

# PORT SECURITY, A MAJOR ASSET FOR LEBANON

One of the key priorities identified by the experts of Expertise France as part of their mission to support the reconstruction of the Port of Beirut, is port security. Indeed, it seems essential to provide Port of Beirut with a security policy that meets the international regulations of which Lebanon is a signatory. Closer collaboration and coordination between the various concerned parties should make possible the establishment of a renovated and operational security system. In addition, port security training for managers aims to ultimately carry out a risk analysis at Port of Beirut in order to establish a new port security plan, the «cornerstone» of the whole process.

Implemented in the wake of the terrorist attacks of 9/11 in the United States of America, port security as presented in the ISPS Code (**International Ship and Port Facility Security Code**) aims to deter, prevent and limit the impact of any intentionally unlawful acts that may be committed on ships or on port facilities and, by extension, in ports.

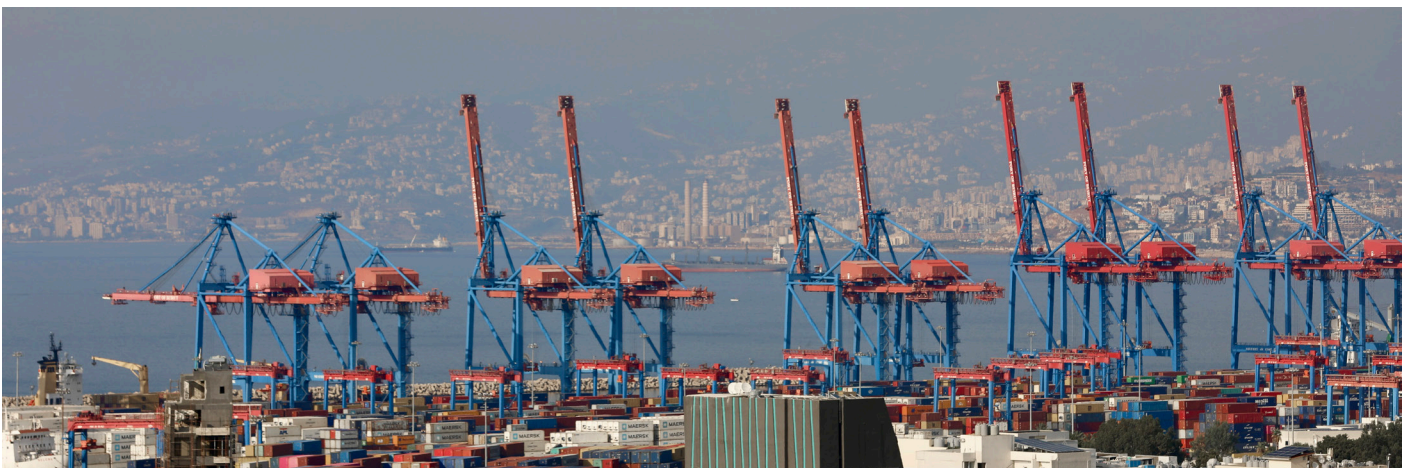
Through a participatory and bottom-up approach, the aim for Expertise France is to support Port of Beirut in its compliance with international rules. An initial diagnosis in March 2021, led by an expert from the port of Le Havre, aimed to carry out an inventory of compliance with ISPS rules at Port of Beirut. A second mission carried out in July 2021 made it possible to present the findings to the various actors solicited and to propose implementable actions.

Expertise France organized in October 2021, for four Lebanese executives, a visit to the major seaports of Le Havre and Marseille on the theme of port security. Since September 2021, Expertise France has started to organize several certifying training courses in port security, offering them to port executives and all other concerned port security actors (Lebanese army, general security, and customs authorities). These trainings were conducted in partnership with the Port of Le Havre and with the assistance of an Recognized Security Organization, able to certify these trainings.

Henceforth, Expertise France is focusing on launching a port security assessment, the first necessary step to bring the Port of Beirut into compliance with the ISPS Code.

## CONTEXTE

As part of French aid in response to the Port of Beirut Blast on 04 August 2020, France took swift action in putting together a team of experts. Their work focuses on identifying the reconstruction needs for the port and proposing solutions to improve its operations: governance, customs, digitalization, security, development, etc. The operator Expertise France is handling the coordination.



# "Port security must become a major asset for the Port of Beirut"



Avec Nico Vertongen and Michel Lorient

*Nico Vertongen works for Expertise France as an expert in governance, safety and port security on various projects in Lebanon and West Africa. Michel Lorient is an alternate port security officer at the Grand Port Maritime du Havre. He supports the work of Expertise France with Port of Beirut both strategically and technically.*

## What is the difference between port security and port safety?

Port safety and security are tightly linked, but the use of these two terms often leads to confusion, especially when switching from French to English. It is therefore important to clarify their meaning.

