

Joint Declaration on the “Strategic and Comprehensive Partnership” between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the European Union

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the European Union have mutually agreed to elevate their relationship to the level of a Strategic and Comprehensive Partnership, based on their common values, mutual respect and trust, the principle of co-ownership as well as shared interests.

The EU and Jordan, based on the deep-rooted history of advanced cooperation and friendship, have reiterated their commitments to build on their long-standing and steadfast relations with the aim of deepening the EU-Jordan partnership, based on the Jordan-EU Association Agreement, particularly in view of the geopolitical changes and the unfolding crises. In this context, further deepening the EU-Jordan partnership will be instrumental to better tackle common challenges, and advance shared values of peace, democracy and human rights.

The EU and Jordan reiterate their shared principles of respect for international law, including international humanitarian law, territorial integrity, national sovereignty and the need to solve conflicts by peaceful means, in line with the UN Charter.

The EU recognises Jordan as a reliable and credible partner, and its key role as an actor of peace, stability and security, as a generous host of millions of refugees, as well as a promoter of shared values of democracy, human rights, moderation and tolerance in the Middle East and the Mediterranean region at large. The EU also acknowledges Jordan’s exceptional resilience in spite of recurrent and protracted crises that have significantly affected its security, stability and economy. The EU and Jordan reiterate their commitment to the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter, the United Nations Agenda 2030 and other relevant multilateral agreements as well as to the Union for the Mediterranean, which has been co-chaired by the EU and Jordan since 2012, promoting jointly a common Euro-Med Agenda.

Jordan and the EU recall their commitment to the Association Agreement and the Jordan-EU Partnership Priorities (2021-2027). In this context, also in order to support Jordan’s stability, political, economic and administrative modernisation vision as well as economic resilience, they decide to focus the Strategic and Comprehensive Partnership on the following key areas of cooperation: Political Relations and Regional Cooperation; Security and Defence; Economic Resilience; Trade and Investment; Human Capital, Migration, Protection of and Support to Refugees.

Jordan and the EU will also work jointly to enhance people-to-people contacts across different areas, encouraging more civil society engagement on both sides and to enhance Jordan’s participation in relevant EU programmes.

The implementation of this Strategic and Comprehensive Partnership provides a solid foundation for unleashing the full potential of the Jordan-EU relationship across the board.

Pillar I - Political Relations and Regional Cooperation

Jordan and the EU share a commitment to the promotion of peace, security and stability in the Middle East and the Mediterranean region at large and recognise each other's unwavering endeavours to achieve these goals.

Jordan and the EU will work in full co-ownership to reinforce their relations at all levels and to promote ever-closer contacts. The EU-Jordan Partnership will be based on common values and dialogue and will progress on a shared socio-economic and political agenda. The EU recognises and supports the comprehensive political, economic and administrative reforms vision Jordan has embarked on, in the midst of protracted regional crises, and stands ready to support Jordan in the implementation of its political modernisation process. Both sides reiterate their commitments to democracy, rule of law, good governance, human rights, fundamental freedoms and non-discrimination.

Both sides agree to enhance their political dialogue and engagement through various initiatives, including holding a summit, once every two years, gathering His Majesty the King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and the Presidents of the European Council and the European Commission, alternately between Amman and Brussels in addition to regular annual working visits as needed.

While the annual Association Council will remain the cornerstone of our bilateral engagement, in addition to other regular working visits, both sides will consider exploring how to further intensify exchanges at Foreign Minister's level.

The EU and Jordan will collaborate closely in the framework of the Union for the Mediterranean. The EU commends the constructive role that Jordan has played as co-President of the Union for the Mediterranean since 2012, and the commitment demonstrated in its reform process. The EU and Jordan will continue to work constructively together to foster a strong partnership across the Mediterranean, in view of a more peaceful, secure, green, prosperous and integrated region and to strengthen the Organisation's role, functioning, and visibility.

