



**EUROPEAN UNION**  
**DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
**TO THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN**

**Speech by Ambassador Patrick Renaud Head of the Delegation**  
**European Commission to Jordan**  
**on the occasion of Third Tempus Day**

Your Excellency Professor Turki Obaidat, Deputy Minister of Higher Education & Scientific Research

Professor Ahmad Abu-El-Haija, Director, National Tempus Office

Ladies and gentlemen,

Sabah El Khair,

I am very pleased to be here today to address this large number of dynamic academics, researchers and students.

Allow me to say that your participation reflects an increasing interest, in cooperation and partnership between Jordanian and European institutions of higher education.

I'm here today to convey the message that Europe needs you as much as you need it. This is not a saying; this is an evidence, supported by growing efforts and true deeds on the ground. The proof is the stage we are reaching together today in this fourth phase of Tempus programme.

A week ago, I started a tour to Jordanian universities, and I realized how important it is to offer more opportunities to scientists and researchers in Jordan to exchange and dialogue with their counterparts in Europe.

These were the demands expressed by the students I met, and I'm proud that We, at the European Commission, are able to respond to the quest of knowledge of the ambitious youth, you are representing.

Tempus, and Erasmus- Mundus programmes which bring top-level students and academics from around the world including the Mediterranean, to study in Europe, are designed to serve this goal, and are an illustration that education knows no boundaries.

This shall contribute to mutual knowledge and respect, and bring stability to the region.

In Europe and elsewhere in the world, there is a need to adapt to fast-changing environment marked by globalisation, demography trends, and increased competition.

The efficient response to that comes through modernizing the education system, offering quality teaching, and cutting edge research. This will lead to improved governance, develop stronger partnerships with the business community and strengthen links with society in general.

Knowledge-based economy is your key to fight against poverty; it is your magical potion towards creating more jobs, and promoting the well-being of your people. These are the top priorities of your government, and we shall leave no effort to stand by you in your hardship.

Your Excellency,  
Ladies and Gentleman,

The European Commission has been supporting education reform and vocational training in Jordan over the past few years, and is committed to continue to foster the development in human capital through teaching and research exchange programmes, among which is Tempus.

Thank you for your strong will, thank you for your partnership.

Ambassador Patrick Renault  
Head of the European Commission Delegation to Jordan

Amman, March 4 2008