



Council of the  
European Union

070298/EU XXVI. GP  
Eingelangt am 02/07/19

Brussels, 2 July 2019  
(OR. en)

10896/19

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**NOTE**

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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Relations with Jordan - European Union's position for the Association Council's 13th meeting (Luxembourg, 17 June 2019)

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Delegations will find attached the European Union's position for the 13th EU-Jordan Association Council.

**13TH MEETING OF THE EU-JORDAN ASSOCIATION COUNCIL  
(LUXEMBOURG, 17 JUNE 2017)**

**Statement by the European Union**

1. On the occasion of the **thirteenth meeting of the EU-Jordan Association Council** the EU reiterates its commitment to further strengthening the strong partnership between the EU and Jordan. In line with the EU Global Strategy and the Revised European Neighbourhood Policy, the EU has a strategic interest in Jordan's stability, resilience and prosperity, both internally and within a regional context.
2. The EU attaches great importance to its bilateral relationship with **Jordan as a key partner**, as demonstrated by the meetings between His Majesty King Abdullah II and the Presidents of the **European Council** and Commission in 2017, 2018 and 2019, and the visits to Jordan during this and the previous years of High Representative/Vice President Mogherini, Commissioner Hahn and several other Members of the European Commission. Official missions by delegations from the European Parliament and frequent senior-level dialogues in the context of multilateral and regional fora, the co-chaired Union for the Mediterranean as well as the EU-Jordan Association Committee and Subcommittees, have demonstrated the mutual benefit of our sustained engagement.
3. The EU commits to further deepening the dialogue and the cooperation with Jordan, around the three mutually reinforcing objectives reflected in the **EU-Jordan Partnership Priorities 2016-2018** (as extended in December 2018 until 31 December 2020): regional stability and security, including addressing counter-terrorism; promoting economic stability and sustainable and knowledge-based growth in order to facilitate job creation; strengthening democratic governance, the rule of law and human rights; Cooperation will also be pursued on a number of cross-cutting priorities such as migration and mobility, including further implementation of the Mobility Partnership. The EU will prioritise the economic, social and political inclusion of vulnerable groups, youth and women, across the different areas of engagement with Jordan.

4. The EU is committed to supporting Jordan in pursuing an ambitious economic reform agenda and to working with Jordan to develop and implement a long-term strategy on political reform in line with the King's vision. This work will provide the best guarantee for upholding stability, prosperity and social cohesion in Jordan. Jordan has been heavily impacted by the crisis in Syria, which has further aggravated existing challenges. In this regard the EU acknowledges the contribution of the Jordan Conference (held on 28 February 2019 and attended by the High Representative/Vice President Mogherini and Commissioner Hahn) and the ongoing London Initiative in encouraging a coordinated approach to supporting Jordan's economic stability and looks forward to the joint High-Level Mission to Amman to be led by Commissioner Hahn on 25 June 2019 with European and International financial institutions.
5. At the Brussels III Conference on the Future of Syria and the Region, hosted by the EU on 12-14 March 2019, the Conference co-chairs acknowledged once again on behalf of the international community the extraordinary generosity of the people and authorities of Jordan in providing refuge to Syrian refugees. The EU will continue supporting Jordan in its **holistic approach** to the refugee crisis and in maximising impact, including in terms of the key mutual commitments from this and past conferences.
6. Since the start of the Syria crisis, the EU has allocated more than **EUR 2.1 billion to Jordan**, of which EUR 1.3 billion as a response to the Syrian crisis including humanitarian assistance (EUR 360 million) and support to the resilience of vulnerable host communities and refugees from Syria, notably via the EU regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian crisis (EUR 303 million). It also includes EUR 380 million allocated in macro-financial assistance (MFA).
7. The EU continues to be fully committed to politically and financially support the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) which is key in responding to Palestine refugees' human development and protection needs. The EU highly values Jordan's role in advancing sustainable support for UNRWA and the Palestine refugees and hosting its headquarters. The EU recognizes Jordan's crucial contribution to the maintenance of security, stability and development in the region.

