

PRESS RELEASE

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**FROM THE MAGHREB TO THE MASHREK: A MASTER FOR THE ROAD SAFETY**

**Saint Joseph University in Beirut and the Renault Foundation announced today that they are creating a Multidisciplinary Chair for Road Safety Management under the patronage of Najib Mikati, prime minister of Lebanon, René Chamussy, president of the university, and Carlos Ghosn, chairman and CEO of Renault.**

Having devoted over 50 years of research and development to improving road safety, Renault is pleased to contribute to the creation and strengthening of road safety competencies in the main countries where it operates, in cooperation with public, private, and civil society stakeholders.

The road fatality rate in the Eastern Mediterranean region is twice Europe's even though the vehicle ownership rate is one-fourth as high. That is why the Renault Foundation has decided to sponsor this Chair in a region extending from the Maghreb to the Mashrek in partnership with Saint Joseph University in Beirut. This Chair will have a permanent research center and offer an 18-month, trilingual, multidisciplinary program leading to a master's degree in road safety.

Over a five-year period, 100 to 150 people will receive training to become road safety experts in their country. Public administrations, businesses and professional organizations in the region will benefit from this transfer of know-how. In this way, Renault, a partner in the Decade of Action for Road Safety initiated by the United Nations in May 2011, will contribute to achieving the goal of a 50% reduction in road accident victims worldwide in ten years.

The partners:

Saint Joseph University in Beirut. Founded 136 years ago, it comprises five campuses, twelve faculties, 24 institutes, and 29 research centers and laboratories in Beirut. It has a teaching staff of 2,000 professors and an enrollment of over 12,000 students. With faculties in the sciences, engineering, medicine, the humanities and social sciences, USJ is a leading academic institution in the Middle East and the Arab world.

Renault Foundation :

Renault founded its Corporate Foundation in 2001 to express the Group's practical commitment to further education. The role of the Foundation is to create lasting ties between business and academic institutions worldwide by developing and backing original training programs in multicultural management and sustainable mobility. The Renault Foundation discovers the young talents destined to take the helm at major international groups in the future, thereby creating with its finest partner universities a unique global network of more than 500 professionals, that is enhanced with 70 new students each year.

[renault.media@renault.com](mailto:renault.media@renault.com)

Websites: [www.media.renault.com](http://www.media.renault.com) - [www.group.renault.com](http://www.group.renault.com)

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