

HoM/FC on-camera remarks during the visit of EU Delegation to UNIFIL HQ

18 June 2020 - Naqoura

Distinguished Ambassadors Of the Member States of the delegation from the European Union,

Fellow UNIFIL peacekeepers,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good afternoon!

It's my absolute pleasure to welcome such a large delegation of European Union Ambassadors and senior officials to the UNIFIL Headquarters today.

This attests to the importance the EU places on UNIFIL's work in south Lebanon.

The continued and strong support we have been receiving from EU Member States has been an essential element in the implementation of Security Council resolution 1701 and associated. Such support has given UNIFIL the needed boost to carry out its mandated activities.

Please be assured that the peacekeepers from your countries, accounting for a third of the Mission's more than 10,000 troops between ground and maritime forces, have been playing an extremely significant role in maintaining the cessation of hostilities, de-escalating tension in the UNIFIL area of operations and preserving stability along the Blue Line.

The work of your troops has reinforced the Mission's strong operational tempo, which is demonstrated by the fact that the area has enjoyed an unprecedented 14 years of calm.

Preserving stability along the Blue Line, supporting the Lebanese Armed Forces as well as opening a window of opportunity for the parties to move towards a permanent ceasefire are some of the goals that unite our common determination in delivering on our mandate.

EU member states have strongly supported those efforts as well as contributing financially to the work of the Mission through the sacrifices of their troops while assisting local communities with a large number of projects aimed at improving their living conditions.

You have also contributed to UNIFIL's mandate through bilateral and multilateral support to the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF), both within and outside the framework of UNIFIL's mandate. Your support has been especially welcome in raising the capabilities of the Lebanese Navy through both equipment and training.

I would also like to thank the Delegation for their strong response to the COVID-19 pandemic by providing municipalities and hospitals in south Lebanon with the necessary equipment, medical and sanitary supplies aimed at preventing the spread of the virus.

Thank you!