

The Egyptian German Economic Forum continues its activities in Berlin

**An Agreement for Enhancing Commercial Exchange and
Developing Investments between Egypt and Germany**

Berlin, from Ibtissam Saad, Abdel Nasser Aref, Mazen Hassan

Yesterday, Egypt and Germany signed a number of agreements that would contribute to enhancing and vitalizing the trade and economic relations between the two countries.

These agreements included an agreement for encouraging and protecting investments in both these countries. On behalf of the Egyptian side, Eng. Rashid Mohamed Rashid, the Ministry of Trade and Industry, signed, as well as the Mr. Wolfgang Kement, the German Ministry for Economy and Labor, to sign for the German side.

These agreements come in line with the continued activities of the Arab German Economic Form that is taking place in Berlin.

The Egyptian delegation is headed by Eng. Rashid Mohamed Rashid, the Minister of Trade and Industry, accompanied by many Egyptian businessmen, as Egypt is chosen as the guest of honor for this year's Forum.

The two sides, the Egyptian and German, also signed a Memorandum of Understanding for supporting and enhancing economic consultations between the two countries to establish a vital dialogue that would encourage and improve the trade and economic relations by means of providing the suitable environment for investment as well as overcoming the obstacles against

increasing this trade exchange and implementing the European Egyptian partnership agreement.

The Memorandum of Understanding also helps in encouraging the business associations and organizations on both sides to enhance their joint cooperation in the fields of services as well as providing facilitation for training, technology transfer and joint funding projects.

The Forum also witnessed the Egyptian and German Ministers' meeting who signed another memorandum for understanding that establishes the Egyptian German Council which involves a large number of businessmen from both sides.

On the Egyptian side, **Dr. Nader Riad**, the member of Board of Egyptian Federation for Industries, made the signing, as well as Dr. Martina Young, the Regional Director of one of the German companies in the Middle East, signing for the German side.

Eng. Rashid emphasized that an agreement for encouraging and enhancing investments in Egypt and Germany was reached, stipulating that each country would encourage the investments of the other on its territories and allows these investments to operate according to the rules and regulations of this country.

The agreement also emphasized that each party should be committed to provide such an equal treatment for the investments and investors from the other side as well as providing full protection for their investments.

The agreement also stipulates that neither of the two sides should make any arbitrary or discriminatory measures that would harm the interests of any investor from the other country.

The Agreement is very much keen to facilitate the flow of payments concerning or related to investments between the two countries, as well as allowing more access to businessmen on both sides.

The agreement would also establish a mechanism for dispute settlement if any conflict arises between the investors of either side.

Regarding the future of the economic relations between Egypt and Germany in the upcoming phase, the Minister said that he has found a great and honest as well as real desire among the German officials and businessmen to enhance and deepen the economic relations with Egypt, especially through joint investments in many promising industrial sectors.

The Minister pointed that the German company, Wolks Wagen, is intending to establish a joint project in Egypt for manufacturing the automotive components and spare parts in association with the Egyptian private sector.

The Minister also said that this would help exporting the products made in Egypt to the various facilities of this company worldwide.

The Minister also pointed that investing in the feeding industries sector and the spare parts for automotives represent a very promising opportunity because the global investments in this business mount to 800 billion dollars.

He said Egypt is willing to get a share, even a small one, in this realm, probably one billion dollar of this booming and expanding market, by means of introducing components production projects in Egypt and manufacturing spare parts for various brands.

He said that Egypt has all the prerequisites and elementary due structures and labor force to venture into such industry. He said that the Egyptian banks have expressed willingness to funding such industrial ventures.

On another level, **Dr. Nader Riad** said that the Egyptian German Business Council has many issues of high priority to work on, aiming at enhancing coordination between the Egyptian and German sides and acquire the tools needed for introducing a breakthrough in the economic and industrial cooperation between the two countries.

Dr. Riad emphasized that the Council is aiming at facilitating technology transfer and establishing a mechanism for the Egyptian private sector to finance getting modern equipments and expanding the capacities of Egyptian factories, as well as the applications of Mubarak-Kohl initiative to involve establishing and qualifying more maintenance centers in Egypt to fix the German equipments.

On her side, Mrs. Martina Young, the Head of the German side of the Business Council, said that the Council will start its activities by venturing into one of the elementary projects in the field of environmental tourism in the Oasis area. She said that an environmental tourism zone will be established including a hotel, an astrology observatory and other facilities. The German President is to inaugurate this project next October.

In a special session on investment opportunities in Egypt, Dr. Ziad Bahaa el Din, the Head of the Egyptian Investment Authority, presented the facilitations and advantages provided by the Egyptian government to investors in various sectors, in addition to reviewing the impact of the reform programs currently implemented by Egypt on attracting more foreign investment.

The Head of the Chemical Industries Chamber at the Egyptian Federation for Industries, Dr. Sherif el Gabaly, presented in his paper to the Forum, the future of investment in the fertilizers industry in Egypt, pointing that Egypt has made relative advantages in the chemical industries.

On another level, the Deputy Head of the Federation of Trade Chambers, Mr. Mohamed el Masry, emphasized the importance of this Forum in enhancing the ratios between both countries at all levels, especially as Egypt is selected as guest of honor for this round.

He says that this would call us for presenting the Egyptian vision on various issues of mutual concern to enhance cooperation between the two countries.