***Strengthening Economic Stability, Sustainable and Knowledge-Based Growth, Quality Education and Job Creation***

8. The EU welcomes the adoption of Jordan's 5-Year Reform and Growth Matrix, setting out crosscutting measures to **stimulate the Jordanian economy**. The EU reiterates its full support to Jordan in the effective implementation of economic reforms and its willingness to work closely with European donors and international financial institutions in order to further coordinate and align our collective support to help Jordan achieve its reform priorities. Also to this end, full advantage should be taken of the different types of financial assistance opportunities made available by the EU to its neighbourhood partners.
9. The EU intends to continue providing budget support for structural reforms focusing on improved public service delivery and resource management, accountability and transparency and on enhancing the environment for investment and job creation notably for youth by the **private sector**, inter alia the ICT sector.
10. The EU supports initiatives to increase the **participation of women in the economy** as a way to increase the level of economic activity and to contribute to the economic growth in line with the EU Gender Action Plan of 2016-2020.
11. The EU, having undertaken the relevant technical assessment, welcomes Jordan's compliance with the conditions for the second and final disbursement under its second programme of **macro-financial assistance** for Jordan, for which a decision is forthcoming. The EU remains committed to considering a third MFA package to Jordan, as long as this is matched with structural reform measures and provided the related requirements are met.

12. The EU will continue to foster the **enhancement of bilateral trade relations** with Jordan, as an important vehicle for investment, growth and job creation. The EU will continue to support Jordan in its efforts to improve its export performance by boosting its general export capacity and competitiveness and achieving a closer integration into global value chains. To this end, the EU will support Jordan in its efforts to assist Jordanian producers in meeting specific technical, sanitary and phytosanitary requirements, allowing business operators to take fuller advantage of the preferential access that Jordan already enjoys to the EU market. The EU stands ready to explore ideas for additional steps to mutually facilitate bilateral trade and investment, including deepening the existing Free Trade Agreement.
13. The EU welcomes the decision of the EU-Jordan Association Committee of 4 December 2018 to expand the preferences under the relaxed **rules of origin** scheme to the entire territory of Jordan, to extend it until 2030 and, provided that 60,000 Syrian refugees are lawfully employed across the country, to enable any company exporting eligible products to the EU from Jordan to benefit from it. The EU encourages Jordan to intensify efforts to implement the scheme, to publicise its benefits to potential investors in the private sector, and to take forward more general initiatives to improve the investment climate, which would also be likely to have wider spill-over benefits for the economy beyond the rules of origin initiative. The EU remains willing to explore, in close cooperation with the Jordanian authorities, as well as with the International Labour Organisation and the World Bank, other measurable means corresponding to employment in relation to the scheme, taking into account working conditions.
14. The EU commends Jordan's efforts to integrate refugees into the formal labour market. The EU also encourages Jordan to maintain efforts to reduce the number of undocumented refugees and facilitate their access to and participation in the labour market.

15. The EU will continue to provide support to policies and programmes designed to improve the quality of **education and vocational education and training**, increasing the focus on analytical thinking, entrepreneurship and new technologies, notably in view of enhancing the employment opportunities of young people, not least girls.
16. Increased **student and staff mobility** as well as capacity building projects through Erasmus+ and other programmes will be pursued in the same vein. The EU in particular welcomes the participation of Jordan in the eTwinningPlus action virtually linking schools in Europe and partner countries. It also welcomes Jordan's participation in the Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange project which connects young people in their formal and non-formal education as well as the new opportunities offered by the European Solidarity Corps for young Jordanians and EU citizens to engage together in volunteering activities.
17. The EU will keep working closely with Jordan to achieve the ambitious objective that all children, girls and boys, living in the country without exception have equal opportunities to attend school and receive basic **quality education**. The EU has provided important support to construct schools, allow the enrolment of Syrian students in the formal education system as well as to hire and train teachers.
18. The EU is committed to enhancing the integration of **research and innovation** in education and in technical and vocational education and training (TVET) programmes, as well as in public and private sector investment. Increased cooperation between research and innovation centres and small and medium enterprises will have a positive effect on Jordan's competitiveness. The EU encourages Jordan to make full use of Horizon 2020 and of research mobility and partnership initiatives.
19. The EU welcomes the signature on 11 December 2018 of the Implementing Arrangement for Jordan's participation in the **Partnership on Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area** (PRIMA), enabling Jordan to integrate an ambitious agenda for jointly funded research in the key areas of water management and its relationship with agriculture and food production.

