



PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

***H.E. Ms. Pia Kjærsgaard,
Speaker of the Danish Parliament,
Denmark,***

Your Excellency,

June 22th, 2017

Allow me to start by extending our sincere gratitude for the European Union's continued support to Jordan over the many years and in particular to the additional assistance received over the past few years to ease the burden of hosting Syrian refugees in the Kingdom and negative economic spillover from the unprecedented surrounding conflicts and instability that surrounds Jordan. We greatly value our strategic and longstanding relations with the EU and the European Parliament and to the common understanding and commitment we both share towards the promotion of regional security, peace and stability.

I would also like to reiterate our appreciation for the support extended to Jordan at the London Conference in 2016 and at the recent Brussels Conference. The adopted Joint Decision on the simplification of rules of origin represents an opportunity that would help in attracting new investments and in providing job opportunities for Jordanians and Syrian refugees.

For many decades, Jordan in spite of its limited resources, has consistently served as a forerunner when it comes to embracing the vulnerable and sharing its scarce resources with those fleeing conflict and seeking its borders for refuge. Jordan has been playing a pivotal role in interfaith dialogue and in the fight against violent terrorism and extremist ideology. Today, the country has the highest historic record of hosted registered refugees (2.8 million refugees registered with UNRWA and UNHCR), making Jordan highest host country of registered refugees in the world in both absolute number and as a percentage of our Jordanian population.