



مصرف لبنان
BANQUE DU LIBAN

Beirut, 10 March 2020

Lebanese Economy Oxygen Fund

In agreement with Prime Minister Diab and with the Minister of Industry Habballah, the BDL decided to free a bridge of a \$100 million to finance imports of raw materials. The Governor of the Central Bank of Lebanon, Mr. Riad Salamé announces today the decision to create a permanent solution for the industrialists who sell their products on the local market, as well as those who export their products.

A European based Platform (a mix of a Fintech and a Credit facilities Fund) will be created and will operate from Europe with the sole purpose to serve the Lebanese economy by providing short term facilities to importers and to exporters, in partnership with the local Lebanese Banks and with the active coordination with the Association of Lebanese Industrialists and the Ministry of Industry.

This platform will be formed with ESG compliance (Environmental, Social and Governance), in accordance to international best practices standards.

This financial salvation measure will target to raise around \$750 million and allow to establish a sustainable and scalable lending program to assist small and medium sized industrialists to fund raw material imports for approximately revolving \$3 billion/year.

The Central Bank will act as an anchor sovereign along with a selected number of Global International Investors, Development Finance Institutions, Alternative Asset Managers, Family Offices as well as Industrialists who are keen to invest.

The platform will be led by Mr. Alexandre Jihad Harkous, a successful Fintech expert and Asset Management International Entrepreneur (Paris), working in close collaboration with a group of LIFE senior members (Lebanese International Finance Executives).

An experienced team with a 15+ years successful track record in emerging and MENA markets specialized in Credit, Trade Finance and Financial Technology will be formed and begin transacting in the coming weeks, with the help of local and international trade finance experts.

This mechanism will align interests, drive borrowers' revenue growth, build scale and increase production capacity employment.

All transactions will be subject to a transparent credit analysis/guarantees/insurance, allowing mitigation and management of foreign currency exposure and risks.

This mechanism shall start operating in April 2020.