20. The EU welcomes Jordan's interest in space cooperation including EGNOS/Galileo, and looks forward to enter into negotiations for the extension of the EGNOS coverage to Jordan and the broader region.
21. The EU welcomes progress in Jordan's implementation of its Monitoring, Reporting and Verification obligations under Article 13 of the **Paris Agreement** on climate change and seeks to intensify cooperation with Jordan on implementing its Nationally Determined Contribution. The EU is keen to continue active engagement in the areas of renewable energy and energy efficiency, regional gas and electricity grid interconnections, and the transition to a safe and sustainable low-carbon economy. The EU supports resource efficient growth, sustainable natural resource management and the **green growth** agenda in Jordan. The EU will cooperate with Jordan in fostering innovative research and knowledge-based solutions on combating climate change and promoting the transition to clean, safe and sustainable energy.
22. The EU currently supports **environment mainstreaming** within development sectors notably water supply, waste water treatment and networks, solid waste management and green energy applications. Recognising the importance of water security in Jordan, the EU reiterates its support to the implementation of the **Red Sea/Dead Sea** project, as currently under discussion, that also benefits the Palestinian side in the spirit of fostering regional cooperation. In addition, resources from the European External Investment Plan and the EU Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian crisis may be used to support reforms and finance investments in the area of water and wastewater treatment and solid waste management to provide the necessary infrastructures, notably in light of the additional pressures resulting from accommodating Syrian refugees.

### *Strengthening Democratic Governance, the Rule of Law and Human Rights*

23. The respect of democratic principles and fundamental freedoms and human rights constitutes a **key pillar of the EU-Jordan Association Agreement**. The EU values strongly the regular dialogue at political and senior official level and the commitment by Jordan to advancing on the rule of law, enhancing transparent, effective and accountable institutions, and respecting human rights. The EU commends efforts on core issues related to the rule of law such as an effective, independent and well-functioning judicial system as well as addressing corruption. The EU will keep supporting Jordan in the implementation of its Justice Reform Strategy, including by promoting the interface between the rule of law and security, and international judicial cooperation.
24. The EU encourages Jordan to continue engaging in **electoral reform** and **strengthening of the parliamentary and political party system** in the country.. The EU advocates that particular attention be given to the inclusion of youth and women, as noted in the final report of the EU Election Follow-up Mission (EfM) of September 2018.
25. The EU commends Jordan for its constructive engagement in the 31st Universal Periodic Review (UPR) session in Geneva on 8 November 2018, acknowledges the progress made since its last UPR in 2013 and commends Jordan's efforts to improve the general human rights situation in the country. . Jordan has an active civil society and, while recognising Jordan's legitimate security and counter terrorism concerns, the EU takes the view that the best antidote for radicalisation is an open, inclusive and resilient society where human rights and fundamental freedoms are promoted and protected. An active civil society contributes to building peaceful, inclusive and democratic societies. In this context, the EU reiterates the importance of safeguarding freedoms of expression and association.
26. The EU invites Jordan to engage in further strengthening its legal framework to make it fully compliant with the standards of the UN Convention Against Torture, to which Jordan is a party, including through the criminalisation of all forms of torture and ill-treatment. The EU calls on Jordan to continue investigating all alleged torture cases and to prosecute the perpetrators. The EU further invites Jordan to implement the relevant UPR recommendation.



27. The EU encourages Jordan to achieve further progress towards gender equality and women's empowerment and to **women's rights**, including by advancing its National Action Plan for the Implementation of the UNSC resolution 1325 on Women Peace and Security, and stands ready to support in this regard.
28. The EU commends Jordan's efforts in the area of **freedom of religion or belief** and in promoting peaceful religious co-existence. This sets a positive example for the entire region.
29. The EU regrets Jordan's interruption of the de facto moratorium on the **death penalty** in 2014, and calls on Jordan to immediately re-instate the moratorium with a view to ultimately abolishing the death penalty.
30. The EU encourages Jordan to expedite work towards the reform of its legal and institutional framework pertaining to the human right to privacy as well as data protection, and stands ready to support Jordan's efforts to this end.

***Strengthening Cooperation on Regional Stability, including Counter-Terrorism***

31. The EU commends Jordan's active diplomatic role including its constructive and effective engagement within the **United Nations**, to the benefit of the global good, multilateralism and the rules-based order.
32. The EU strongly values the constructive role that Jordan has been playing since 2012 as co-president of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), the reference platform for regional cooperation and dialogue in the Euro-Mediterranean region. The UfM has increased ownership and developed meaningful solutions to tackle common challenges and create common opportunities in crucial areas such as environment and water management, decent employment creation, youth inclusion and women empowerment.