On the one hand, port security concerns the protection of the port, its infrastructures and the people working there, against any type of malicious act. It aims to protect the port against any intentionally harmful action carried out by an individual, a group of individuals or an organization. It is therefore a question of evaluating the risks generated by the threats to which the port is confronted, in particular by understanding more precisely what circulates in and around the port. Generally speaking, legally authorized and independent bodies conduct such assessments and guarantee the necessary hindsight linked to the context in which the port exercises its activity.

Port safety, on the other hand, aims to prevent accidents. We try here to prevent incidents and disasters that do not result from intentional acts. Port safety focuses, for example, on the study of risks and protective measures related to the circulation, handling or storage of various goods. It is a question of placing particular emphasis on the treatment of hazardous materials so as to avoid pollution, fires, or even explosions.

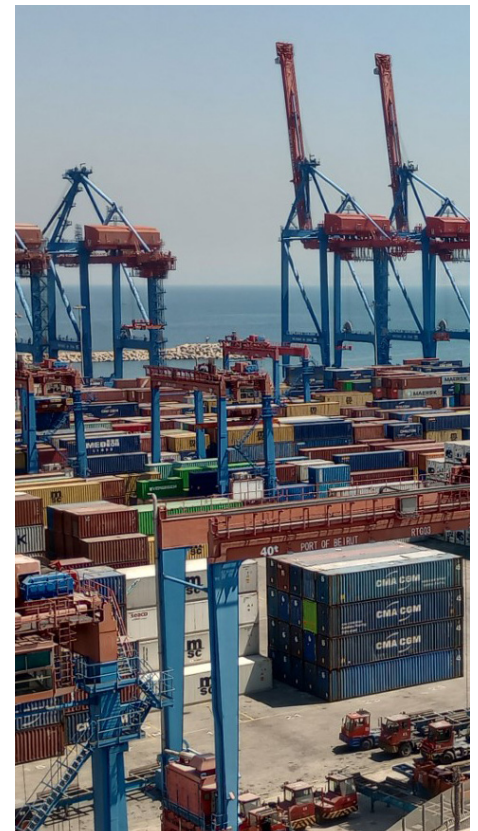
## How does bringing the Port of Beirut into compliance with the ISPS Code benefit it ?

The Port of Beirut is a strategic infrastructure of the Lebanese economy through which transits a major part of the country's imports and exports. Complying with the ISPS Code guarantees the safety of goods and people and therefore allows the Port of Beirut to effectively play its role as a key crossing point. In addition, this compliance is useful as a commercial asset of the Port and, ultimately, of the country's commercial policy: a port that complies with international rules is better perceived by shipping lines, importers and exporters than a port that does not. The impact on customers is important: making a call in a non-compliant port is risky because the ships and the goods transported can be quarantined during subsequent calls, thus generating additional costs. To sum up, port security issues are closely linked to commercial issues. Trust is central to trade relations: a port that ensures the safety of goods and people is considered trustworthy and is therefore more attractive.

## What is a port security assessment and why is it useful for the Port of Beirut?

A port security assessment is the first task a port must carry out in order to comply with international rules. Its aim is to analyze the threats and risks that the port may face (terrorism, banditry, intrusions, illegal migration, etc.). Expertise France, with the support of an external, independent, and recognized security organization, is currently conducting this assessment. The approach adopted is participatory, since Expertise France works jointly with the Port of Beirut and the stakeholders responsible for its security (Lebanese army, General Security, Customs). This essential exercise should be completed in November 2023. Once the port security assessment is finished, the Lebanese authorities will be able to base themselves on the results in order to develop a new port security plan. This plan will constitute a sovereign technical document which imposes

concrete measures to deal with the problems, risks and threats identified by the assessment. For example, if the port security assessment indicates that the Port of Beirut must strengthen the surveillance of the XY terminals in order to deter illegal intrusions, the port security plan can propose to reinforce this surveillance by installing X additional cameras and by deploying X surveillance personnel working 24/7.





## A CUSTOMIZED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCE

- ▶ **6 expertise and consultancy** missions from the Grand Port Maritime du Havre to Beirut
- ▶ **1 study trip** to the major seaports of Le Havre and Marseille
- ▶ **1 port security** assessment in progress



## CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

- ▶ **3 certifying training courses** in port security carried out by an authorized organization
- ▶ **40 agents trained** from the Port of Beirut, the Lebanese Armed Forces, General Security, and Customs trained

## ABOUT EXPERTISE FRANCE

Expertise France is France's public agency and interministerial actor in charge of international technical cooperation, the second-largest in Europe. As a subsidiary of Agence Française de Développement Group (AFD Group), it designs and implements projects that sustainably strengthen public policies in developing and emerging countries. Expertise France works in key areas of development: governance, security, climate change, health, education, and more. Alongside its partners, it contributes to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Know-how in common.

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