled to Turkey/Europe). 90% of PRS live in poverty, and 10% live in extreme poverty (are unable to meet essential food requirements). UNRWA has provided PRS in Lebanon with cash assistance on a monthly basis, but suspended it in July 2015 for lack of funding. In March 2016, monthly cash assistance was resumed. Reforms to Lebanese labour law are required to recognise in practice the right to access formal employment and related social protection mechanisms and to overcome discrimination. Presently, 36 professions (general medicine, accountant, physiotherapy, etc) are still prohibited to Palestinians. Besides, Lebanese law forbids Palestinians from acquiring, transferring or inheriting property. Since May 2014, severe restrictions apply for PRS, effectively barring entering the country. A growing problem concerns new-born PRS, who have no ID, due to the irregular situation of the parents which is due to the difficulty to renew the residence permit. Education is provided in Lebanon to more than 30,000 Palestinian students, including PRS, which also comprises technical and vocational education adapted to the local labour market.

### **III. Overview of the situation of refugees and host communities in Lebanon<sup>1</sup>**

Lebanon hosts presently about 1.5 mio refugees, out of which about 1 mio from Syria. Refugees have been arriving from Syria continuously since the outbreak of the Syrian civil war in 2011. It should be noted that Lebanon has not yet signed the Geneva Convention.

As there was a high number of male Syrian workers in Lebanon before the war broke out<sup>2</sup>, the Lebanese government claims that many of them are family members of the Syrians who worked in Lebanon before the war and should not be regarded as refugees but as migrant workers.

As set out in the briefing, Lebanon also has a long history with the reception of Palestine refugees (PRL) since 1950. The PRL remain in Lebanon without a possibility of naturalisation and very little opportunities to integrate into the host society. At the same time, UNWRA provides basic health and social services as well as primary, secondary and tertiary education to about presently 270.000 registered PRL<sup>3</sup>, who live in 12 camps all over the country as well as to the PRS.

Beginning of 2015, Lebanon closed its borders for refugees from Syria and does not allow the UNHCR to continue with the formal registration of refugees. Consequently, it is estimated that about 100.000 refugees are living in Lebanon without being registered. Besides, the renewal of residence permits is obstructed by high, cumulative annual fees of USD200 per person of at least 15 years of age or, alternatively, the need of sponsorship which entails a high risk of social exclusion, exploitation and abuse. The lack of a valid residence permit seriously restricts the mobility of, in the meantime, more than half of the Syrian refugees in Lebanon (UNHCR figure), with a negative effect on the ability of children to attend school and on adults to access employment. The restriction significantly increases the precariousness and vulnerability of refugees, including young men who, without a residence permit, can be arrested at any time.

Furthermore, the Lebanese government refuses to facilitate integration or naturalisation of

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<sup>1</sup> The information in this report is based on developments until the time of the mission.

<sup>2</sup> According to UNHCR about 1 million.

<sup>3</sup> The PRL are not included in the figures provided by UNHCR as they fall under UNWRA competence and services.

Syrian refugees in Lebanon. Consequently, the Lebanese government is advocating for returning Syrian refugees as quickly as possible, more concretely to so called “safe zones” in Syria. At the time of the visit this question was vividly debated and the LIBE delegation voiced concerns, not only because of the previous negative experiences in the war in the former Yugoslavia, showing that returning Syrians should only be envisaged if the situation is really safe.

### *Living and working conditions of Syrian refugees and their host communities*

According to a study of the World Bank<sup>1</sup>, the war in Syria had a serious negative impact on the Lebanese economy as agricultural exports through Syria to the Gulf countries stopped and no more tourists were arriving in Lebanon from these countries. On the other hand, UNHCR underlined that those refugees who dispose of cash vouchers help small and medium-size Lebanese enterprises through their spending.

Furthermore, UNHCR informed the delegation that while the living and working conditions of the Lebanese also worsened with rising unemployment, the situation of refugees deteriorated even more. In 2014, 49% of them were living under the poverty line of 3.80 US Dollars a day, in 2016 it were already 70%. Mainly outside Beirut, many refugees and host communities were living in extreme poverty. The longer the war lasted, the more refugees used up their savings. Consequently, according to UNHCR, 91% of the households were in debt, on average with 858 US Dollars, to shop owners and landlords. However, there was no malnutrition despite the fact that 85% of the refugee households had reduced food expenditure. Only 7% of the households were food secure and 76% had purchased food on credit. According to UNHCR research, money was spent on food, health and shelter. Given the critical living conditions, negative coping strategies, like prostitution, were on the rise.

In Lebanon, the Syrian refugees usually don't live in camps<sup>2</sup> but in the communities. While this facilitates integration, generally speaking, in Lebanon many refugees are living with relatives or friends, or as subtenants which makes that a large number of people have to live under one roof with a lack of privacy and high risks for all forms of violence, including domestic violence. Overall, UNHCR states that the living conditions of the refugees are for a large part sub-standard, i.e. buildings in ruins, without running water, sanitation or electricity, which has negative effects on the health of those concerned. One fourth are estimated to live in garages or other shelter accommodated by them, and 17% in informal settings.

Regarding access to education of the refugee children, the EU and UN agencies have established a two shift school programme which allows the Syrian children to attend school together with Lebanese children. This was possible because only 30% of the Lebanese children attend public schools - which provided for some capacities to be dedicated to refugee children. However, the quality of the education remains an issue. In this respect, it should be noted that the educational level in Syria was very high. Driven by the fact that most employment requiring tertiary education could be found in the public administration, there were more women than men in universities. The big worries of Syrian parents is consequently that their children cannot

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/lebanon/overview>

<sup>2</sup> It has to be noted that UNHCR has a “no camp” policy, meaning that the integration of refugees into the host society is preferred over hosting them in camps. While integration is facilitated, this means also that reaching the refugees, for example regarding information campaigns, is more difficult.

pursue their education. For many it was clear that they could only finalise their education by moving on to Europe, which seems to be an important push factor.

It has to be noted that the situation of refugees has been exacerbated by discrimination and social exclusion, while at the same time the growing destitution scared Lebanese people and made them receptive of arguments accusing the refugees of negatively impacting the Lebanese economy on the one hand and for extremist and sectarian movements on the other hand. Countering them with objective information was difficult as no national data is available. For example, the latest census was held in 1932 and consequently no information could be provided on the composition of the population and their needs.

As to Palestine refugees, who are present in Lebanon since 1948, similar issues exist. 65 % live below the poverty line and in very poor conditions, facing also social exclusion. As a result of the conflict in Syria, a number of Palestine refugees from Syria (PRS) fled to Lebanon (and estimated total of 45,000). 90% of PRS live in poverty, and 10% live in extreme poverty (unable to meet essential food requirements). UNRWA has provided PRS in Lebanon with cash assistance on a monthly basis, but suspended it in July 2015 for lack of funding and resumed it later. The right to access formal employment and related social protection mechanisms is still hampered, for instance, by the fact that 36 professions (general medicine, accountancy, physiotherapy, etc) are still prohibited to Palestinians. Since May 2014, severe restrictions apply for PRS, effectively barring entering the country, while the difficulty to renew the residence permit also applies for PRS with an increasing number of new-born PRS having no ID. UNRWA provides education in Lebanon to more than 30,000 Palestinian students, also including PRS.

