



**Draft**

**Title:** **European solidarity for Lebanon**

**Tabled by:** Groen

**Draft text**

1 The Lebanese Republic is currently suffering one of the worst economic crises  
2 for decades, with the World Bank naming it one of the worst crises since the  
3 19<sup>th</sup> century. The financial crisis, further accelerated by COVID-19 and the  
4 Beirut port explosion in 2020, has resulted in the highest inflation rates in  
5 the world, overtaking Venezuela, putting 82% of the population in  
6 multidimensional poverty. Because of liquidity issues, the country is no longer  
7 able to buy fuel which powers its energy stations, resulting in total energy  
8 blackouts lasting days. Meanwhile, in the past, humanitarian aid has often  
9 disappeared into the pockets of a corrupt political class, frequently named in  
10 the Pandora Papers, who are unwilling to make the necessary reforms to take the  
11 country out of this downward spiral. This bodes especially badly for the 1.7  
12 million refugees in the country, as Lebanon is currently hosting the largest  
13 number of refugees per capita in the world (6.8 million inhabitants, including  
14 refugees). It is also particularly bad news for the disappearing civil society  
15 which is facing especially harsh measures whenever it demands the necessary  
16 political change. Whilst, one year ago, the EU installed the 3R Framework, in  
17 collaboration with the World Bank and United Nations, in response to the Beirut  
18 port explosion, it is now responding with sanctions and restrictions against the  
19 country and its political class, which risks pushing Lebanon even deeper into  
20 crisis. Today, Europe is unwilling to continue development and humanitarian aid  
21 in Lebanon, in the hour of its greatest need.

22 As Greens, we urge the European Union and its Member States to only sanction  
23 those directly responsible for the current crisis and to continue supporting  
24 **civil society** in the Lebanese Republic. While humanitarian aid to the Lebanese

25 government should remain, including conditionality mechanisms, especially when  
26 it concerns law-enforcement equipment, direct subsidies should also be  
27 considered for independent healthcare and educational organisations. The country  
28 should be given support to organise future elections, with the EU pushing for  
29 easy access to voting centres and giving the Lebanese diaspora the opportunity  
30 to vote.

31 As 95% of the **refugees** in the country face extreme poverty, efforts must be  
32 increased to guarantee their human rights. The EU and its Member States must  
33 increase their efforts to relocate a fairer share of the 1.7 million refugees in  
34 Lebanon to Europe, must provide further development aid to these refugee camps,  
35 and must refrain from creating new Turkey-style refugee deals.

36 In order to support the country in its transition towards modern **energy**  
37 **production** and reduce its dependency on fossil fuels, the EU should assist  
38 Lebanon with a large energy programme to increase solar power and wind power  
39 production across the region. Projects to set up new infrastructure based on  
40 fossil fuels, or those threatening the existing ecological system, like the  
41 Bisri Dam, should be discouraged.

## Background

Further reading:

- [Lebanon crisis could rank among worlds three worst in 150 years - Al Jazeera](#)
- [Lebanon: Almost three-quarters of the population living in poverty - United Nations](#)
- [Pandora papers: as ordinary Lebanese suffer, elite secretly drain off billions - The Conversation](#)
- [Suppressing protests: French less-lethal weapons used in Lebanon - Amnesty](#)
- [Lebanon Reform, Recovery & Reconstruction Framework \(3RF\) - Delegation of the European Union to Lebanon](#)
- [Remarks by President Charles Michel at the International conference in support of the Lebanese people - European Council](#)

- [EU greenlights major funding plan for refugees in Turkey - AP News](#)
- [Lebanon: Protest Against the World Bank-Financed Bisri Dam Project - Asharq Al-Awsat](#)

## **Supporters**

FYEG, EELV, Ecolo