

MODERNISATION OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE- (MMOF)

This project is funded by the European Union and is worth 8million Euros. The work commenced in March 2005 and will run until August 2008.

The work was awarded to the UK based consortium partners, Maxwell Stamp PLC and Emerging Markets Group. The three long-term experts are all British, Jane Tait, Team Leader and Tax Administration Expert; Arthur Dunlop, Customs Expert and Peter Wagner, Public Finance Expert.

The overall objective of the project is to improve the role of the Syrian Government in the economy, through the reform of its public finance system with a view to facilitating Syria's participation in the Euro-Mediterranean free trade area.

Specifically, the team are assisting in upgrading and harmonizing the Syrian institutional framework in the

field of taxation and public finance, including customs rules and operations, so as to facilitate the implementation of the EU-Syria Association Agreement and/or other relevant international trade agreements.

There are four sets of technical outputs:

1. Reinforced policymaking and implementation capacity.

- Development of an Institutional Modernisation Programme
- Development of a training and capacity building programme
- Development of an equipment purchase and implementation programme
- Improved capacity for revenue analysis and tax potential analysis



2. A modernized and market oriented tax system

- Review of existing taxes and VAT options
- Implementation of VAT and other tax changes
- Establishment of I.T information systems and databases for VAT and other taxes
- Strengthening tax administration capacity and services
- Adopting EU standards in taxpayer relations

3. An efficient and effective customs administration compatible with increasing international trade integration

- Reforming customs legislation and administration
- Development of the General Customs Directorate website
- Improving customs preventive services
- Strengthening customs valuation
- Improving tariff classification and international trade integration

