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**JOINT STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT**

**Report on EU - Jordan relations in the framework of the revised European  
Neighbourhood Policy (2018-2019)**

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### **Report on EU - Jordan relations in the framework of the revised European Neighbourhood Policy (June 2018 - April 2019)**

#### **1. Introduction**

The year 2019 marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the European Union's presence in Jordan and the strong and diverse cooperation during the reporting period demonstrates that the EU and Jordan are key partners in a challenging region. Jordan has remained stable in the face of persistent economic, social and security challenges. The pace of implementation of political and economic reforms, however, has been affected by the regional developments and crises. EU support remains crucial to addressing the country's difficult economic situation.

In the reporting period, Jordan recorded legislative improvements on the independence of the judiciary and on women's rights. However, maintaining stability took priority over efforts to further human rights. In June 2018, demonstrations attracted large numbers of people, especially youth, and eventually led to the resignation of the government and the appointment of Omar Razzaz as Prime Minister. The newly appointed Prime Minister launched policies (e.g. Jordan's 5-Year Reform and Growth Matrix and the Renaissance/Nahda Plan for 2019-2020) to foster stability, create a better environment for economic operators and improve the foundations for accelerating growth.

The priorities of the EU-Jordan partnership are closely aligned with the government's Renaissance/Nahda plan. EU projects support many of the concrete actions contained in the plan under its three main pillars, from improving education and health to promoting investment and trade as well as empowering the judiciary and developing active citizenship. The EU is striving to maintain a balance between supporting Jordan politically and financially and supporting reforms that will put Jordan on the path to self-reliance.

The presence of Syrian refugees across the country continues to put pressure on Jordan's economy, scarce natural resources and infrastructure. The EU continues to play a key role in supporting Syrian refugees and Jordanian host communities. With regards to the return of Syrian refugees from Jordan, the EU and Jordan share a similar approach of promoting the safe, dignified and voluntary returns of refugees. The lack of progress in the Middle East Peace Process, including the unclear funding situation for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) continues to raise major concerns in a country where a significant part of the population is from a Palestinian background. The EU maintains a firm alignment with Jordan on the need for a two-state solution as the only road to a lasting peace. The EU and Jordan also reiterates the importance of upholding the historic status quo of the holy sites in Jerusalem, including with regards to the Hashemite Custodianship as referred to in the League of Arab States-EU summit declaration in Sharm El Sheikh. The EU continues to support Jordan's stabilising and moderating role in the region and its balanced and pragmatic relations with neighbouring countries.

The third Brussels Conference on ‘Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region’ held in March 2019 (the Brussels III Conference) confirmed the full support of the international community for Jordan as a hosting country of Syrian refugees, as shown by an overall increase in pledges. Pledges at the conference totalled EUR 8.3 billion, which is more than the levels reached in the two previous years, of which two thirds comes from the EU and its Member States. The EU confirmed its previous year’s the pledge of EUR 560 million for 2019 for Syria, Jordan and Lebanon, and pledged the same amount for 2020. The EU also pledged to maintain its level of bilateral support for Jordan as well as in response to the Syrian crisis, notably through budget support, at the London Initiative conference held in February 2019.

The excellent relations between the EU and Jordan were reflected in a number of high-level meetings in the reporting period. During King Abdullah II visit to Brussels in December 2018, the King met with the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission (HRVP) and the Commission and Council Presidents. High-level EU visitors to Jordan included the HRVP, the Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, the Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management and the Chair of the European Union Military Committee. Furthermore, King Abdullah II and the HRVP met in a side meeting at the Arab League summit in April 2019. The EU-Jordan Association Committee took place in Amman in December 2018 and confirmed the strong partnership between the two sides. The agenda covered human rights and democracy, security, regional developments, economic reforms and simplification of the rules of origin scheme.

## **2. Strengthening cooperation on regional stability and security, including counter-terrorism**

### *2.1 Foreign and security policy*

Jordan continues to be stable, despite the current instability in the region (including the stalemate in the Middle East Peace Process (MEPP), UNRWA’s funding crisis, the Syria conflict and broader regional tensions) and the deterioration of the domestic economic and social situation.

Dialogue with the EU on issues such as counterterrorism, security, judicial cooperation, integrated border management (IBM), civil protection and disaster management, and Jordan’s participation in Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions has continued over the reporting period.