The EU and Jordan agree that the only path to a just, lasting and comprehensive solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is the two-state solution, in accordance with internationally agreed parameters, international law and with relevant UN Security Council Resolutions where two democratic states, Israel and Palestine, live side-by-side in peace within secure and recognised borders. The European Union and Jordan are ready to contribute to all efforts towards this solution and call on all parties to refrain from actions that undermine its viability. Both sides express their commitment to uphold the historical Status Quo of Jerusalem's Holy Sites, including with regards to the historic Hashemite Custodianship.

The EU welcomes Jordan's principled position against territorial annexation, in line with Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity and the principles of international law, and its support for relevant UN General Assembly resolutions, including UN General Assembly Resolution ES-11/1.

Pillar II - Security and Defence

In an increasingly challenging regional context, the EU and Jordan reaffirm the critical importance of bolstering dialogue and cooperation on security and defence matters, including by exploring establishing a regular security and defence dialogue gathering all relevant services on both sides, to address common security challenges including terrorism and violent extremism, hybrid threats and drug trafficking, and enhancing cooperation with EU agencies. The EU acknowledges the security challenges Jordan is facing and highly values Jordan's crucial role in sustaining security and stability in the region.

Both sides will enhance cooperation on the prevention and countering of terrorism and violent extremism, tackling effectively radicalisation and increasingly aggressive terrorist propaganda online within the rule of law and in full respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The EU and Jordan will work together in fighting the root causes of terrorism and violent extremism having regard to the importance of education and the role of civil society organisations working to this end.

The EU stands ready to further support the Jordanian Armed Forces (JAF), including through the European Peace Facility (EPF). Jordan's participation in EU's Common Security and Defence Policy missions and operations is encouraged, within agreed frameworks.

Both sides will also cooperate on tackling other regional security challenges, including border security, organised crime and combating the smuggling of drugs and weapons, which pose threats to both Jordan and its neighbouring countries, with wider implications for the EU as well. The EU is committed to supporting Jordan in addressing such threats. Together, Jordan and the EU will look to enhance cooperation on cybersecurity - notably in the UN framework - as well as in countering disinformation, information manipulation and foreign interference in the information environment.

Pillar III - Economic resilience, Trade and Investments

Economic resilience and structural reforms

The EU will support Jordan to further enhance its resilience to exogenous shocks and advance with the reform priorities outlined in the Economic Modernisation Vision. To this end, Jordan and the EU will work together to pursue structural reforms in Jordan conducive to economic growth and employment, to foster macroeconomic resilience, to improve economic governance, in particular in areas of public finance management.

Investment promotion and trade

The EU and Jordan will work together to promote sustainable trade and investment. The EU stands firmly committed to support Jordan in developing its potential in high value industries and services, including secured connectivity and digitalisation, renewable energy and hydrogen, clean tech, sustainable tourism and cultural heritage, mining, agricultural products, fertilisers, electronics, semi-conductors and pharma industries. The EU will encourage investments and engagement between the two sides' private sectors, as well as continue assisting Jordan in revising relevant legislative and regulatory frameworks to further enhance the business-friendly environment to attract Foreign Direct Investment.

The EU invites Jordan to become an International Network Partner in the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN), the world's largest business support network for SMEs and start-ups with international ambitions and a global platform for trade, research, and innovation, helping businesses grow across borders.

The EU and Jordan will also explore opportunities for producing and trading decarbonized products, ensuring long-term sustainability and resilience, and taking advantage of the opportunities of the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism to enhance Jordan competitiveness on the EU market. Furthermore, the EU will seek to maintain and expand its presence in investment and infrastructure opportunities, including by supporting EU-Jordan Investment conferences to boost public and private investments and to increase trade, fostering partnerships between EU and Jordanian private sectors and opportunities to enhance the potential of Jordan's private sector in contributing to the EU value chains.