### **III. Summary of the meetings and visits**

*Monday, 19 September 2016*

#### **Preparatory meeting with Christina Lassen, Head of the EU Delegation to Lebanon**

Christina Lassen reminded that all policy areas in Lebanon were affected by the civil war in Syria, meaning that not only security was critical but also the economic and social situation. Given the political balance in Lebanon established on the participation of all religious groups in decision-making, the influx of mostly Sunnis from Syria is regarded as a serious threat to political stability in the country<sup>1</sup>. In addition to the economic downturn (from a growth rate of 8% in 2011 to 1% nowadays), this creates a difficult climate for Syrian refugees in Lebanon.

The EU cooperates intensively with the government on the basis of the Association Agreement which entered into force in 2006 and the second EU-Lebanon European Neighbourhood Policy Action Plan.

The EU is the biggest donor and most of the support is spent on humanitarian aid and the improvement of infrastructure on the local level for refugees and host communities in need. Given the political deadlock in Lebanon, the lack of a budget prevents the EU from providing direct payments. At the London Conference for Syria, the EU pledged 1 billion US Dollars, topped up by Member States pledges and EBRD and EIB<sup>2</sup> loans. The EU aims at creating benefits for those in need regardless of their residence status but receives often complaints that Lebanon was not receiving any financial support, only the refugees. From the World Food Programme, the most vulnerable persons receive 27 US Dollars per month, per person, for a maximum of 5 persons per household. The EU's humanitarian aid branch, ECHO, provides a cash assistance of 100 US Dollars a month for very vulnerable households. The financial assistance is for a small part accompanied by capacity building.

During the discussion with the LIBE delegation members, it was underlined that the political situation was marked by instability and changing coalitions making decision-making very difficult. Lebanon has managed so far to keep radical Islamists at the margins of political and social life but the situation was tense.

#### **Preparatory Meeting with Simon Bojsen-Moller, Acting Head of the EU-Delegation to Syria<sup>3</sup>**

Mr Bojsen-Moller set out that the EU-Delegation office in Damascus remained open and that he went there more or less every three weeks as well as the colleagues working on humanitarian aid and return. He said that in areas held by the Syrian government, agriculture, government services and administration, like education, were still working.

He was concerned that most probably the fights would not stop any time soon as neither the different armed groups nor the government were strong enough to win. However, in the

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<sup>1</sup> For more detailed information on the political situation in Lebanon, please consult the background briefing of Policy Department D.

<sup>2</sup> European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and European Investment Bank (EIB).

<sup>3</sup> ECHO fact sheet on Syria (09/2016): [http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/aid/countries/factsheets/syria\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/aid/countries/factsheets/syria_en.pdf)

meantime, the effects of the war became visible even in the streets of Damascus with people getting obviously thinner. The continuing fights were pushing people out of Syria where there are still about 6.6 Mio internally displaced people. However, he took the view that those who had the capacity to leave had already left.

In this situation, the task of the EU was to contribute to finding a political solution, maintaining dialogue with the different local and international stakeholders from all sides, in particular regarding empowering civil society to have a voice in the process. Besides, the EU participates in the Geneva process. The EU also continues to provide humanitarian aid to vulnerable people but also to those who are still able to keep their life going to avoid a final collapse of these families. In this respect, the EU was avoiding to politicise the help provided.

During the discussion with the LIBE delegation members, Mr Bojsen-Moller set out that there were many reasons obstructing a political agreement but that first and foremost the fighting parties would have to recognise that a political solution was the only solution.

*Tuesday, 20 September 2016*

**Briefing meeting with Jean-Nicolas BEUZE, UNHCR Deputy-Representative for Lebanon, and Angela MURRU, UNHCR Senior Resettlement Officer, and meeting with refugee families in the resettlement process (for MEPs) and detailed briefing on UNHCR Resettlement process**

Since 2013, about 50.000 refugees were arriving from Syria every month and in 2015 the government published an official document indicating that the influx of refugees needed to be stopped in order to protect not only jobs and the economy but also the religious and political balance of the country. UNHCR was requested to stop the registration of refugees and, lately, also to set up camps for the Syrian refugees. However, in principle, UNHCR advocates for accommodating refugees in the communities to facilitate their integration and to avoid costly investments in camp structures. Consequently, only a few camps exist in the North of Lebanon.

Regarding the living and working conditions of refugees, Mr Beuze said that the impossibility to renew the residence permits was seriously impacting the mobility and dignity of the Syrian refugees. However, they were not used to complaining and did not see themselves in a position to complain as a displaced person. Therefore, arbitrary arrests and exploitation remained unreported and it was UNHCR doing a lot of advocacy work supporting the refugees. He mentioned that the fact that Lebanon was expensive combined with social exclusion led to many refugees moving on.

Mr Beuze also pointed to the much less favourable situation of refugees from other nationalities, for example long-time refugees from Iraq (present in Lebanon since 1991), who have to pay a fine of 400 US Dollars for every year of missed registration. In this context, he mentioned the example of refugees who cannot return to their country of origin because of their sexual orientation (LGBTI). In Lebanon, they might also be subject to violence and sexual exploitation and the only way to provide them with a future was resettlement.

Mr Beuze set out that 2.5 billion US Dollar had been mobilized which represented 10% of the 26 billion US Dollar available for humanitarian aid worldwide and means that 10% of the



available aid was spent on 2% of those in need. Currently, 775 million have been received, 35% for stabilisation programmes and 65% for humanitarian aid. UNHCR disburses 179 US Dollar a month per family of unconditional aid for those who are far below the poverty line. The money is provided in form of an ATM cash card. According to UNHCR's monitoring, families use the money for food, shelter, education and clothing. In terms of fraud monitoring, Mr Beuze reassured Members that the card is only provided to those who are registered and recognised as economically vulnerable. UNHCR also verifies if the needs of women and children are covered. The cash card is seen as a dignified way of help which also supports the Lebanese shop owners. Mr Beuze underlined that despite the fact that 70% of refugees were living under the poverty line, UNHCR could only help the 20% most deprived.

Regarding health care, UNHCR was spending 3 million US Dollars per month to cover 75% of the medical costs. Mr Beuze underlined that treatment against cancer, heart attack, etc, was not covered. Consequently, if needed, refugees are leaving Lebanon in search for medical treatment. Sometimes this means that families are separated as one parent leaves with the sick child.

### *Resettlement*

Mr Beuze set out that 10% out of 1 million refugees in Lebanon were in need of resettlement but that UNHCR only foresees to resettle 20.300 in 2016, of which 19.000 Syrians and 1.300 with other nationalities. The latter will all be resettled in the US. The rest were deprioritised as they are, for example, either incomplete families or not interested in resettlement.

Resettlement is defined in the UNHCR Resettlement Handbook. Resettlement means to move from a state where a refugee has sought protection initially to another state which agreed to admit them. Until now, 17.300 Syrians were resettled from Lebanon, including those who went to Canada in 2015. The Syrians foreseen for resettlement in 2016 will move to 24 different countries among which Canada, the UK, Norway, Finland, and France. Between 2012 and 2015, about 40.000 refugees were resettled from Lebanon<sup>1</sup>.

Mr Beuze explained that the possibility of resettlement was not related to a refugee certificate but to vulnerability. By way of example he mentioned that a lot of women were raped in the Syrian war but that medical care for survivors of rape and torture only existed since 2015 in Lebanon. Consequently, survivors of rape and torture accounted for a large part of those in the resettlement scheme. Besides, the socio-economic situation of refugees, like large families, was added to the list of criteria.