### *2.2 Security, fight against terrorism and violent extremism*

At regional level, Da’esh and Al Qaeda, although territorially defeated in Syria and Iraq, remain a threat for Jordan, especially in the context of the return of foreign fighters. The EU and Jordan have thus undertaken work in the areas of preventing and countering violent extremism and improving aviation and border security, which involves EU specialised agencies. The EU and Jordan have also agreed to intensify cooperation on human trafficking and firearms smuggling. The EU fully supports the Aqaba process, aimed at consolidating the global efforts against terrorism, initiated and led by King Abdullah II. In June 2018, the EU Council adopted a decision authorising the Commission to open negotiations with Jordan for an agreement on the exchange of personal data between Europol and the relevant Jordanian authorities. On 3 December 2018, an introductory meeting was held to present the project and

the opportunities for cooperation with Europol. There were also exchanges with the Jordanian authorities to address the need to strengthen Jordan's anti-money laundering and counter terrorist financing regime.

### *2.3 Border management*

Developments in Syria and Iraq maintained security threats at the borders and within the country. In response, Jordan and the EU focused on capacity building under an IBM approach, starting with projects to improve capacity and efficiency at the Karameh-Turaibil border crossing with Iraq and the establishment of a logistical hub in north-eastern Jordan. A new IBM programme will link security with economic and trade aspects.

### *2.4 CBRN risk mitigation*

Jordan hosts the regional secretariat of the EU's Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Centre of Excellence (CoE). Under this framework, various capacity building activities are carried out in different CBRN risk mitigation fields, such as bio-safety and bio-security, support for first responders, and medical emergency services, protecting critical water facilities and as export control of dual-use goods.

## **3. Promoting economic stability, sustainable and knowledge-based growth, quality education and job creation**

### *3.1 Macroeconomic issues*

The economy continued to show resilience in the face of persistent exogenous shocks and the spill-over effects of the conflicts in Syria and Iraq. However, regional instability took its toll on growth. Real gross domestic product grew by 1.9% in 2018 while for 2019 is expected to pick up only moderately, to 2.2%. The result has been a steep rise in unemployment in recent years, which reached 18.7%<sup>1</sup> in 2018 and 37.2% among 15-24 year-olds (over 70 % of the population is under 30). This compares with overall figures of 15.3% in 2016 and 11.9% in 2014, highlighting the need for higher job creation, notably in the private sector, and for active labour market policies. Some structural reform efforts to boost competitiveness and improve the business environment are being put in place to attract foreign direct investment (FDI), which has decreased substantially (-52.7%) in 2018 compared to 2017. It should be noted that the sharp decline in FDI between 2017 and 2018 was also due to extraordinarily high levels of investments in renewable energy in 2017, which were not sustained last year. Progress with fiscal consolidation was not sustained in 2018. Despite budget cuts implemented in mid-2018, the general government deficit increased to 4.3% of GDP, negatively impacted by losses from the electricity and water companies. To reduce the fiscal deficit from 2019 onwards, the authorities took several measures, including the adoption of a new Income Tax Law (ITL) in late 2018. The fiscal impact of the new ITL will depend on its implementation, as well as on the strengthening of tax administration and the fight against tax avoidance.

Gross public debt stabilised at 94% of GDP and is expected to decline to 86% by 2024, if fiscal adjustment continues at the pace agreed in the context of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Extended Fund Facility programme. The government's strategy to reduce the

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<sup>1</sup> This figure reflects a new methodology used by the Jordanian Department of Statistics (DoS) for measuring unemployment, following recommendations by the International Labour Organisation. Therefore, it may not be fully comparable with the figures for 2016 and earlier.

cost of borrowing by replacing domestic with external debt was successful in the last years. Moreover, concerted efforts by the EU and other partners to provide Jordan with fiscal support following the London Initiative conference in February 2019 covered a large part of the country's financing gap for 2019-2020 allowing a more gradual and steady fiscal adjustment in the years to come. The second EU Macro-Financial Assistance programme of EUR 200 million was still ongoing in the reference period. Achievement of IMF programme targets and continuous support by the international community are important for preserving macro-economic stability, given Jordan's limited public resources and multiple challenges. In the same context, the implementation of priority reforms of the 5-Year Reform and Growth Matrix as agreed with the international community in the London Initiative conference will enable Jordan to increase competitiveness, enhance growth prospects, foster equity and good governance and strengthen its social safety net.