33. The EU reconfirms the imperative of a credible political solution to the **Syria crisis** in line with the Geneva communiqué and UNSCR 2254 and the central role played by the UN in that regard. The EU stands ready to support the reconstruction of Syria only when a political transition is firmly underway. The EU calls for respect of the de-escalation agreement in Idlib, the protection of civilians and the unhindered, safe and sustainable humanitarian access. The reduction of violence will contribute to supporting the resumption of the UN-mediated political process in Geneva in order to find a lasting solution to the conflict. The EU recognises the right of the Syrian refugees to return safely, voluntarily and in dignity to their homes but underlines that the conditions for returns as stipulated by the UNHCR are not in place yet. The EU acknowledges the crucial role played by Jordan alongside other countries in hosting the Syrian refugees who fled the conflict and commends the government and the people of Jordan that have welcomed and hosted Syrians so many years. The EU will continue to provide assistance to the local communities and the Syrians. For the third year in a row, the EU together with the United Nations convened the Brussels Conference on ‘Supporting the future of Syria and the region’ (12-14 March). The Brussels III Conference managed to raise an overall of EUR 8.3 billion in pledges for Syria and the region, with EUR 6.2 billion just for 2019.
34. The EU recognises Jordan's indispensable and constructive role in the stability of the region and will continue to engage closely with Jordan in pursuing a just and comprehensive resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, based on the two state solution that ends the occupation, with the State of Israel and an independent, democratic, contiguous, sovereign, and viable State of Palestine, living side by side in peace and security and mutual recognition with Jerusalem as the future capital of both states. The EU and its Member States will continue to respect the international consensus on Jerusalem embodied in, inter alia, UNSCR 478, until the final status of Jerusalem is resolved. The EU recalls the specific significance of the holy sites and makes a strong call for upholding the status quo put in place in 1967 for the Haram al-Sharif / Temple Mount in line with previous understandings and with respect to Jordan's special role, acknowledged also in the 1994 Jordan-Israel peace treaty.

35. A number of security and terrorist incidents and the phenomenon of foreign fighters are evidence that Jordan has been seriously affected by the threats posed by **terrorism** and violent extremism. The EU welcomes Jordan's multi-faceted approach, engaging in the Global Coalition against Da'esh on the one hand and continuing diplomatic initiatives in support of for instance inter-religious tolerance on the other. The EU commends Jordan, and in particular HM King Abdullah II, for the initiative "Aqaba Process" and his commitment to the objectives of the Christchurch Call to Action Summit held in Paris last May.
36. The EU and Jordan will continue to work together on preventing and **countering violent extremism** in particular among youth and children. On-going actions supported by the EU have so far included: institutional capacity building; public messaging and communication; as well as a comprehensive study on the drivers behind violent extremism in Jordan. The EU encourages Jordan to continuously address the drivers behind radicalisation through a whole of society approach and strengthen its regulatory and institutional framework to prevent and fight against money laundering and the financing of terrorism, in close cooperation with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and in line with its Recommendations. The EU stands ready to assist Jordan to that end.
37. EU is committed to enhancing its support to Jordan, including on issues related to **integrated border management**, considering the multiple advantages from a security, protection, mobility and economic point of view. It is in Jordan's vital interest to maintain stability at its borders. The EU and Jordan will also strengthen their cooperation in the area of **aviation security**.
38. The EU welcomes Jordan's declared interest in strengthening cooperation in the field of **Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP)**, including through the secondment of personnel to CSDP missions and operations, and welcomes today's signature of a Framework Participation Agreement (FPA) on the participation of Jordan in EU Crisis Management Operations in accordance with the relevant procedures.

### *Implementing the EU-Jordan Mobility Partnership*

39. Migration and mobility are a cross-cutting issue in the cooperation between the EU and Jordan including in the context of addressing trafficking in human beings, particularly of women and girls in vulnerable situations. The EU welcomes the initiatives undertaken in the context of the Mobility Partnership and encourages active exploration of the further cooperation opportunities in this framework. The EU welcomes that bilateral discussions on **visa facilitation** and **readmission** of persons residing without authorisation started in November 2016, and is ready to advance in the negotiation process in view of reaching a comprehensive agreement.
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