There are different resettlement programmes, including humanitarian admission schemes which might also lead to different forms of residence status. In case of return from a resettlement country, it is ensured that this is only taking place when it is safe. While the selection criteria are the same for UNHCR for all procedures, some might request more action by the receiving country. UNHCR has several meetings with the resettlement countries to identify which refugees could be resettled to which country to avoid, for example, that all health related cases will be sent to one country. Care is taken to keep families together. Some integration courses

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<sup>1</sup> Over 20 countries have admitted refugees from Lebanon: Australia, Canada, Belgium, Belarus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, Finland, United Kingdom, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, New Zealand, Sweden, Switzerland, Uruguay, and the US.

already start in the sending country. In Beirut, there are counselling days twice a week to inform refugees about the laws and the situation in the resettlement countries.

It was also explained that there is always a drop out of persons entitled to resettlement (about 30%) because of various reasons. Often, Syrians don't want to move too far away from Syria, hoping to go back in the near future. Others are also concerned about the possibility to practice their religion as a Muslim in the host country.

Upon request of Members, Mr Beuze set out that the UNHCR and the EU were not perceived as efficient by the Lebanese population (which is also due, however, to the ongoing conflict with Israel). UNHCR made therefore efforts to create visibility by explaining what the UN and the EU are doing. He pointed to the effects of the support in terms of having light in the night and of the availability of security forces. He mentioned that "with such a crisis, all activities seem like a drop in the ocean".

He reminded that UNHCR calls upon governments to explore possibilities for establishing additional pathways for legal migration of Syrian refugees through admission of extended family members, labour mobility schemes or scholarship and apprenticeship programmes, in close collaboration with the private sector, academic institutions and civil society.

### **Meeting with the Minister of Social Affairs, H. E. Mr Rashed Derbas**

The Minister welcomed the delegation and emphasised the close relationship between the EU and Lebanon. As Minister of Social Affairs, he is mandated for policy responses to the refugee crisis. In this sense he underlined that Lebanon was treating them as good as possible in the given situation. He stressed the need to provide not only the refugees with assistance but also the Lebanese host communities which are equally suffering from the effects of the war in Syria.

He mentioned that the Lebanese government was in discussions with the EU on safe zones in Syria, for example in the North, close to the Turkish border, to which refugees hosted now in Lebanon could move and where they could stay until the ceasefire was agreed.

The Chair gave a short statement thanking the government for welcoming and supporting the delegation for which the visit of Lebanon was important for the future work on asylum and migration. He acknowledged the difficulties related to the refugee crisis and that the Minister was in charge of this heavy file. The Minister on his side pointed to the much smaller numbers arriving in the EU and the need for the EU to give more support to his country. In this respect he said that it was of utmost importance to avoid an explosion of violence also in Lebanon and referred to the permanently pending bombardments over the frontier and the threat of terrorist attacks.

Members drew attention to the bad European experiences with safe zones in the former Yugoslavia and underlined the positive effects of residence permits for refugees for better integration. The Minister replied that third country nationals were allowed to work in Lebanon, for example in the construction or the agricultural sector. He mentioned possibilities for the creation of employment through foreign investment in clean energy production or in other areas of economic innovation. In this way, the crisis could be turned into an opportunity.

### **Meeting with international NGOs on advocacy, protection and resettlement**

The following INGOs were invited to the discussion:

Caritas Lebanon Migrants Centre (<http://caritasmigrant.org.lb/>); DRC (Danish Refugee Council) (<https://drc.dk/where-we-work/middle-east-and-north-africa/lebanon>); NRC (Norwegian refugee Council) (<https://www.nrc.no/countries/middle-east/lebanon/>); IRC (International Rescue Committee) (<https://www.rescue.org/country/lebanon>); Oxfam IT (<https://www.oxfam.org/en/content/oxfam-italy>; [https://www.oxfam.org/en/search-page?search\\_api\\_views\\_fulltext=IEBANON](https://www.oxfam.org/en/search-page?search_api_views_fulltext=IEBANON)); MPDL (<http://www.mpdl.org/nuestra-ong/equipo/trabaja-movimiento-paz#sthash.p0EKrzb4.dpbs>); Search for Common Ground (<https://www.sfcg.org/lebanon/>); World Vision (<http://www.wvi.org/lebanon>); Lebanon Humanitarian INGO Forum (<http://lhif.org>)

Members exchanged views with the representatives on resettlement and the safe zones policy for Syrian refugees that the Lebanese government was advocating for. The representatives confirmed the situation of refugees in Lebanon as described by UNHCR. In addition, they focused on the vulnerable situation in particular of refugee children and persons with disabilities who are both forming a large group within the refugee population. There were concerns about a lost generation and statelessness of Syrians in Lebanon. Against the backdrop of the unsustainable situation for refugees in Lebanon, and return not being an option for most of them, representatives welcomed the attention to the issue through the UN summit. While some said that Lebanon had done a lot for the Syrian refugees and welcomed them, others criticized the EU-Turkey statement which had negative consequences on the political views about the refugees in Lebanon. It was argued that Lebanon and the EU were facing similar challenges and should cooperate on the basis of partnership. Investment was needed, both for refugees and for host communities, in line with better policies.

### **Field visit to the Chiyah Social Development Centre, Babdaa**

The delegation was welcomed by Luciano CALESTINI, UNICEF Deputy-Representative in Lebanon, who acknowledged the support from the Minister for Social Affairs and the partnership with the EU and the UN agencies to assist all disadvantaged children, not only refugee children. Attention was drawn to the overall situation of this particular part of the city which needed cooperation and support to address a whole range of problems, including the high population density, water pollution, or the lack of garbage collection. It was mentioned that many Palestinian refugees were also living in the area. Given the support, the centre, which is one out of 220 spread all over Lebanon, can function in favour of social cohesion as it brings all communities together and allows for the government to cooperate with civil society organisations. The national plans were presented which include the protection of women and children but also investments in infrastructure in terms of buildings and services. The Lebanese NGO Ana Aqra presented their remedial support activities. They cover entertainment activities for children but also empowerment for families, including legal counselling. Most of their staff are hired locally.

In the briefing on education it was said that the EU had hugely invested into the programme. It was said that there are 179.000 Syrian children enrolled in the public schools in Lebanon which is more or less equal to the number of Lebanese children and means that the capacities had to be doubled in 2 years' time. The schools consequently have to work in two shifts: morning and

afternoon. Attention was drawn to the fact that many Syrian children had been out of school for a while and needed a transition to get used to the formal system, including homework support which focuses on independent learning and peaceful conflict resolution. There are also projects for early childhood education and for children with special needs. All teachers are Lebanese and teach the Lebanese curriculum, which is a precondition for the support from the Ministry. Drop-out rates also depend from the residence status (although a residence permit is no prerequisite to attend the schools) and from the fact that safe transport to school is not guaranteed. Besides, improvements of the quality of the education are still needed.

*Wednesday, 21 September 2016*

### **Briefing with UNWRA Director Matthias Schmalle (together with CONT)**

Mr Schmalle set out that UNWRA operated now 66 years in Lebanon with a funding coming from two different sources: on the one hand, there is the Programme Budget contribution of 78 million per year which is not necessarily spent for humanitarian aid but on the provision of services which are under normal conditions provided by governments, like health<sup>1</sup> and social services and education. 250.000 registered PRL and 30.000 PRS profit from this. On the other hand, there is project based funding of 43 million Euros per year for complementary activities of which most are spent on extra-curricular activities in education aiming at the integration of PRS (30 million) and another 10 million for camp improvements<sup>2</sup>. Some money is also spent for financing micro projects with the objective to maintain the hope for the future and to create employment opportunities. The request of UNWRA for increased funds is due to the increase in the number of refugees, for example in 2015, there are 5.000 new children in primary education in Gaza. It has to be noted that the schools are rented which entails huge costs, also in Lebanon as it is an expensive country. 20 million Euros were set aside for secondary health care as these costs were exploding in Lebanon. He said that political solutions could help to contain financial costs.

