



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

**Speech by**

**Speech of Mrs. Irène Mingasson, Charge d'Affaires of the Delegation of the European Union to Jordan**  
**on the occasion of the "Jordan-EU Higher Education Cooperation day"**  
**(15 December 2010, 10.30 – 11.00 – University of Jordan, Wadi Rum Auditorium)**

Your Excellency Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Dr Maani

Your Excellency President of the University of Jordan, Dr. Prof. Ahmad Abu-El-Haija, Director, National Tempus Office  
Distinguished members of other academic institutions,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

- I am pleased to be among you today, representing the European Union, to address this distinguished audience from universities from all over the kingdom and from Europe.
- This is the first time we organise the event with this current format, presenting an increased number of European programmes and with a collaboration of the European Union member states.
- Some of these countries exhibit their Higher Education system and opportunities for cooperation outside this room, in the hall. We would like to invite you to explore their stands and the possibilities they offer in addition to benefit from the presentation of those of the EU funded programmes that will be presented today at the plenary sessions in this auditorium.
- This is also the first time we meet with all Jordanian universities after the signature in November 2010 of the action plan for the cooperation between Jordan and the European Union for the coming years.

- The recently acquired "advanced status" for Jordan and the new agreement on research and innovation open wider and new ways for deepening our ties and put more funding available for initiatives that contribute to the well being and advancement of our societies.
- The EU programmes to be presented here today (Tempus, Erasmus Mundus, the Seventh Framework Programme for Research and development and others) make the academic instances and private and public sectors work together, and benefit from participating in latest and state of the art research, as well as making people from Jordan and Europe come closer.
- They also foster the interaction between the universities and Jordanian local communities as a way to improve the learning of students through practice in real situations, as well as for them to serve the communities to whom they belong, especially the poorest ones.
- We will have an attractive example of this with a presentation of an interesting TEMPUS project by their pro-active implementers (the butterfly effect session in the event programme). We really encourage you to follow this example and approach, that we consider a good practice.
- Those links along with the exchanges of academics and students, form a good and solid foundation for the cooperation between Jordan and Europe, and with countries in the region, for many years to come. This has great value, equal to or even exceeding the direct benefits of the projects in their particular areas.
- The European Commission considers higher education as a major priority in its co-operation activities with the Southern Mediterranean partners, especially with Jordan.

- Higher education institutions are key players in the successful transition to a knowledge-based society and are important factors in growth and competitiveness. They will be even more so very soon. That is why Jordan cannot miss this train.
- The inputs from Jordan to the EU call for proposals in the area of Higher education and research have been positive in the last years.
- An example of this is that Jordan had 5 TEMPUS programmes selected in 2010 and 3 in 2009. We would like this trend to continue in the future.
- For that reason, I will conclude by inviting you to send proposals for the calls of TEMPUS and ERASMUS MUNDUS and other programmes that will be presented here today.
- We need you inputs. Jordan needs your ideas, your research, your work. Thank you for that in advance.

Irène Mingasson  
Charge d'Affaires  
European Union Delegation to Jordan  
Amman, 15<sup>th</sup> December 2010