### *3.2 Trade and private sector-related matters*

#### *- Trade*

Trade policy featured prominently both in the Renaissance/Nahda Plan and in the 5-Year Reform and Growth Matrix adopted by the cabinet in February 2019 and presented at the London Initiative conference on Jordan on 28 February 2019. Jordan identified trade as an engine for growth, with the aim to grow exports by 5% annually and reduce imports by 15% by the end of 2020. More specifically the government intends to incentivise export by: providing companies that export with technical assistance and financial incentives; establishing a company to engage in export promotion; rehabilitating border crossings with Syria, Iraq and Palestine<sup>2</sup>; establishing a Jordan-Iraq joint free zone; expanding the scope of insurance coverage for Jordanian exporters under the export credit guarantee programme. In 2018, the development of EU-Jordan trade was hampered by the contraction of consumption levels. Total bilateral goods trade in 2018 amounted to EUR 3.896 billion (down from EUR 4.476 in 2017). The EU imported goods worth EUR 300 million from Jordan, mostly chemicals (36.4%) and textiles and clothing (17.7%). EU exports to Jordan, for a total value of EUR 3.569 billion, were dominated by machinery and transport equipment (20.3%), chemicals (15%) and machinery and appliances (11.5%). No cooperation in the field of competition and subsidies control has taken place in the reporting period.

Following a formal request from Jordan, further flexibilities to the relaxation of the rules of origin scheme were approved at the December 2018 Association Committee. The scheme will apply until December 2030 – a four-year extension from the initial agreement in July 2016. It will now be applicable to the whole of Jordan and companies wishing to benefit from the scheme will have to employ a minimum of 15% of Syrian refugees in the production of their exports to the EU. The government has agreed to put in place specific monitoring procedures to ensure that beneficiary companies comply with all requirements of the scheme. Should Jordan create at least 60 000 legal job opportunities for Syrian refugees, the scheme would become applicable to all companies in Jordan irrespective of Syrians employment. To date, 42 000 active work permits for Syrian refugees have been issued. 13 companies have been authorised to export under the rules of origin scheme, and six are actually exporting for a total value of EUR 19.2 million. The geographical expansion of the scheme may allow companies across Jordan to benefit indirectly, as it may contribute to job creation.

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<sup>2</sup> This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue.

### *- Private sector development and business environment*

In its cooperation with Jordan, the EU seeks to promote a better business environment and is focused on increasing the capacity of local companies to export, supporting start-ups and innovation as well as facilitating small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) access to credit. Jordan actively participated in a meeting on industrial clusters' policy (Barcelona, 3 December 2018) organised in the framework of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) technical experts' working group, which aims to share good practices for SME development among its members and implement a work programme on industrial cooperation. Jordan ranks 104<sup>th</sup> out of 190 countries in the World Bank's *Doing Business 2019* report. It has introduced new legislation to simplify procedures for business registration and management (e.g. predictability code, insolvency law, business-inspection law and amendments to licencing requirements). The EU has worked closely with the Central Bank of Jordan on strengthening microfinance institutions and promoting financial inclusion. With EU support, the microfinance regulatory framework was completed and all microfinance institutions were licenced in 2018, under the central bank's supervision. A more conducive investment climate will be crucial if Jordan is to take advantage of the opportunities created by initiatives such as the European External Investment Plan. It has potential to complement some of the EU's sectoral budget support and grants and to attract FDI.

### *3.3 Renewable energy, energy efficiency, climate change and sustainable natural resource management*

The Ministry of Environment is currently preparing the implementation plan of the Green Growth Plan, which was launched in May 2017 to encourage the public and private sectors to invest in the green economy while reducing dependence on energy imports. Jordan is making progress on meeting its monitoring, reporting and verification obligations under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement with the National Climate Change Committee serving as a national platform for the integration of multi-stakeholder dialogue and planning. In the reporting period, the EU encouraged Jordan to effectively implement its National Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement and has continued to play a prominent role in promoting Jordan's clean energy transition. By the end of the first quarter of 2019, 7 500 additional solar water heaters and 600 photovoltaic rooftop systems had been installed in Jordan with EU funding under the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (REEE II) programme. As a result there is an increase of 5-6% of renewable energy sources which will contribute to the achievement of 10% target that Jordan had set for 2020 (Jordan already achieved this target before the deadline). In water management, the EU has provided a EUR 20 million grant to support the construction of the West Irbid Wastewater Network under the EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis. In the framework of the UfM Blue Economy Forum, the project 'Facility for Regional Policy Dialogue on Integrated Maritime Policy' executed a study to develop Maritime Governance in the Gulf of Aqaba, which was requested by the Jordanian authorities in view of developing the relevant national policy.