Mr Schmalle also addressed the most urgent human rights issues, including the need for a right to own property and the fact that 36 professions in Lebanon are inaccessible for Palestinian refugees, for example doctors.

Answering to questions of Members of LIBE and CONT, Mr Schmalle said that UNWRA had about 3.000 paid staff in Lebanon of which 80% are Palestinians. For Palestinians, UNWRA is the biggest employer, for example for doctors as they are otherwise not allowed to work legally in Lebanon. Half of them are teachers, 400 in the health sector, 300 in the social service and 500 persons working in the administration, for example accounting. He observed that accountability missions were very important to fight corruption but should be better coordinated among stakeholders as they involve a lot of staff. Better cooperation between the different auditing authorities should take place and they should build on mutual trust of the results. UNWRA had taken steps to contain costs as far as possible, for example by recentralising key functions instead of external project management. EU missions had shown that there were some weaknesses in the project management. The tools were consequently improved but more capacity was needed. Regarding the issue of corruption, Mr Schmalle said that it was not very

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<sup>1</sup> Including mental health

<sup>2</sup> It has to be noted that “camps” in Lebanon mean ghettos like suburbs.

probable in UNWRA as 80% of costs were staff salaries out of which most are paid to teachers. However, a risk remained regarding construction activities. UNWRA can presently not quantify the phenomenon of corruption but needs to address it. The quality of spending was an issue. For the financial monitoring, UNWRA had their own team, also to enhance capacity building.

Setting out more in detail the composition of the Palestinian refugee population in Lebanon, Mr Schmalle said that 50% of the PRL were below the age of 25 and born in Lebanon. 270.000 out of about 500.000 refugees are using the UNWRA services<sup>1</sup>. The rest is to be assumed to have left Lebanon to other countries. Regarding PRS, out of 40.000 about 10.000 PRS have left Lebanon but some also returned. Mr Schmalle suggested that there is a need to provide these young people with a dignified life as they will otherwise leave for Europe while the older generation does not want to move away from Palestine to keep their right to return.

Regarding the overall security situation, Mr Schmalle explained that in the Palestine refugee camps, neither UNWRA nor the Lebanese government are responsible for security. This would allow Lebanese criminals and extremists to hide there. Until now, the PRL and PRS are not attracted by the ideology of the Islamic State. However, if they would discover the Palestine cause for their purposes, the situation might change for the worst. There are possibilities for civil unrest and onward movement. He advocated therefore for a political solution in terms of integration and a life in dignity in Lebanon or a Palestinian state where the PRL and PRS could return to.

### **Visit to Shatila camp**

The UNWRA Chief Area Officer for Central Beirut explained that the Shatila camp was set up in 1949 and that it is one of the 12 Palestinian camps in Lebanon. It measures 0,4 km<sup>2</sup> with a population of 25.000 persons who are PRL, PRS and also other nationalities. During the first years, the Lebanese intelligence had the leadership over the camp until the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) took over in 1968. When the PLO left Lebanon in 1982, 60% of the camp was destroyed and afterwards rebuilt by UNWRA. In 2005, for the first time, a Lebanese minister visited the camps and took note of the destitute situation. Consequently, an agreement was reached with the EU to improve the infrastructure. Nevertheless, for example, the electricity infrastructure is sub-standard and leads to many, sometimes deadly, accidents.

The camp has for the first time a female camp leader. Attention was drawn to the fact that the people in the camp live in isolation and marginalisation while attending school means recognition, opportunities and to have a normal life for the children as it provides shelter, recreation, and playgrounds. Thanks to EU support, PRL and PRS children could be schooled together. PRL can participate in Lebanese official exams.

For the implementation of projects, UNWRA consults with all Palestinian committees and the Lebanese government to obtain their support. Consequently, UNWRA representatives need to be acquainted with Lebanese politics while staying strictly neutral. He confirmed that in Lebanon costs of living were very high and lead to an increase in support needs.

### **Visit of Siblin Training Centre of UNWRA**

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<sup>1</sup> UNWRA has a sophisticated registration system

The centre was set up in 1961. The students follow the official exams of the Lebanese system and the selection process for the different courses provides for priority for hardship cases. However, the centre is still awaiting official accreditation by the Lebanese authorities which is a precondition for official recognition by the EU. The centre was funded with a share from the EU funding to UNWRA's general budget.

Members of LIBE and CONT heard a presentation by former students now working for UNWRA about the vocational education provided in the centre which aimed at improving employability. At the centre, 1.200 male and female students are enrolled of which 58% had been categorised as particularly disadvantaged. The programmes offered are semi-professional courses of a duration between 4 months and 2 years. The most requested professions are technicians for hybrid cars, incubator, architectural engineering, including IT and project management. In an environment in which 56% of refugees are unemployed and where this means living in poverty, it was a great success that 76% of the students attending the centre were in employment in 2016. This was certainly also due to assessment, career guidance and counselling by the UNWRA employment services centres (ESC). The ESC has outreach activities with employers and advocates in favour of their students. There are also extra-curricular activities regarding peace building, student parliaments, recreation and youth clubs.

Upon questions by Members, it was underlined that the success story of the centre was based on the training on the job, the partnership with employers and the follow-up of the students beyond their placement in an enterprise. UNWRA is proud of the results given the high competition on the Lebanese labour market. It was underlined that the certified students could also work in the camps to contribute to the improvement of living standards there but there were, for example, no electricity companies working in the camps.

Several female and male students present their careers to the Members.

**Meeting and press point with the following representatives of the relevant committees of the Lebanese Parliament:**

**Administration and Justice Committee:** President: Robert GHANEM. Rapporteur: Nawar SAHLI

**Human Rights Committee:** President : Michel MOUSSA. Rapporteur : Ghassan MOUKHEIBER

**Friendship committee with the EU:** Members: Yasiine JABER

**EU-Delegation:** Christina LASSEN, Head of Delegation; Manuel VILAPLANA LOPEZ, Policy Officer.

The Lebanese MPs set out that the presence of the refugees had an effect on many areas of social life, among which economy, security, and public services. Lebanon experienced high pressure in terms of terrorist threat and a severe economic crisis. While a political solution of the Syrian conflict could be beneficial, interim solutions like safe zones in Syria should be considered. The refugees could in any case not stay in Lebanon.

Members thanked the Lebanese MPs for sharing their experiences. During the discussion, several issues were raised for which the Members offered support, like resettlement and education. Cooperation between the EU and Lebanon was needed to overcome the crisis triggered by the Syrian war, in particular regarding the schooling of children as Lebanon had limited capacities and funds. Christina LASSEN underlined that the EU support had helped preventing so far an outbreak of violence and that the support for refugees was also beneficial for the Lebanese society and host communities, for example there were now 750.000 persons with a better access to water.

The Chair invited the Lebanese MPs to come to Brussels to attend a LIBE meeting and to present the situation. He concluded by saying that the EU was contributing but that the challenges were considerable.

***Thursday, 22 September 2016***

**Press Conference by the Chair<sup>1</sup>**

**Meeting with the representatives of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) on their work on resettlement<sup>2</sup>**

The IOM representatives presented their ongoing operational activities regarding resettlement. It was mentioned that Canada was increasing its pledges to 5,000 per month and the UK to 500 per month. 6.500 refugees were resettled to various Member States of the EU, usually Scandinavian countries and the Netherlands but also to Italy and Spain. It was expected that by

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<sup>1</sup> See [https://storify.com/euoparl\\_en/lebanon](https://storify.com/euoparl_en/lebanon), ENPI Info,

<sup>2</sup> See also <http://eea.iom.int/index.php/what-we-do/resettlement>

the end of the year 27,000 refugees would be resettled.

