



## Press Release

### Roundtable discussion on Good Governance in the Lebanese electricity sector

**Wednesday November 11<sup>th</sup>, Monroe Hotel, Beirut.**

The Lebanese Transparency Association (LTA) has organized, in collaboration with The Lebanese Anti Bribery Network (LABN), a roundtable discussion on the need for reforms in the Electricity Sector. (LTA and the network of researchers had prepared and distributed a draft paper on the need for reform in the electricity sector)

The roundtable was held with the participation of **Mr. Fadi Saab** - LTA's Secretary General and LABN coordinator, **Mr. Ziad Hayek** - Secretary General of the Higher Council for Privatization, **Ms. Amina Al Sharkawy** - MENA Region Program Manager of the Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE), the presence of MPs Robert Ghanem and Imad El Hout, representatives from the state run Electricité du Liban (EDL), and many other stakeholders.

In his speech, **Mr. Saab** presented a historical overview on the electricity sector, highlighting on the destruction of this sector due to several wars and strikes, which had caused technical and financial damages. Mr. Saab made it clear that there is an urge for reform in this sector, especially on the production and industrial levels. It is also crucial to develop a policy that allows importing the essential needed quantities of fuel in a good price and quality, as well as to benefit from the solar energy in the production process. On the other hand, Mr. Saab insisted on the importance and the need for an internal audit committee on various levels in order to identify the weaknesses and strengths of the sector and develop an entire united strategy in parallel to legislation so as to ensure transparency and good governance.

**Mr. Hayek** in his turn, thanked the organizers, explained and presented the pillars of the council reforming strategy. He also stated that we need a long period of time to be able to observe the successes of the strategy, and that it is impossible to reform the electricity sector without having a comprehensive strategy - taking into consideration that it is a very complicated process for civil society to develop a comprehensive strategy. Hayek presented a brief on the council's 5 pillars strategy which reflects the one developed by former minister Mohamed Fneish.

During the open discussion, Mr. Dany Haddad and Mr. Atallah Al Salim, LTA researchers, presented and discussed the study and the reforms with the participants.