### *3.4 Transport*

Jordan continued to participate actively in the EuroMed programmes managed notably by the European transport agencies to share technical expertise in transport and implement the regional Transport Action Plan for the Mediterranean Region (RTAP) 2014-2020 as adopted under the UfM framework. Jordan, as the Southern UfM Co-Presidency, remained involved in the UfM process related to the establishment of the Mediterranean transport network (Trans-Mediterranean Transport network) and its extension to the European network (TENT).

### 3.5 Education, employment and employability

The Ministry of Education is committed to advancing the vision of quality education for all not only through effective policy development and strategic planning, but also through monitoring (e.g. the assessment of quality education delivery).

In the reporting period, six capacity-building projects involving Jordanian universities - two of them with Jordanian coordinators - were selected under the Erasmus+ programme. These projects support the national higher education modernisation agenda. Also, 111 mobility projects linking European and Jordanian universities were selected, enabling 711 Jordanian students and staff to travel to Europe, and 470 European persons to travel to Jordan. In addition, nine master degree students received Erasmus Mundus full master's scholarships.

In 2018, 277 Jordanians took part in Erasmus+ Youth (non-formal education) activities, involving *inter alia* the mobility of young people and youth workers, volunteering and meetings between young people and decision makers. Jordan also was the third most active country in the Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange project, which brings together young people from around the Mediterranean through activities such as online exchanges (facilitated dialogues, debates and interactive open courses) and provides training for facilitators, professors and youth workers. As from 2018, Jordan non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and young people have been eligible to take part in European Solidarity Corps volunteering projects.

In the reporting period, Jordan continued to participate in the eTwinningPlus scheme (under Erasmus+), which it had joined in January 2018. The number of participating schools rose to 122, and 396 Jordanian teachers took part in 366 projects with their peers in Europe and other neighbouring countries participating in the scheme.

Under the EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian crisis 1 700 scholarships have been allocated to Jordanians and Syrians and include master, bachelor of arts, vocational training and English language courses. At the end of 2018, the government approved the action plan for the implementation of the Human Resources Development Strategy 2016-2025 prepared by line Ministries<sup>3</sup> involved in the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sector. It has also adopted the long awaited revised TVET law and foresees its submission to the Parliament for final adoption in 2020 which would be an important step forward for developing a comprehensive governance of the TVET system. It would operate under the framework of a new independent entity where the private sector will take an effective lead.

As co-president of the UfM, Jordan signed up to the UfM Ministerial Declaration on Employment and Labour, which was adopted in April 2019<sup>4</sup>. The Ministerial Declaration, focuses on job creation, partnerships, inclusiveness of vulnerable groups, and skills, and sets the cooperation framework on employment and labour for years to come. The EU-supported 'Skills for Employment and Social Inclusion' programme delivered soft skills and English language trainings to a total of 2 500 persons amongst the most disadvantaged groups of society (at least 32% were women and 100 were people with disabilities). Most of the groups were referred by the National Aid Fund (NAF). The Ministry of Social Development is at the final stage of preparing a new Expansion Plan of the National Aid Fund targeting an additional number of 80 000 families from among the most disadvantaged groups over three

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<sup>3</sup> Ministries of Labour, Education and Higher Education.

<sup>4</sup> <https://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Ministerial-Declaration-EN-1.pdf>

years with EU support. A specific focus will be on gradual support enabling them to access job opportunities.

### *3.6 Culture, research and innovation*

The first ‘Heritage Days’, a three-day event implemented by the EU National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC) Jordan, marked the European Year of Cultural Heritage in 2018. The event was designed to increase the visibility of Jordan’s historical sites and help the local population develop its capacities to promote and protect their cultural heritage and improve their employability. It included showcasing unknown Jordanian historical sites, trainings for locals and workshops with European and Jordanian experts, and awareness programmes to help locals understand the heritage sites better and develop tools to protect and promote them.