Regarding resettlement, the role of the IOM was to facilitate searching missions, do interviews and take care of the logistics. 14 different missions were upcoming, including to France and Ireland. 4,500 refugees had been interviewed with Canada having an accelerated procedure for 25.000 refugees until the end of the year. Also Australia had taken 25.000 refugees from the region. The United States had taken a large number of refugees from the region but rather from Jordan. This was related to security issues in Lebanon.

It is IOM's task to prepare refugees for their new host country and to increase their capacity to integrate there. To this end, IOM offers cultural orientation sessions of usually 3 days minimum<sup>1</sup>. There is a tool to explain procedures and for example provide information about employment. Besides, in terms of preparation, it has to be noted that 15-20% of the cases referred from UNHCR are health related and IOM does the health assessments, including the ability to travel and the preparation of the journey. As 60% of the Syrian refugees are living outside of Beirut, IOM facilitates the cumbersome transfer to the capital which always involves escorts.

Careful planning of the transfer to the host country is crucial. On the one hand, exit permits are required for every case which takes 4 weeks. If exit is denied, the UNHCR legal department can intervene, but numbers are marginal. On the other hand, the situation is very volatile and additional security requirements might pop up. They cooperate therefore with the UN security advisor. Furthermore, cooperation with major airlines is required for organising charter flights if applicable and for safe travel so that people don't get lost on the journey and receive airport assistance if needed. At their destination, IOM or local staff are ready to receive the refugees. IOM provides the local authorities of the new host country with information about all family members. There are receiving countries where the resettled refugees have to stay in reception centres before they can be transferred to their permanent accommodation. For others, the accommodation is already available before departure. Both have advantages and disadvantages.

Upon questions by Members the representatives set out that the destination country is discussed with the refugees but that IOM only comes in when the destination country is already selected. Nevertheless, it happens regularly that persons drop out of the process before the transfer for various reasons. It was observed that people who are classified as vulnerable are not also unable to work.

IOM also explained that the duration of the resettlement process depended on the receiving country. Canada could resettle 25,000 in 3 months after the interview but Canada has 2 types of resettlement: through UNHCR and through private sponsorship. The US process is rather long.

The representatives also pointed to the inter-agency coordination which aims at avoiding double assistance to the same individuals. The cooperation works well.

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<sup>1</sup> The Netherlands require 12 days with the objective to allow for absorbing the information, reflect and to come back with questions.



## Meeting with local and Syrian civil society organisations (CSOs) on the reception of refugees

The following CSO were invited to the discussion:

Insan Association ( <http://www.insanassociation.org/en/>); Migration Services for Development (MSD) ; (<http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/acdi-cida/contributions.nsf/Eng>); Centre Libannais des droits de l'homme (IFRC) (<http://www.rightsobserver.org>); Aleph Act for Human Rights (<http://www.alefliban.org/>); KAFA (<http://www.kafa.org.lb/>); Al-Karama Foundation (<http://en.alkarama.org/libya>); LIFE Institute (<http://lifeinstitute.me/>); Movement Social (<http://mouvementsocial.org/en/index.aspx>); Restart (<http://www.irct.org/about-us>); Syrian Centre for Policy Research: (<http://scpr-syria.org/>); Lebanese Centre for Human Rights CLDH ([www.cldh-lebanon.org](http://www.cldh-lebanon.org) )

The representatives underlined the need for a political solution of the Syrian conflict and drew attention to the fact that, although Syrians have a similar culture and habits, tensions between refugees and the Lebanese society were growing because of insecurity and permanent external interventions. In Lebanon, there were several concerns about the lack of rights of Syrian refugees and their socio-economic situation which resulted in abuse and exploitation. NGOs representing refugees came under pressure from the government but also from local communities for addressing the issue of discrimination of refugees. This situation could endanger the stability of the region.

In this respect, on the one hand, the migration compacts were seen as missing the priorities as they focus on preventing refugees from moving on to Europe. It was recalled that Lebanon had received much more refugees per capita than European countries, which felt already overwhelmed. On the other hand, bringing the refugees to Europe was also not a solution either as it enhanced the brain drain when the highly skilled were the first to leave and to stay away for good. Consequently, persons should be enabled to stay where they are and in good conditions, ensured by relevant service provision and infrastructure support.

It was mentioned that an institutional change was needed to end corruption and to create inclusive societies in Lebanon. The NGOs were ready to discuss the necessary systemic changes with the Lebanese government in the framework of the sustainable development agenda and to participate in the implementation of services. They would like to be part of the state-building and advocated for a bottom-up approach.

Finally, attention was drawn to the most vulnerable groups like children with special needs or victims of torture (the Human Rights Forum's (CLDH) Rehabilitation Centre accompanies about 350 victims from Syria) who are not receiving adequate support. For them, resettlement was often the only solution.

#### **IV. Conclusions and recommendations**

The numerous visits and exchanges during the mission were considered extremely useful for Members in understanding the current situation of refugees and host communities in Lebanon as well as the financial and political implications of the cooperation of the EU with Lebanon to cope with the refugee crisis.

The Members participating in the delegation visit:

- would like to express their gratitude to the Lebanese government and Members of Parliament, the EU Delegations to Lebanon and Syria, the representatives of the UNHCR, UNWRA and UNICEF, and the representatives of the various non-governmental organisations working on the reception and integration of refugees in Lebanon for their commitment and the contributions to the delegation visit;
- extend an invitation to Members of the Lebanese Parliament to come to Brussels and present the situation in a LIBE meeting;
- recognise the difficult situation in Lebanon with 1,1 Mio refugees following the outbreak of the Syrian civil war and about 250.000 registered long-term Palestinian refugees compared to a population of 4,5 million inhabitants;
- underlines the dramatic situation of Lebanon confronted with migration pressure which could lead to the collapse of this country; on medium term this would be a huge problem for the stability of the region and for the EU;
- pay tribute to the efforts of Lebanon and of its citizens to host a large refugee community, as well as to the governmental and non-governmental actors and volunteers who assist Lebanon in providing basic services regarding health and education to refugees and host communities;
- call upon the Lebanese government to sign the 1951 Refugee Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (Geneva Convention);
- underline that Syrian refugees should only be sent back to Syria when it is really safe;
- call upon Member States to receive a fair share of the global refugee population in the European Union as a practical way of showing solidarity with the main host countries, among which Lebanon, as agreed at the UN Conference in September 2016;
- further call upon Member States to intensify their resettlement activities to accelerate the procedures; recommended as a best practice in this respect the Canadian approach which allows to resettle many refugees within a short timeframe; call upon Member States to find the right balance between the protection needs of applicants for resettlement and security related needs;
- recall in this respect the urgent needs of those refugees who find themselves in a situation that does not allow them, for various reasons, including racial and gender-

based violence and discrimination, medical reasons, socio-economic reasons or special needs, to stay in their present country of refuge;

- welcomes the approach taken by all actors in Lebanon to improve the living and working conditions of refugees and host communities alike which fosters inclusion; recommends this win-win approach as a best practice also in the European context regarding the reception and integration of refugees;
- call upon the Lebanese government to provide refugees with effective access to a legal status by waiving the annual fees for registration and to provide a birth certificate to all children born in Lebanon, independently of their nationality; this would not only allow to provide them with a residence document but also to take them into account for administrative and financial planning with regard to social and educational services;
- recall the importance of schooling for all children as a precondition for a future independent and self-supportive life out of poverty; calls upon the Commission and the Member States to continue to give a priority to education in the co-operation with third countries; remind Member States in this respect that they can also assist third countries concerned by the refugee crisis by providing scholarships or research programmes under the student's and researchers directive.
- reminds the long-term Palestine refugee population and the need for a political solution; encourages in the meantime the integration of Palestine refugees, including full access to the labour market, with the support of UNWRA for more self-reliance of this population;
- call upon the European Commission to continue to assist Lebanon financially and in terms of capacity building in the reception of refugees and the support for host communities;
- underlines the essential role of civil society actors in the provision of services and capacity building; encourages the Lebanese government and international organisations to make use of this potential, not only regarding the reception of refugees but also in the framework of the sustainable development agenda;
- call upon the Commission to involve the European Parliament in the implementation and negotiation of the migration compacts to ensure transparency and democratic control;
- call upon the budgetary authority to provide adequate funding for the reception of refugees within the EU, for example in the framework of resettlement, or, in third countries under the holistic approach to migration.

