



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 19 November 2012**

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Subject: Council conclusions on Lebanon

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Delegations will find attached the Council conclusions on Lebanon as adopted by the Council on 19 November 2012.

**COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS ON LEBANON**

1. The EU strongly condemns the bomb attack on 19 October 2012 in Beirut, which killed Brigadier General Wissam al-Hassan, Head of Information Branch of the Interior Security Forces, and two other people, and injured many others. This act of violence, as well as other assassination attempts, must be fully investigated and the perpetrators must be brought to justice swiftly. Impunity and political violence cannot be tolerated in a democratic society.
2. The EU stresses the importance of preserving Lebanon's national unity and stability. The EU encourages all political forces to participate constructively in the dialogue efforts being led by President Michel Sleiman and to fully implement the Baabda Declaration agreed in the framework of the National Dialogue.
3. The EU condemns the repeated incursions by Syrian forces into the Lebanese territory and reaffirms its commitment to the unity, stability, independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon. The EU underlines the importance of Lebanon's efforts to avoid the spill-over of violence from neighbouring Syria. In this regard, it calls on all parties to fully implement the provisions of the Baabda Declaration on the necessity to disassociate from regional conflicts which can have negative repercussions for Lebanon.
4. The EU commends the Lebanese authorities and the Lebanese population for the support provided to the people fleeing violence in Syria. It reaffirms its readiness to step up its assistance, as the needs further increase.

5. The EU recalls the importance of strong, independent and democratic Lebanese public institutions. Their continued work is essential for preserving stability and unity in Lebanon, as stressed by the High Representative during her recent timely visit to Lebanon. The EU welcomes the efforts of the Lebanese security forces, including the Lebanese Armed Forces, to ensure security for all people living on Lebanese territory, with due respect for the rule of law and human rights. The EU recalls its commitment to support Lebanon's institutions and security forces in fulfilling this role.
6. The EU stresses the importance of Lebanon's continued commitment to the full implementation of all its international obligations, including UNSC resolutions 1559, 1680, 1701, 1757. Recalling all its previous Council conclusions, the EU reaffirms its full support for the Special Tribunal for Lebanon and calls on all parties to fully cooperate with it.
7. The EU encourages Lebanon to pursue its reform process, including in view of the 2013 parliamentary elections. In this context, the EU stresses the importance of its partnership with Lebanon in the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy and looks forward to a reinforced cooperation with Lebanon as outlined in the new ENP Action Plan currently under adoption.