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Lebanon: a Path to Peace

Presented at the YEPP Council in Athens on the 23th of November 2024

Presented by: LFYA Lebanon, KSYD Lebanon,
Junge Mitte Switzerland, NNGG Spain

Supported by: BM Ukraine, ONNED Grece, MSi Slovenia, MHDZ Croatia,
JSD Portugal, CSJ Luxembourg, GDC San Marino, JONG CD&V Belgium,
JFG Ireland, JU Germany, Giovani PATT Italy, Youth Forces Union of VMRO-
DPMNE, JG SVP Italy, CDJA Netherlands, MIERT Romania, JR France, FIG
Italy

Recognizing that:

- The escalation in the conflict between Hezbollah and Israel which has led to heavy destruction of Lebanese towns and villages¹ is risking the creation of a bigger humanitarian² and geopolitical catastrophe³.
- The importance of implementing a ceasefire to put an end to hostilities and safeguard human life in addition to the application of International Resolutions particularly UN Resolutions 1559⁴, 1680⁵ and 1701⁶ in addition to the extension of the control of the Lebanese Government and the Lebanese Army over the southern and northern borders.
- The need to provide further humanitarian support for the Lebanese people in addition to support for the Lebanese Armed Forces in the future⁷.

¹ <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cvgx3zjvlg3o>

² <https://www.unhcr.org/news/speeches-and-statements/high-commissioner-s-statement-international-conference-support-lebanon>

³ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/09/un-experts-alarmed-israel-lebanon-conflict-strongly-condemn-escalation-and>

⁴ <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/529421?ln=en&v=pdf>

⁵ <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/575280?v=pdf&ln=en>

⁶ https://unsco.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/s_res_17012006.pdf

⁷ [https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/lebanon/news/article/international-conference-in-support-of-lebanon-s-people-and-sovereignty-paris#:~:text=News-International%20Conference%20in%20Support%20of%20Lebanon's%20People,\(Paris%2C%202024%20October%202024\)&text=The%20International%20Conference%20in%20Support,conjunction%20with%20the%20United%20Nations.](https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/lebanon/news/article/international-conference-in-support-of-lebanon-s-people-and-sovereignty-paris#:~:text=News-International%20Conference%20in%20Support%20of%20Lebanon's%20People,(Paris%2C%202024%20October%202024)&text=The%20International%20Conference%20in%20Support,conjunction%20with%20the%20United%20Nations.)



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- The Iranian regime through Hezbollah and other militias is interfering in Lebanese political life and other countries in the region and played a major role in destabilizing it⁸.
- Hezbollah's illicit activities in Europe include drug trafficking, money laundering, and arms procurement, often collaborating with South American cartels to smuggle drugs. These operations support the group financially and help sustain its logistics and recruitment networks across the continent. Despite the EU's ban on Hezbollah's military wing, the group continues to leverage Europe for fundraising and organized crime activities, maintaining influence and presence across multiple countries.⁹

Acknowledging that:

- A ceasefire is necessary as a first step to ending hostilities and safeguarding human life.
- The Lebanese constitution and the rule of law should be upheld and the Lebanese Armed Forces should be the only entity responsible for safeguarding the borders.
- The election of a president of the Lebanese Republic as per the constitution is a must to safeguard and restore institutions and put the country on a path of recovery.
- UN resolutions 1559, 1680, and 1701 should be implemented in full and support for the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) should be provided in doing so in addition to an extension of the mandate and job description of the UNIFIL as support for the LAF.
- The Iranian regime should be held responsible for its role in supporting militias and destabilizing the region.
- Ensuring support for Lebanon post war is crucial to help stabilize the country and avoid the risk of a major economic and humanitarian catastrophe.
- It is imperative that countries still distinguishing between Hezbollah's political and military wings reassess their classification of this organization.

⁸<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/iran-says-any-lebanon-ceasefire-should-be-simultaneous-with-gaza-2024-10-04/>

⁹ <https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/what-hezbollah-doing-europe>



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YEPP calls on:

- The European Commission and European Parliament to push forward for a permanent ceasefire and an end to hostilities between Hezbollah and Israel once and for all.
- The European Commission and European Parliament to make more use of the Framework adopted in 2021 and extended until 2025, which allows the application of sanctions and restrictions on individuals or entities that breach the democratic process in Lebanon by preventing the election of the President of the Republic.
- The European Commission and European Parliament to push forward for the full implementation of UN Resolutions 1559, 1680 and 1701 in accordance with the Lebanese Constitution.
- The European Commission and European Parliament to push forward for the full disarmament of Hezbollah and all other paramilitary groups on the Lebanese Territory.
- The European Commission and European Parliament to reevaluate Hezbollah's Classification, moving toward a full designation of Hezbollah as a terrorist organization.
- The European Union, EU member states and the EPP to support Lebanon in its path for recovery post war.
- The European Commission, European Parliament and EU member threats to use diplomatic pressure and potentially sanctions to curb the Iranian regime's meddling in regional affairs, its support for paramilitary groups like Hezbollah, Hamas and others and its support for terror cells in Europe and Internationally.