



EIB MED Conference

Improving Lives and Creating New Opportunities

Closing Remarks

16:15 – 16:45

Fairmont Hotel

2. July. 2018

(checked against delivery)

**Your Excellencies,
Your Excellency the EU Ambassador,
Your Excellency the Director of Operations of the European Investment Bank,
Distinguished guests,
May the peace, mercy and blessings of God be upon you.**

It is my great pleasure to be with you all today at the closing ceremony of the European Investment Bank's annual conference held here in Jordan concerning the EU's neighbouring countries. This gathering represents the embodiment of cooperative ties and relations between the EU, the countries of the Middle East and Mediterranean region. It is a symbol of the partnership aimed at enhancing all services in the infrastructure, society, water, energy, education and health sectors, as well as reinforcing sustainable economic growth.

Please allow me to express my sincerest gratitude to the ladies and gentlemen of the European Investment Bank and the European Central Bank, and all those who helped to organise this important conference, for their efforts in fostering and supporting these partnerships. In particular, I would like to thank them for their assistance with our water, energy, education, health, infrastructure and economic stimulus projects.

Honoured Guests,

We are holding this conference while the region is experiencing exceptional political and socioeconomic circumstances. One of the most formidable challenges it faces is the Syrian refugee crisis and its repercussions for the host countries, especially Jordan, the second-largest refugee-hosting country per capita in the world.

Ladies and Gentleman,

Our top priority at the moment is to develop appropriate tools to implement economic initiatives and obtain financing for projects in Jordan, especially initiatives that boost economic capacity. These initiatives consist of supporting the economies of neighbouring European countries as well as Jordan, since they represent part of Europe's response, implemented by European countries,

to support Jordan in the light of the Syrian refugee crisis. They support both the private and public sectors in Jordan and neighbouring European countries affected by the Syrian refugee crisis.

The social protection sector is one the sectors most affected by the Syrian refugee crisis. Due to geopolitical and climate changes, the demand for basic services, such as water, energy, transportation, urban development and health education, is on the rise. We must support this sector by providing it the necessary funding for micro-, small-, and medium-sized businesses with a focus on women, children and young people, as well as by facilitating the integration of refugees into their host societies, in order to improve the quality of services in all sectors. This will have positive effects on the social protection sector that serves the vulnerable and marginalised groups which are most affected by crises and suffer from lack of resources and poor access to basic services.

Honoured Guests,

These initiatives are a continuation of the cooperation between the EU and the Jordanian Government to improve infrastructure and services in areas such as education, health, energy, water and economic development, in line with the Royal Vision expressed in the National Comprehensive Revival Project. This project aims to stimulate the energy and ambition of the Jordanian people to achieve and satisfy their needs. To achieve this, a social security organisation will provide them with high-quality services and protect vulnerable groups faced with difficult living and economic conditions. Additionally, we must provide citizens with basic services according to the best international standards and agreements and with their best interests in mind. This will be done through the participation of the private sector, civil society organisations, and charitable organisations as active agents. As such, they will design and develop economic and social protection policies, implement the desired socioeconomic changes and generate social solidarity. All of these efforts will be aligned with the Jordan Vision 2025 Charter, its executive development programmes and the Jordan Syrian Refugee Crisis Response Plan.

Honourable Ladies and Gentleman,

This conference has discussed its three main agenda items: improving socioeconomic infrastructure; dealing with the problems of drought and water scarcity; and overcoming the consequences of the Syrian refugee crisis. These goals require combining efforts; promoting the

private sector's role, with donors' support to create comprehensive developmental job opportunities; offering technical and technological assistance to help build economic flexibility; and proposing initiatives, projects, and solutions in the Mediterranean region, especially in refugee-hosting countries like Jordan. The European Investment Bank must therefore make significant and continuous efforts to support infrastructure projects, including those in the water sector.

Ladies and Gentleman,

Please allow me to stress the importance of transforming proposals into concrete policies and work plans connected to fiscal budgets and measurable indices. They have a tangible, positive impact on the sectors related to basic services, society, infrastructure, energy, water, education, health, and investment, all of which are national priorities.

In conclusion, I would like to express again my sincerest gratitude to all of you for your great efforts in making this important conference a success, as well as for your important suggestions to improve these sectors. I wish you continued success in these matters. May God protect Jordan and everyone within it. May He bless it with security, stability and progress under our dearly beloved King, His Royal Highness Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein (may God protect him).