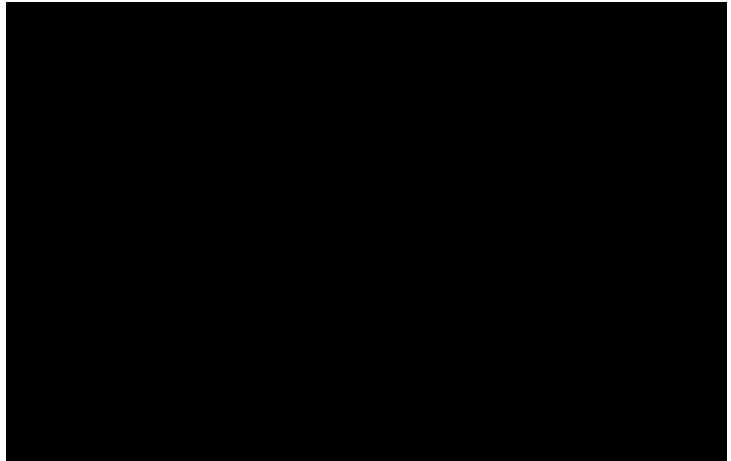


EABSC

Amman: 1-2/12/2021



Ladies and gentleman,

**Peace, Allah's mercy and blessings be upon you,**

I am honored - as we meet today in dear Jordan, the land of authenticity and openness and the meeting point of peoples and civilizations - to extend to His Royal Hashemite Majesty King [REDACTED] may Allah protect him, the most sincere feelings of affection, appreciation and respect, expressing great pride in the pioneering role he plays in supporting fair causes and strengthening international peace and security, and highly appreciating the great achievements made in dear Jordan in all fields and areas thanks to his wise leadership and rational policy.

I am also pleased to extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to His Excellency [REDACTED] for kindly organizing this Conference under his high patronage.

I am also pleased to express to His Excellency Mr. the Minister, my deep thanks and gratitude for kindly blessing the work of this conference and opening it with his statement. I also highly appreciate the generous care that you provide for the Secretariat General of the Arab Interior Ministers' Council (AIMC) and its specialized Office on Drugs and Crime.

I cannot fail to express to His Excellency [REDACTED] my sincere thanks and appreciation for hosting this important event by the esteemed Public Security Directorate (PSD), highly appreciating all the efforts made to provide all means for the success of the Conference and to provide comfort to the participating delegations.

I also would like to thank you, your Excellency [REDACTED] Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement, for all the efforts that the EU agencies are making to enhance cooperation with the AIMC and its various bodies.

We also thank you, your excellency [REDACTED] of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex), our partner agency, for the successful efforts made during the joint preparation for the Conference; we appreciate the wonderful work done by the joint PSD, Frontex and AIMC team to guarantee the success of this Conference.

**Your Excellency Mr. the Minister,  
Your Excellencies,**

Holding this Conference falls in the context of cooperation between the AIMC and the relevant EU agencies, which has achieved impressive results even though it is only a few years old. This cooperation - in addition to the historical, geographical and human ties between the Arab World and the European Union - stems from common criminal threats, especially terrorism, drug trafficking and illegal immigration. Let me point out here that the recommendation of the Conference of the Arab Chiefs of Police and Security Agencies to hold this conference was the result of the outcomes of several joint activities held by the AIMC Secretariat General and Frontex in 2018 and 2019, and that it was prepared for by an online technical roundtable that was held on 01/12/2020.

Similar to our relations with Frontex, we have distinguished relations with Europol, especially the European Counter-Terrorism Center (ECTC). We also have excellent relations with CEPOL, particularly in the framework of the 5<sup>th</sup> Euromed Police Project and the CT INFLOW Project.

We cannot fail to commend the European Commission's CT-MENA Project, which is based in Tunisia. We organized, in cooperation with this Project, many activities that provided technical expertise to Arab States in several fields. In addition to its primary mandate, this Project played a prominent role in strengthening cooperation between the AIMC and the European stakeholders.

**Your Excellency Mr. the Minister,  
Your Excellencies,**

People gathered in this hall today are deeply concerned with several common issues. In our view, three basic issues come to the fore.

The first of these issues is related to your basic work in terms of border security and management, which is striking the right balance between border control and simplifying procedures at ports, so that we guarantee security without placing obstacles in the way of travelling, tourism and the movement of people and goods. It is indeed a core issue, regarding which the exchange of experiences and best practices will be abundantly fruitful for all States.

As for the second issue, it is related to the novel coronavirus, which whenever we think that its severity has abated and that life will return to normal, a new variant appears – such as the Omicron variant – to warn of the return to the constraints of lockdown and quarantine. Just as the skin shields the body, the borders constitute the protective cover for countries against the intrusion of epidemics and viruses, that's why this pandemic imposes new responsibilities on border security agencies and exposes them to growing dangers. It is not only about protecting the country from the epidemic, but also about protecting the personnel themselves who are working at the ports and borders. This topic has been a major focus in a number of joint activities, and there is no doubt that you will give it due attention in this Conference.

As for the third and last issue that I want to refer to, it is perhaps the most worrying issue and causes a difference of judgment, rather, it is - and let us be frank - the most tense issue in the relationship between Europe and some Arab States and between Europe and some of its other neighbors, and by this we mean, of course, the issue of illegal immigration. Addressing this issue requires - in our view - a multidimensional approach based on responsible cooperation between States and a fair sharing of humanitarian, social and economic consequences and repercussions.

We do not believe that such cooperation and sharing of responsibilities can succeed unless it is preceded by a confidence-building process between the two sides. We hope that this Conference will be one of its tools.

**Your Excellency Mr. the Minister,  
Your Excellencies,**

In conclusion, I am pleased to renew our gratitude for the generous hospitality and warm welcome that we have received on this good and bountiful land, wishing this Conference all the best.

**May Allah bless you and guide you.  
Peace, Allah's mercy and blessings be upon you.**