

Launch of Banque Bemo mediation unit



Johanna Hawari-Bourgély, Joelle Cattan, Father Chamussy and Samih Saadé

During a press conference held at the Sofitel Le Gabriel hotel, Banque Bemo sal launched its Banking Mediation Unit.

The event was held in the presence of several representatives of Banque Bemo, in particular, Chairman Henri Obegi, Jean Hajjar, member of the board and Advisor to the Chairman, and Samih Saadeh, General Manager, as well as Banque Bemo's partner, the Professional Center for Mediation (CPM), of Saint Joseph University (USJ), represented by Pr. René Chamussy, Rector of USJ, and Johanna Hawari-Bourgély, director of the CPM of USJ.

In his capacity as General Manager of Banque Bemo, Saadeh inaugurated the press conference by a quick overview of Banque Bemo sal, and Bemo Group. His presentation was followed by Father Chamussy's address, which highlighted the continuous diversity of USJ activities, in particular the creation of a mediation center directly linked to the rectorate.

Then, Hawari-Bourgély presented the CPM of USJ and pointed out the importance of the mediation, the different realizations of the

center, and announced future projects.

In her capacity as lawyer by education and practice, and as Business Development and Banking Mediation Unit Manager and Mediator at Banque Bemo sal, Joelle Cattan stressed on the importance of creating a Banking Mediation Unit at Banque Bemo, since it is the first Banking Mediation Unit in the country, which purpose is to prevent or resolve in a mutually agreeable way the conflicts between Banque Bemo and its clients or suppliers. Cattan explained that mediation spirit and culture which have always prevailed at Banque Bemo rather than litigation, are now consolidated through a mediation structure, and that the creation of the unit will not constitute a radical change, but will stimulate three new issues: 1- A structured document called Mediation Chart 2- A Partnership with the Professional Center for Mediation (CPM) of the St. Joseph University (USJ). 3- Beside the person (Mr. Jean Hajjar) who was already doing mediation, the official presence of a mediator (i.e Cattan) with certificate delivered by the CPM of USJ. Establishing a comparison between some banking rules and the mediation process, Cattan highlighted also that Lebanon is a suitable framework for mediation which is at the confluence of several disciplines on one hand, and at a point meeting between the protagonists on the other hand, as Lebanon is at the crossroads of cultures and civilizations. While noting that the chart's purpose is to define the context in which mediation takes place, Cattan clarified in particular the nature of the conflicts covered by the Mediation Unit and identified the role of the mediator.

The conference was followed by a reception that was attended by the participants. ■