## Annex I- Final programme

European Parliament  
Committee on Civil Liberties,  
Justice and Home Affairs  
Delegation to Lebanon  
19 - 22 September 2016  
Head of Delegation: Claude Moraes, Chair

### Programme

#### Monday, 19 September 2016

- 16:45      **Bus transfer of those arrived since 15.25 from airport to the EU Delegation** (technical stop at hotel Phoenicia at 17:15)  
Address: 490 Harbor drive, Saïfi, Beirut
- 17:15      **Bus transfer of MEP Claude Moraes and MEPs arriving on 18 September to the EU Delegation**  
Driver: Missak
- 17:30 - 18:30      **Briefing by Head of EU Delegation to Lebanon, Ambassador Christina LASSEN**  
Welcome and political outlook by Christina LASSEN  
Presentation of the LIBE delegation by Mr Claude MORAES  
Security brief by Delegation  
Q&A  
Venue: EU Delegation, Mezzanine room
- 18:30 – 19:30      **Briefing by Acting Head of EU Delegation to Syria, Simon Bojsen-Møller**  
Q&A  
Venue: EU Delegation, Mezzanine room
- 19:30      Transfer to hotel
- from 20:00      Private dinner
- NB! Bus and police escort will not be available after this time.*

## Tuesday, 20 September 2016

- 8:30 Meeting in the lobby of the hotel
- 8:30 - 9:00 Bus transfer to UNHCR Headquarters in Jnah  
*Venue: Khater Bldg, Dr. Philippe Hitti Street, Ramlet El Baida*
- 9.00 – 10.30 **Briefings with UNHCR Deputy-Representative, Jean-Nicolas BEUZE and Angela MURRU, Senior Resettlement Officer**  
Welcome by Jean-Nicolas BEUZE  
Presentation of the LIBE delegation by Mr Claude MORAES  
General Briefing by Jean-Nicolas BEUZE  
Q&A  
Briefing on resettlement by Angela MURRU  
Q&A
- 10.30 – 10.45 Coffee break
- 10.45 - 11.15 **Meeting with refugee families in the resettlement process**  
(only for MEPs, different programme for the rest of the Delegation)
- Remainder of the delegation receives a detailed briefing on UNHCR Resettlement processes** by Angela Murru
- 11:15 – 11:45 Transfer to Ministry of Social Affairs
- 11:45 – 12:45 **Meeting with the Minister of Social Affairs, H. E. Mr Rashed Derbas**
- 12:45 – 13:15 Transfer to the EU Delegation
- 13:15 – 14:30 **Interactive sandwich lunch with INGOs on advocacy, protection and resettlement**  
Presentation of the LIBE delegation by Mr Claude MORAES  
Short statements by the following INGOs:
- Caritas Lebanon Migrants Centre (<http://caritasmigrant.org.lb/>)
  - DRC (Danish Refugee Council) (<https://drc.dk/where-we-work/middle-east-and-north-africa/lebanon>)
  - NRC (Norwegian refugee Council) (<https://www.nrc.no/countries/middle-east/lebanon/>)
  - IRC (International Rescue Committee) (<https://www.rescue.org/country/lebanon>)
  - Oxfam IT ([https://www.oxfam.org/en/content/oxfam-italy](https://www.oxfam.org/en/content/oxfam-italy;);  
[https://www.oxfam.org/en/search-page?search\\_api\\_views\\_fulltext=IEBANON](https://www.oxfam.org/en/search-page?search_api_views_fulltext=IEBANON))

- MPDL (<http://www.mpdل.org/nuestra-ong/equipo/trabaja-movimiento-paz#sthash.p0EKrzb4.dpbs>)
- Search for Common Ground (<https://www.sfcg.org/lebanon/>)
- World Vision (<http://www.wvi.org/lebanon>)
- Lebanon Humanitarian INGO Forum (<http://lhif.org>)

Q&A

Venue: EUD Mezzanine room

14.30 - 15.00 Transfer to venue

15:00 – 16:30 **Field visit to the Chiyah Social Development Centre, Baabda**

Welcome by Luciano CALESTINI, UNICEF Deputy Representative in Lebanon

Presentation of the LIBE delegation by Mr Claude MORAES

Briefing by Lucian CALESTINI

Q&A

Meeting with Lebanese NGO Ana Aqra on remedial support activities

16:30 - 17:00 Bus transfer to hotel

18:45 - 19:00 Transfer to venue

19:00 – 20:30 **Reception hosted by HoD Christina Lassen for MEPs of the LIBE and CONT Committee**

Venue: European Union Residence, Mar Antonios Street, Gemmayzeh, Beirut

20:30 Transfer to hotel and private dinner

*NB! Bus and police escort will not be available after this time.*

## Wednesday, 21 September 2016

### **Hotel check-out for participants departing on 21 September**

- 8:30 Meeting in the lobby of the hotel of LIBE and CONT MEPs for joint program
- 8:40 Transfer to UNRWA LFO  
Venue: Bir Hassan, Ghobeiri, Beirut (opposite City Sportive)
- 9:00 – 9:55 **Briefing with UNRWA Director Matthias Schmale**  
Welcome by Matthias Schmale  
Presentation of the LIBE delegation by Mr Claude MORAES  
Briefing by Matthias Schmale  
Q&A
- 9:55 – 10:00 **Security brief by UNRWA**
- 10.00 - 10.15 Transfer to venue
- 10:15 – 11:30 **Visit to Shatila camp**  
Arrival at Ramallah School in Shatilla  
Briefing by the Chief Area Officer (CAO), Mr. Mohammad Khaled  
Meeting with Popular Committees  
Presentation by Mr Claude MORAES followed by exchange of views  
Briefing on Education and Tour of School by Principal  
Walk to Health Centre  
Health centre – Briefing by Head of Health Centre; tour through health centre  
Tour in the camp
- 11:30 – 12:00 Transfer to Lebanese Parliament
- 12:00 – 13:15 **Meeting with representatives of relevant committees at the Lebanese Parliament**  
Welcome by MPs Robert **Ghanem**, Michel **Moussa** and Yasmine **Jaber**  
Presentation of the Mission by Mr Claude **MORAES**  
**Lebanese Parliament Participants:**  
**Administration and Justice Committee**  
President: Robert **GHANEM**. Rapporteur: Nawar SAHILI  
Membres: Nawaf MUSSAOUI, Emile RAHMÉ, Elie AOUN, Elie KEYROUZ, Samir JISR, Serge TER SARKISSIAN, Abdel LATIF ZEIN, Ali KHREISS, Imad EL-HOUT, Ghassan MOUKHEIBER, Ziad ASWAD, Nadim GEMAYEL, Nehmetallah ABI NASR, Hadi HOBEICHE, Hani KOBEISSI  
**Human Rights Committee**