Under the Strategic and Comprehensive Partnership, the EU and Jordan stand firmly committed to enhance their bilateral cooperation to unleash the full potential of the Free Trade Area of the Association Agreement. The EU and Jordan will explore opportunities on how Jordanian companies could make better use of the simplified Rules of Origin Scheme, while continue working on building export capacity and reinforcing their competitiveness. In the context of the Strategic and Comprehensive Partnership, both sides agree to work on the review of the Association Agreement and look into various potentials to update and develop certain parts, in particular issues related to trade and investment relations to better adapt them to today's challenges. In this context, the EU and Jordan will also work on the review of the Rules of Origin Scheme to adjust it, including in relation to expanding its duration and the list of products. Both sides will also discuss an investment facilitation agreement.

Water, energy and green transition

Sustainable management of natural resources, including water, decarbonisation of energy systems, development of renewable energy and hydrogen as well as measures to enhance resilience and adaptation will be key priorities for cooperation between the EU and Jordan, in the context of the transition to a low carbon, resource-efficient green economy.

The EU and Jordan will work together to accelerate the implementation of Jordan's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and promote investments in climate change measures to enhance resilience.

Building on their longstanding cooperation, the sides will further develop their collaboration on water access and re-use, including by continuous support to the Aqaba-Amman Water Desalination and Conveyance project through its Team Europe Initiative.

Both sides agree to deepen their partnership on the energy transition, focusing on renewable energy and hydrogen. This will involve strengthening cooperation in the energy sector, including regulatory reform, regional electricity integration and enhancing the financial sustainability of the sector. The EU and Jordan will prioritise increasing renewable energy trading and boosting clean tech manufacturing and will explore opportunities for clean tech investment and value chain integration, including through the Trans-Mediterranean Energy and Clean Tech Cooperation Initiative, once established.

The EU and Jordan will enhance cooperation on critical raw materials to identify opportunities and obstacles for EU private sector participation, with the aim of unlocking investment opportunities which are mutually beneficial, promoting technological advancements, and ensuring responsible mining practices. The EU will support Jordan in developing a robust and sustainable mining sector through the implementation of a sound mining strategy.

Jordan and the EU will also explore how to reinforce their joint benefits to ensure resilient, diversified and sustainable global supply chains for critical minerals, contributing to both economic growth and environmental sustainability while facilitating the EU's and Jordan's ambitious climate goals.

Digitalisation and entrepreneurship

The EU and Jordan aim to enhance their cooperation and dialogue in the digital sector, through promoting digitalisation of public services in key sectors such as green and twin transition, healthcare, education, social welfare and business environment as well as the deployment of secure digital infrastructure. The EU and Jordan will promote the extension of the Medusa Submarine Cable to Jordan and explore ways to create a new digital corridor that further enhances regional development and secure connectivity. Both sides will ensure that the digital transformation respects the fundamental rights of users including freedom of expression and privacy rights, and creates a safer digital space.

Acknowledging the importance of a vibrant private sector, the EU and Jordan will work towards promoting entrepreneurship, innovation and job creation with a particular focus on empowering women and young people. In this context, a specific focus will be placed on supporting early stage entrepreneurs to drive innovation, support start-ups, help launch new ventures in emerging industries like green industries and digital. The sides will also engage in enhancing Jordan's participation to EU programmes for research and innovation.

The EU will also expand cooperation on research and innovation and work towards continued and enhanced participation in EU programmes including PRIMA, the international dimension of Erasmus+, and Horizon Europe, as well as Digital Europe Programme. Furthermore, the EU and Jordan will work together to extend Jordan's participation to other EU programmes such as Creative Europe.

Pillar IV - Human capital

Recognising the pivotal role of human capital in driving growth and progress, the EU and Jordan will collaborate to bridge the skills gap and promote inclusivity through enhanced vocational education and training initiatives. The EU will continue to support quality education and technical and vocational training in Jordan, to bridge the education and skills gaps and promote inclusivity.

