



**14<sup>e</sup> Conseil d'association UE – Jordanie**

*Amman, le 2 juin 2022*

**Intervention de Monsieur le Ministre Asselborn**

Dear Ayman, dear Josep and Oliver,

Dear colleagues,

It is an honour for me to be with you here today, to celebrate, renew and above all **strengthen** the partnership between the European Union and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The new Partnership Priorities that we will adopt today for the period 2021-2027 set the foundation for our work towards our common goals of inclusive and sustainable growth, peace and tolerance, stability, democracy and respect for human rights.

Jordan and the European Union are natural and privileged partners in a region marked by seemingly endless conflicts. As co-presidents of the **Union for the Mediterranean**, we are trying to address the root causes of these conflicts. Within the framework of the **Middle East Peace Process**, Jordan is making exemplary efforts and playing a prominent and balanced role in promoting peace between Israelis and Palestinians. Now and always, the European Union must support these efforts for peace, instead of hindering them by creating artificial problems at the expense of the Palestinians. We are rightly emphasizing

today the crucial role of **UNRWA** for security and stability in the region, and I am sure that all of us will be present on 23 June at the next UNRWA Donors' Conference in New York. It is unacceptable that the agency is facing a never-ending financial crisis, and we must continue to work towards more sustainable and predictable multi-year funding.

The disaster in **Syria** has had a profound impact on Jordan and the entire region for over a decade. This year, the consequences of the Russian aggression against Ukraine may even worsen the humanitarian situation in Syria. We know that only a political process led by the Syrian people and leading to a peaceful and inclusive transition will lead to a lasting peace, in accordance with the Geneva Communiqué and UN Security Council Resolution 2254. This should eventually allow for a voluntary, safe and dignified return of Syrian refugees. In the meantime, the European Union will continue to support Jordan in hosting and protecting the millions of refugees on its territory. I would like to pay particular tribute to **Jordan's generous and continuing commitment** to providing education, livelihoods, health and social protection services to Syrian and Palestinian refugees.

Our position on **reconstruction** in Syria remains clear: there can be no reconstruction without a political process. However, in the meantime, we will continue our support to Syria's neighboring countries, like Jordan, by contributing to school and hospital infrastructure for example.

Dear Colleagues,

The climate crisis, growing inequality and lack of opportunities are challenges shared by all our countries that require urgent, collective and regional responses. By adopting the new Partnership Priorities today, we are sending a strong signal to our people that we are ready to tackle these challenges together. Together we can promote green growth, quality education and the creation of decent jobs, especially for young people and women. Together, we can promote a **comprehensive and sustainable approach to migration and asylum**, so that our people can move regularly and more easily between Jordan and the European Union.

Finally, it is only together that we can promote dialogue between cultures and combat the false equivalences that some people try to establish between migration and terrorism, or between religion and terrorism.

I know that the EU can count on Jordan, and I assure you that Jordan can count on the EU.

I thank you.