An increasingly large and broad range of EU activities promoted cultural diversity, youth, creativity, freedom of expression, exchanges, fusion, multi-culturalism and the local culture. The EU showcased the work of EU-funded projects and local initiatives to promote social cohesion and mutual understanding between Syrian refugees and Jordanians. Initiatives included music performances, photo and painting exhibitions, film screenings, street art, poetry reading, art therapy, handicrafts, food tasting and sports for peace. The inauguration of the solar facility for the Synchrotron-light for Experimental Sciences and Applications in the Middle East (SESAME), which has received significant support from different parts of the EU budget, including from Horizon 2020, took place during the first quarter of 2019. As a result, SESAME is the first synchrotron facility in the world fully powered by solar energy.

Cooperation in the field of Research and Innovation was also boosted by Jordan’s participation in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA), following the conclusion of the relevant International Agreement between the EU and Jordan (entry into force on 16 January 2018). On 11 December 2018, an Implementing Arrangement was signed between the European Commission and the Higher Council of Science and Technology, which sets out detailed provisions for mutual assistance in case of audits, reviews and checks. The signature of this Arrangement was pre-condition for the EU to disburse funds to Jordanian participants in PRIMA and highlights Jordan’s ambitious agenda for jointly funded research in key areas of water management and food production. Jordanian entities are expected to receive EU funding in relation to the first PRIMA calls launched in 2018.

In the reporting period, 24 additional Jordanian researchers have benefited from Marie Skłodowska Curie fellowships to pursue their research abroad, bringing the total number to 49 since 2014, and two Jordanian institutions were involved in the scheme.

### *3.7 Response to the Syrian refugee crisis*

In response to the Syria crisis, in 2018 the international community continued to support the Jordan Response Plan providing financial support as per pledges made at the Brussels II conference in 2018<sup>5</sup>. According to government of Jordan data, contracted grant funding to the Jordan Response Plan for the Syria crisis in 2018 amounted, for the third year in a row, to almost two-thirds of the requested funding for a total of USD 1.6 billion<sup>6</sup>. The government of

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<sup>5</sup> See the Brussels conference financial tracking report dated March 2019, available at <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/38395/syria-report-seven.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> There are around 660 000 registered Syrian refugees in Jordan as of April 2019, registering a slight decrease compared to last quarter of 2018.

Jordan has also progressed in its endeavours to support refugees by issuing a cabinet decision in November 2018 to allow Syrians to register and operate home-based businesses inside and outside the camps. The health regulation issued in January 2018, under which Syrian refugees were to pay 80% of the standard fees was reversed in April 2019. The exercise to formalise the status of Syrian refugees residing informally in urban areas in Jordan, with EU support, was completed in March 2019.

The EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian crisis continued to deliver assistance to support Jordan in coping with the consequences of the Syrian crisis, with EUR 89 million of new actions adopted in 2018, and total support of more than EUR 300 million since its start in 2015. New actions supported by the Trust Fund were notably addressing needs in health and education and reinforcing the self-reliance of refugees and host communities and strengthening national systems to cope with the crisis.

#### **4. Strengthening democratic governance, the rule of law and human rights**

##### *4.1 Democracy and good governance*

In the context of the recovery-oriented policies (e.g. the Renaissance Plan, Jordan's 5-Year Reform and Growth Matrix) launched by PM Razzaz, enhancing governance and democracy play an important role for the long-term stability of the country. In particular, combating corruption, increasing political participation, reinforcing decentralisation and empowering the judiciary are core sectors to strengthen the rule of law. With current and future projects, the EU contributes to the achievement of those objectives.

Jordan has continued to make progress in building a deep and sustainable democracy. An EU Electoral Follow-up Mission (EFM) visited the country in September 2018 to assess the implementation of the Election Observation Mission (EOM) recommendations (fielded on the occasion of the 2016 parliamentary elections) and the opportunities and challenges facing Jordan in strengthening the rule of law and elections procedures. The EFM noted some progress in implementation of the EOM recommendations and encouraged Jordan to take further steps in this context.