Priority will be given to sectors of shared interest and potential including education, as well as vocational technical education. To tackle unemployment, Jordan and the EU will foster entrepreneurship and formal job creation in innovative sectors, with a particular focus on empowering women and young people. Both sides will work together to generate livelihood opportunities for citizens of all generations in Jordan and strengthen the efficiency and accessibility of social protection systems in line with Jordan's new National Social Protection Strategy. The EU will also explore

opportunities to expand vocational training programs that meet EU labour market standards and respond to the needs of the Jordanian youth, with a focus, among others, on developing skills relevant to the green and digital transitions also in view of potential circular mobility within the European labour market.

Pillar V – Migration, Protection of and Support to Refugees

Jordan and the EU will work as reliable and trusted partners and build on their Mobility Partnership of 2014 to unleash its full potential. Both sides will strengthen their exchanges on migration, refugees and mobility issues in a comprehensive manner encompassing border management, the fight against migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings. Recognising the distinct nature of forced displacement and migration, the EU and Jordan will adopt tailored approaches to address each issue, while respecting each party's sovereignty and acknowledging Jordan's pivotal role in regional stability and security. The EU and Jordan will also intensify cooperation and coordination on humanitarian assistance, including through Jordan as a regional hub for humanitarian aid, to be delivered to vulnerable communities and countries most in need.

The partnership will also encompass protection issues and complementary pathways for refugees, with particular attention to the vulnerable groups, as well as a focus on an effective return policy ensuring dignified and sustainable return and repatriation that upholds international law and human rights. The EU and Jordan will also enhance cooperation with relevant EU and International agencies to address these important issues.

On migration, efforts will also focus on fostering legal-pathways, ensuring that all measures respect the principles of human rights and international law.

Jordan has been at the receiving end of every regional crisis, making one third of its population refugees, and imposing a critical burden on Jordan and its economy. The EU will continue supporting Jordan in assisting host communities and refugees, as well as working on durable and sustainable solutions, in particular safe voluntary and dignified returns, in coordination with UNHCR and in full respect of human rights. Both sides agree to continue mobilising international shared responsibility and sustainable funding to ensure a dignified livelihood for refugees and their access to basic services. In supporting Syrian refugees, the EU and Jordan will adopt a vulnerability-based approach giving due consideration to enhancing the resilience of vulnerable host communities.

The EU and Jordan support a peaceful and inclusive transition in Syria. Despite the recent developments in Syria, the Syrian refugees' crisis remains a critical burden on Jordan. In this regard, both sides reiterate their call on the international community to continue providing support to the Syrian refugees and host communities, while advocating for sustainable solutions that address the root causes of displacement of all refugees. Both sides emphasise the need to invest in creating conditions for the return of refugees to their countries of origin.

The EU remains committed to supporting the protection to the Palestine refugees including in Jordan. In this respect, the EU and Jordan stress the indispensable role of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in providing vital services for Palestinians

and for the security and stability of the region, in accordance with its UN mandate stipulated in relevant UN resolutions and express their commitment to continue supporting the Agency.

The EU will endeavour to mobilise a wide array of existing financial instruments to optimise the implementation of the Strategic and Comprehensive Partnership, including technical assistance and targeted sectoral cooperation, grants, macro-financial assistance, guarantees, in particular to leverage private sector investment including through an investment conference. EU financial support to Jordan will also endeavour to capitalise on the positive experiences in mobilising capitals and investments through its existing financial instruments such as EFSD+. The EU will endeavour to support enhanced people-to-people contacts and exchanges across policy areas enhancing the participation to its programmes for education and other areas to Jordanian citizens and entities.

The EU and Jordan will develop an implementation roadmap for this Strategic and Comprehensive Partnership in line with the institutional framework of the Jordan-EU Association Agreement, and the EU will provide assistance to optimise its implementation.

On behalf of the European Union

On behalf of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
