



## PRESS RELEASE

### LAUNCHING OF THREE INSTITUTIONAL TWINNING PROJECTS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

The Minister of Economy and Trade, H.E. Mr. Sami Haddad, the Minister of Finance, HE. Mr. Jihad Azour, and the Head of the Delegation of the European Commission in Lebanon, H.E. Mr. Patrick Renaud announced on May 31<sup>st</sup> 2006, the launching of three institutional twinning projects with United Kingdom, Spain and Italy, funded by the European Union in the framework of the Association Agreement that entered into force on April 1<sup>st</sup> 2006.

The Launching Ceremony was in the presence of the Ambassadors of the United Kingdom, H.E. Mr. James Watt, Spain, H.E. Mr. Miguel Benzo Perea and Italy, H.E. Mr. Franco Mistreta.

The three twinning projects are the following:

1. **Institutional Strengthening of the Consumer Protection Directorate** (Ministry of Economy and Trade, Lebanon – NI-CO, Northern Ireland, United Kingdom) – **€1,050,000**
2. **Institutional Building of the Insurance Supervisory Authority** (Ministry of Economy and Trade, Lebanon – Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Spain) – **€995,500**
3. **Capacity Building / Modernization of the Petroleum Warehousing Operations** (Ministry of Finance / Directorate General of Customs, Lebanon – Ministry of Economy and Finance / Italian Customs Agency) – **€125,000.00**

Twinning is a major EU cooperation instrument, introduced within the Association Agreement.

Twinning is a tool of knowledge transfer and capacity building, where EU Member States Administrations partner with Beneficiary Countries Administrations and share their experiences in the purpose of enhancing their capacities within wider institutional reforms.

Twinning is all the more important as it leads Beneficiary Countries, involved in the European Neighbourhood Policy, towards the 'acquis communautaires'.

Both twinning partners commit themselves, through a precise work plan, to achieve objectives which will be monitored throughout their implementation.

Other countries of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership have already launched twinning programmes, in particular Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia.

## ANNEX

### *Details of each Twinning Project*



<b>Project Name:</b>	<b>Institutional Strengthening of the Consumer Protection Directorate</b>
<b>Name of Beneficiary</b>	Ministry of Economy and Trade, Lebanon
<b>Member State Partner</b>	NI-CO, Northern Ireland, United Kingdom
<b>Budget</b>	€1,050,000
<b>Implementation Period</b>	21 months
<b>Specific objectives</b> Institutional strengthening and capacity building of the Consumer Protection Directorate to become an efficient and effective public authority able to provide Lebanese citizens with high level of consumer protection covering their health, safety and economic interests	
<b>MS Project Leader</b>	Mr. John Lawrance
<b>BC Project Leader</b>	Dr. Ali Berro



<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Institutional Building of the Insurance Supervisory Authority</b>
<b>Name of Beneficiary</b>	Ministry of Economy and Trade, Lebanon
<b>Member State Partner</b>	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Spain
<b>Budget</b>	€ 995,500
<b>Implementation Period:</b>	27 months
<b>Specific objectives</b> Institutional strengthening and capacity building of the Insurance Control Commission in order to enhance organizational competencies and capacities, and benefit from the experience of European institutions in terms of methods of control and on-field inspection	
<b>MS Project Leader</b>	Mr. Javier Bernaldo De Quiros Botia
<b>BC Project Leader</b>	Mr. Walid Genadry



<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Capacity Building / Modernization of the Petroleum Warehousing Operations</b>
<b>Name of the final Beneficiary</b>	Directorate General of Customs (Ministry of Finance), Lebanon
<b>Member State Partner</b>	Italian Customs Agency (Ministry of Economy and Finance), Italy
<b>Budget</b>	€ 125,000
<b>Implementation Period</b>	6 months
<b>Specific objectives</b> Extend customs reform programs, which aim at system modernization and facilitation of trade, to the control operations of petroleum warehousing	
<b>MS Project Leader</b>	Mr. Giovanni Muro
<b>BC Project Leader</b>	Mr. Ahmad Nasser

# TWINNING LAUNCHING CEREMONY

*Wednesday 31st of May 2006*

## *Agenda*

*Presentation on Twinning by the Project  
Administration Office Coordinator*

**Mrs. Maha Sibli**

*Speech of the Head Delegation of the  
European Commission in Lebanon*

**H.E. Mr. Patrick Renaud**

*Speech of the British Ambassador*

**H.E. Mr. James Watt**

*Speech of the Spanish Ambassador*

**H.E. Mr. Miguel Benzo Perea**

*Speech of the Italian Ambassador*

**H.E. Mr. Mr. Franco Mistreta**

*Speech of the Minister of Economy  
and Trade*

**H.E. Mr. Sami Haddad**

*Speech of the Minister of Finance*

**H.E. Mr. Jihad Azoour**

*Presentation by the Member States  
Twinning Partners*

**UK Project Leader, Mr. John Lawrance**

**Spanish Project Leader, Mr. Javier  
Bernaldo De Quiros Botia**

**Italian Project Leader, Mr. Giovanni  
Muro**

*Questions and Answers*

*Cocktail*