##### *4.2 Human rights*

The country took legislative and executive steps to ensure more protection for individual rights in areas such as women's rights and women's empowerment. Jordan's progress on human rights was discussed at the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in November 2018. The UPR encouraged Jordan to make further progress in areas such as gender-based violence and gender equality, fundamental freedoms, the death penalty, torture and child protection.

While Jordan's civil society remains active, further progress is encouraged to address legislative and bureaucratic factors in order to ensure full participation in public life and the shaping of policy. In this context, the EU has continued to engage civil society organisations (CSOs) to identify joint priorities and together with the Member States, has updated an EU roadmap for engagement with civil society in Jordan for 2018-2020.

The EU and Jordan regularly engage in dialogue on the need for better balance between legitimate national security concerns and the respect for international human rights obligations. As in previous years, it called on Jordan to re-instate the *de facto* moratorium on the death penalty, with a view to its ultimate abolition. Human rights defenders and CSOs

continued to cite cases of alleged torture and ill-treatment in police and state security facilities. Jordan continued to play its long-standing role in promoting peaceful religious coexistence and supporting the freedom of religion and belief. EU-funded human rights projects in the reporting period focused on empowering women and youth, building the capacity of CSOs and improving access to justice.

Jordan has yet to adopt legislation on the protection of privacy and data protection rights, which is necessary to facilitate exchanges and cooperation with the EU in various fields, including law enforcement.

#### *4.3 Rule of law*

The EU and Jordan are in dialogue on judicial cooperation, border management, civil protection and counterterrorism. In the reporting period, joint efforts were made to mainstream human rights in justice and security-related projects (e.g. strengthening rule of law efforts and cooperation with the Public Security Directorate). A key element of this work will be continued support for the justice sector in its efforts to strengthen the independence and capacities of the judiciary. Pending challenges include access to legal aid, reintegration and rehabilitation measures for adults and minors, the use of mediation as alternative dispute resolution and alternative measures to detention; the lack of transparency of the State Security Court, efforts for a stronger role of the Judicial Council and the introduction of an automated case management system for Jordan courts. The EU has funded dedicated projects to help Jordan address these challenges.

### **5. Cross-cutting priorities: implementing the Mobility Partnership**

Negotiations under the EU-Jordan Mobility Partnership (started in 2016) on visa facilitation and the readmission of third-country nationals have not yet resumed. A project was finalised in the first half of 2019 in the area of trafficking in human beings and contacts with the diaspora ('Support to the Mobility Partnership between the European Union and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, JEMPAS'). A possible continuation is under consideration.

### **6. EU financial assistance**

Financial support under European Neighbourhood Instrument bilateral cooperation assistance for 2017-2020<sup>7</sup> focuses on i) enhancing Jordan's social and economic development, ii) strengthening the rule of law, iii) upgrading border management and prevention of violent extremism, iv) supporting capacity-building, and v) supporting civil society. The indicative allocation is between EUR 335.5 and EUR 410.1 million. In addition, the EU maintained its financial support for Jordan in response to the Syrian crisis, amounting EUR 1.3 billion since 2011. This includes humanitarian assistance, together with longer-term resilience and development support in areas such as education, livelihoods, water, sanitation and health, macro-financial assistance for Syrian refugees and Jordanian host communities. Overall, the EU has mobilised over EUR 2.1 billion for Jordan since 2011.

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<sup>7</sup> As detailed in the EU Single Support Framework for Jordan for 2017-2020, adopted on 9.11.2017 — see C(2017) 7350.

## **7. Concluding remarks**

In order to respond to the directives of King Abdullah II, Jordan launched a two-year ‘National Renaissance’ programme (2019-2020) for the purpose of achieving a ‘state of law, production and solidarity’ and pursued the implementation of the national plan for human rights to reinforce the human rights protection system of the State and to work towards a participatory, inclusive and accountable human rights-based governance system. Recognising Jordan’s tremendous efforts in hosting Syrian refugees, the EU supports these endeavours through policy dialogue, financial assistance and projects. The EU and Jordan remain trusted partners and this is reflected in their consistent and meaningful dialogue at the highest levels and in the close cooperation in many sectors and projects to support the sustainable and inclusive development of the country. The EU-Jordan Partnership Priorities, based on the Association Agreement, remain a solid basis for the development of bilateral relations, and provide the framework to guide partners in further strengthening their cooperation. This report serves as a basis for the review of the Partnership Priorities.