

European Parliament Conference on Migration Management

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Introductory Remarks

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

As the EU Bank, the EIB is playing its role in helping the EU manage migration by intervening both inside and outside the Union.

If the EU's migration policy is to move from ***short-term crisis management to sustainable management in the medium and long-term***, investments that help stabilise the economic situation, improve the overall business environment and integrate refugees and migrants into their new countries of home, are **vital**.

While we hope that international conflict resolution efforts will soon reduce the current refugee crisis, **economic migration** is, and will remain, a constant issue for the EU. So we must build long-term economic resilience and help countries that face political and economic instability. To do this, **the EU needs to work better**

together, use all the means at our disposal and tailor our approach to meet the specific circumstances.

At EIB we are using our knowledge, experience and resources as the largest multilateral financial institution active inside and outside the EU to address these needs. In **2016**, we **signed investments worth a total of 83.8 billion EUR** of which, 8.38 billion EUR were for projects outside the Union's borders. **EIB-supported operations** in the last year **outside the EU will:**

- Deliver safer water and better sanitation for 6.7 million people
- Connect 1.2 million households to electricity networks
- Power 250 000 households from renewable sources
- Provide 1.2 million passengers with improved transportation
- Sustain 700,000 jobs via small business financing.

Such investments build economic resilience and help to tackle the root causes of migration but we must and will do more.

Within the EU, we support efforts by national and local authorities to manage and integrate refugee flows by extending special terms to Member States making refugee related investments. For example, the German State of Brandenburg has received a 120m EUR loan from EIB for refugee accommodation that can be transformed later into student accommodation or community facilities.

In the **Southern Neighbourhood and Western Balkans**, at the request of the European Council, we have developed the **Economic Resilience Initiative**. The Initiative will substantially increase the support from the EIB to the two concerned regions. In addition to its regular lending, the EIB will provide further EUR 6 billion of financing under ERI, which are expected to deliver EUR 15 billion of new investments up to 2020, taking the total EIB mobilisation of investment in the regions to some EUR 35 billion.

This initiative is progressing - we have recently **approved loans for SMES for 600m EUR that will be intermediated through banks** active in Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco and the West Bank that will support growth and **sustain approximately 38,000 jobs**. We are discussing a blended Municipal Infrastructure Facility to support local communities in Serbia impacted by the refugee crisis in sectors such as waste, health, education and social housing.

We are working with the European Commission to implement the **EU's Facility for Refugees in Turkey**. We are supporting those cities and towns most affected by the influx of Syrian refugees to manage and use effectively 120m EUR of EU grants in order to improve municipal water supplies and waste infrastructure.

In **Africa**, we have developed, with EU Member State support, the **ACP Migration Package** made up of high **impact financing tools** to help poorer communities advance more rapidly. This is achieved through innovative investments like the construction of 1,000 new solar-powered mobile towers to unlock online access for approximately 4 million rural Africans providing multiple economic and social benefits.

EIB is committed to deploying its resources to strengthen the EU's collective capacity to manage the migration challenge. Successful management requires that all the actors in this room, EU Member States, EU institutions including the EIB, national and local authorities and business communities in partner countries, fellow financial institutions and international organisations work better together.

We look forward to doing so. The EU Bank is the largest multilateral bank active in the region. We have the contacts on the ground. We have the experience and expertise to do blending of loans and grants and achieve leverage. We have the existing structure in place to make this happen now. With your support and in partnership with all of you, we can and must do more to bring to the people of the region, stability and prosperity – and above all hope.

Thank you