President : Michel **MOUSSA**. Rapporteur : Ghassan MOUKHEIBER

Members: Amine WEHBE, Elie KEYROUZ, Bassem CHAB, Gilberte ZOUEIN, Hikmat DIB, Sami GEMAYEL, Atef MAJDALANI, Marwan FARÈS, Nawar SAHILI, Nawwaf MOUSSAOUI

**Friendship committee with the EU**

Members: Yasmine **JABER**, Mohamad KABBANI, Anwar EL-KHALIL, Nayla TUEINI, Mohammad EL-HAJJAR, Ali BAZZI, Hagop PAGRADONIAN, Estephan DOUEIHI

Exchange of views

13:15

**Press conference**

13:30 – 14:15 Transfer to Siblin training centre (UNRWA)

Arrival at STC

Light lunch in Cafeteria with students (& photo exhibition) & welcome note by Principal (and tentatively Siblin Major?)

Tour of facilities (workshops, rehabilitated gymnasium, football pitch, library...)

Presentation on TVET

Focus group with students at rehabilitated library (visitors will be split into various small groups)

16:30 – 17:00 Transfer to hotel

20:00 – 21:30 Private dinner



*Hotel check-out for departing participants*

9:30 - 10:00 **Press conference at Phoenicia hotel (TBC)**

10:00 – 10:30 Transfer to EU Delegation

**10:30 - 11:30 Meeting with IOM**

Welcome and presentation of the Mission by Mr Claude MORAES

Presentation by Emergency Response and Stabilization Coordinator  
Ahmed Mokhtar and Lebanon Operations Officer Marielle TRA

**11:30 – 12:30 Meeting and informal sandwich lunch with local and Syrian CSOs working on the reception of refugees**

Presentation of the LIBE delegation by Mr Claude MORAES

Short statements by the following NGOs:

- Insan Association ( <http://www.insanassociation.org/en/>)
- Migration Services for Development (MSD)  
(<http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/acdi-cida/contributions.nsf/Eng>)
- Centre Libannais des droits de l'homme (IFRC) :  
(<http://www.rightsobserver.org>)
- Aleph Act for Human Rights: (<http://www.alefliban.org/>)
- KAFA: (<http://www.kafa.org.lb/>)
- Al-Karama Foundation: (<http://en.alkarama.org/libya>)
- LIFE Institute: (<http://lifeinstitute.me/>)
- Movement Social: (<http://mouvementsocial.org/en/index.aspx>)
- Restart: (<http://www.irct.org/about-us>)
- Syrian Centre for Policy Research: (<http://scpr-syria.org/>)

12:30 – 13:15 Informal sandwich lunch

13:15 Transfer to hotel and to the airport

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## Annex II - Final list of participants

### Delegation to LEBANON 19 - 22 September 2016

#### List of participants

#### MEMBERS OF DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Nr	Name	Group <sup>1</sup>	Full Member/ Substitute	Country
	Mr Claude MORAES	S&D	F	UK
	Mr Branislav ŠKRIPEK	ECR	F	SK
	Ms Tanja FAJON	S&D	F	SL
	Mr Frank ENGEL	EPP	F	L
	Ms Maité PAGAZAURTUNDUA	ALDE	S	ES
	Ms Ska KELLER	Greens/ALE	S	DE
	Mr Jeroen LENAERS	EPP	S	NL

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<sup>1</sup>EPP - Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats)

S&D - Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament

ECR - European Conservatives and Reformists Group

ALDE - Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe

Greens/EFA - Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance

**STAFF OF THE POLITICAL GROUPS**

Name	Group
Ms Eva MITSOPOULOU	EPP
Mr Inigo ECHEVERRIA-TORRES	S & D
Mr Paul David MOYNAN	ECR
Mr Etienne MAURY	ALDE
Ms Maria Giovanna MANIERI	Verts/ALE

**STAFF OF THE SECRETARIAT OF the LIBE Committee**

Name	Function
Mr Antoine CAHEN	Head of Unit
Ms Erika SCHULZE	Administrator
Ms Petra GÖTZ	Assistant

**STAFF OF DG COMM**

Name	Function
Ms Ana Rita MOURA	Web communications unit
Ms Rikke ULDALL	Press officer
Ms Charlotte HJORTH DU RIETZ	Social media officer (Europe by Satellite)

**Interpreters and technical staff**

Name	Function
Mr Antonio RECCHIA	Conference technician
Ms Claire FERGUSON	Team leader ES FR IT / Brussels
Mr Nicholas POPE	ES FR IT / [ES] / Brussels
Ms Diana SAN MARTIN BRETONES	DE EN IT / Zurich
Ms Astrid PELLNY-HARTUNG	DE EN IT / DE / Munich
Ms Amira NABIH BADAWY	EN – AR / Cairo
Ms Mai EL-GEBEILY	EN – AR / Cairo
Ms Samah EL MAHDY	EN – AR / Suez

**EEAS**

Name	Function
Christina Lassen (Head of Delegation)	EU Delegation to Lebanon
Simon BOJSEN-MOLLER (Acting Head of Delegation)	EU Delegation to Syria

**TV team** (car plate G/519353)

Name	Function
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Mohamad El Sayyed	Cameraman (Egypt)
Farah Daajeh	Editor (Lebanon)
Jad Tahtah	Sound man (Lebanon)
Anwar Amro	Photographer
Ghaith Tahtah	Driver (Lebanon)

### MANAGING THE REFUGEE CRISIS

## EU SUPPORT TO LEBANON

The EU pays tribute to the outstanding efforts the country is making since the outset of the Syrian refugee crisis. The EU remains deeply committed to assisting Lebanon in dealing with the crisis. Overall, the EU is the leading donor in the international response to the Syrian crisis, with **over €6.6 billion** from the EU and Member States collectively mobilized in humanitarian and development assistance. This support goes both to Syrians in their country, and to refugees and their host communities in neighbouring Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Turkey and Egypt.

At the London conference on "Supporting Syria and the region" at the beginning of February 2016, the EU pledged €1 billion for Lebanon and Jordan for the years 2016 and 2017. Lebanon is expected to receive significant additional support in tackling the refugee crisis.

Lebanon hosts more than one million Syrian refugees, which represents 25% of the country's population, which is the highest per-capita concentration of refugees worldwide.



Overall, the European Commission has allocated **close to €800 million** in assistance to refugees and vulnerable communities in Lebanon since the beginning of the crisis. This includes:

- **€356.1 million** from the humanitarian budget, including €87 million for 2016
- **more than €250 million** from the European Neighbourhood Instrument mainly to support Lebanese institutions to provide Lebanese vulnerable communities and Syrian refugees with access to basic services
- **more than €42 million** from the Instrument contributing to Peace and Stability to address longer term resilience needs of affected civilians, both refugees and Lebanese host communities
- **€1.2 million** from the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights
- **close to €142 million** through the EU Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian crisis, the 'Madad Fund', to address longer-term resilience needs of Syrian refugees and support Lebanese host communities and the national administration with a focus on increasing access for refugees to education and training, as well as livelihoods and health

This support comes **on top of the over €219 million** in regular programmed bilateral cooperation for Lebanon under the European Neighbourhood Policy, which brings **overall support to more than €1 billion**. The main part of non-humanitarian funding is allocated to the education sector, but also towards health, livelihoods and local infrastructures.

