



their industries, and should therefore offer good commercial opportunities for UK companies.

The government has prepared the National Strategy for Syria on two levels: environmental and on a basin level. The Syrian basins are Al Yarmouk, Al Furat, Al Sahel, Barada, Al A'waj, Al Asi and Al Badiya. The government prepared 7 action plans for the seven basins and identified 5 priority areas: land degradation and desertification, water scarcity & contamination, air pollution (cause by transportation in the cities of Damascus and Aleppo and by industry in Homs and Tartous), waste management and also the

illegal settlements around the main cities. Based on those priorities it prepared an action plan for the next ten years, and sub-action plans for each of the five priorities mentioned above. However, no action plan is in place yet for air pollution, though plans have been announced by the government to construct new housing to replace the illegal settlements.

Syria has huge quantities of solid waste, which has become a burden for the Syrian government. It is therefore prepared to consider sympathetically any proposed project in this field including for medical and hazardous waste.

To help British companies take part in the development of the environment sector in Syria, I led a Syrian Delegation of those actively involved in waste management projects to the Chartered Institution of Waste Management (CIWM) conference and exhibition in June 2006. The exhibition was the biggest in the UK in waste management. To get information on this exhibition, please visit the CIWM website www.ciwm.co.uk.

British companies are very welcome to contact me on the following email address: fadwa.soud@fco.gov.uk to get more details on environmental projects in Syria and to put them in touch with local businessmen already involved in this field.