Updated: 07. September 2016

## THE OBJECTIVES OF THE EU RESPONSE TO THE SYRIAN CRISIS

- Protect and assist Syrian and Palestinian refugees from Syria
- Help Lebanon mitigate the impact of the crisis by addressing the medium and long term needs of both vulnerable Lebanese citizens and refugees from Syria
- Reinforce the policy dialogue with the Lebanese government and the capacities of existing Lebanese institutions responsible for managing the crisis, at national and local levels
- Contribute to the provision of basic services such as free public education, primary and secondary health care, child and women protection, psycho-social support as well as access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)
- Support the most vulnerable municipalities in improving their infrastructure and economic recovery

### HUMANITARIAN AID TO LEBANON

EU humanitarian funding has contributed to cash assistance for most vulnerable refugees, secondary healthcare for lifesaving cases, non-formal education and shelter -including water, hygiene and sanitation- to improve the living conditions of the vulnerable families mostly affected by the displacement. Protection remains a

fundamental sector where partners conduct regular monitoring of the main protection concerns and provide awareness, counselling and legal assistance to the refugee population. Between 2015 and 2016, the EU's humanitarian aid to Lebanon reached around 665.000 Syrian refugees.



### PREVENTING A LOST GENERATION OF SYRIAN CHILDREN AND YOUTH

According to UNHCR, close to 417.000 Syrian refugee children in Lebanon are aged between 3 and 14 years old. While exact numbers are not available, it is estimated that nearly half of Syrian refugee children do not have access to any form of education, exposing them to physical and/or psychological violence, child labour and exploitation, early marriage, and recruitment by armed groups. At the London conference, the participants committed that by the end of the 2016/2017 school year, all refugee children and vulnerable children in host communities will be in quality education with equal access for girls and boys.

Since the start of the Syrian refugee crisis, the EU has committed around to €188 million for education and child protection purposes in Lebanon. These funds are spent on formal and non-formal education, including providing refugee students with a safe environment where to learn and exchange while supporting the improvement of the quality of education and institutional capacities in the sector.

In particular, since 2012 EU funds, channelled largely through UNICEF and UNHCR have been paying enrolment fees for around 240,000 refugee children from Syria (6-14 age group)

\*Sources: UNHCR, UNRWA, IOM

## DELIVERY OF AID

Since 2015, an increasing part of **non-humanitarian aid** for Syria's neighbouring countries to cope with the refugee crisis is channelled through the **EU Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian crisis, the 'Madad Fund'**. The Trust Fund aims to bring a more coherent and integrated EU response to the crisis by merging various EU financial instruments and contributions from Member States and other international donors into one single flexible and quick mechanism. The Trust Fund primarily addresses longer term resilience needs of Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries such as Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Iraq, as well as the hosting communities and their administration. In the future, the Trust Fund may start financing resilience activities inside Syria and could become a funding tool for reconstruction, resettlement and governance support following a political settlement of the crisis. With recent pledges from 21 Member States - amounting to over €69.3 million - and contributions from various EU instruments, the Fund is now reaching a **total volume of more than €700 million**. Additional funds will be committed in 2016 and beyond.

The Operational Board of the Trust Fund has already approved actions for a total amount **€628 million** including **€142 million support to Lebanon**, with a focus on increasing access for refugees to education and training, as well as livelihoods and health.



## Annex IV - IOM Statistics

### RESETTLEMENT STATISTICS IOM LEBANON - EUROPE

Resettlement to Europe 2012-2016

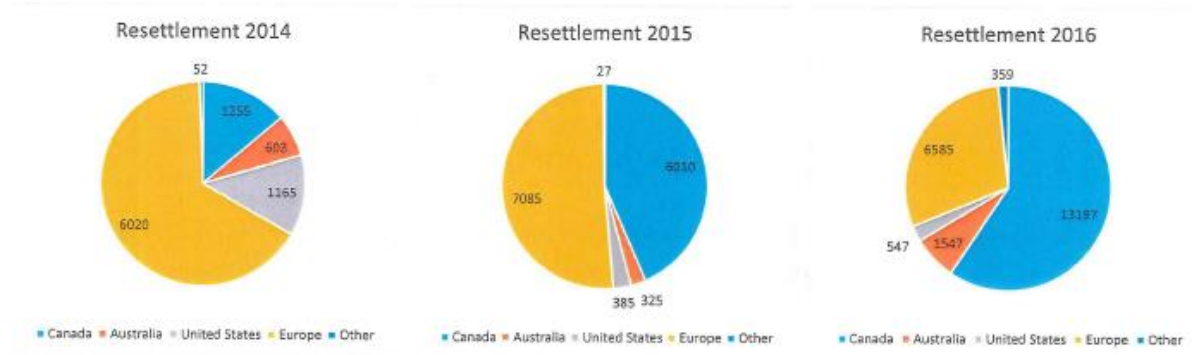
	NORWAY	SWEDEN	DENMARK	FINLAND	GERMANY	NETHERLANDS	BELGIUM	FRANCE	SPAIN	ITALY	ICELAND	UK	IRELAND	SWITZERLAND	AUSTRIA	TOTAL
2012	11	57	7	1	-	130	-	12	-	-	-	5	-	72	-	295
2013	11	320	27	-	803	4	-	4	-	-	-	57	-	23	103	1352
2014	311	795	112	235	3476	131	-	196	-	-	1	114	23	508	118	6020
2015	1118	983	527	250	1503	214	141	207	-	96	-	793	164	607	482	7085
2016*	1951	497	417	291	-	10	190	311	222	253	48	1498	248	480	169	6585
<b>Total</b>	<b>3402</b>	<b>2652</b>	<b>1090</b>	<b>777</b>	<b>5782</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>730</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>2467</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>1690</b>	<b>872</b>	<b>21337</b>

\*Until 21Sep

Top 5 Destination countries in Europe

2014	2015	2016 (until 21Sep)
1. Germany (3476)	1. Germany (1503)	1. Norway (1951)
2. Sweden (795)	2. Norway (1118)	2. United Kingdom (1498)
3. Switzerland (508)	3. Sweden (983)	3. Sweden (497)
4. Norway (311)	4. United Kingdom (793)	4. Switzerland (480)
5. Finland (235)	5. Switzerland (607)	5. Denmark (417)

Resettlement to Europe in comparison



### CULTURAL ORIENTATION STATISTICS IOM LEBANON - EUROPE

Cultural Orientation sessions for Europe

COUNTRY	Conducted by IOM Lebanon	Logistics provided by IOM Lebanon	2015			2016		
			% PAX Attended CO	PAX Attended CO	PAX Invited to Attend	% PAX Attended CO	PAX Attended CO	PAX Invited to Attend
GERMANY	3 days per session		99%	693	700	NA	NA	NA
SWITZERLAND	2 days per session		97%	230	236	93%	540	580
ITALY	2 days per session		NA	NA	NA	98%	200	205
FRANCE	1 day per session		99%	79	80	99%	104	105
UK	2 days per session		97%	744	768	99%	1587	1597
NETHERLANDS		12 days during 3 months	97%	211	218	96%	123	128
NORWAY		5 days per session	91%	790	864	97%	2650	2726
FINLAND		4 days per session	99%	338	342	95%	198	208
DENMARK		5 days per session	95%	234	247	NA	NA	NA
BELGIUM		4 days per session	94%	218	233	93%	258	278
ICELAND		3 days per session	74%	37	50	100%	20	20
AUSTRIA		2 days per session	98%	383	391	83%	20	24