

**WELCOME TO EGYPT'S GREAT GUEST  
GERMAN COUNSELLOR GERHARD SCHROEDER**

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Today, President Hosni Mubarak is receiving a great guest and a distinguished friend, German Counsellor Gerhard Schroeder. Coincidentally, the visit falls during Germany's celebration of the tenth anniversary of its unity.

Undoubtedly, Germany has succeeded in occupying an esteemed position at the international level, in general, and within the European Union, in particular.

During the period in which Germany has presided the EU it has played a significant role in multiplying the cooperation directed to Third World countries and the assistance provided to developing countries. In this, Egypt's share was tangible, as a natural reflection of the deep-rooted historical relations between the two countries over the ages.

Among the most important fields of Egyptian German cooperation is human development, where Germany plays a leading role in this field. This is evident from its success in organizing the "Social Market" in Germany, concerned with a fair distribution of income sources and wealth throughout Federal Germany.

In other words, no province or geographical area is to suffer of any shortage in its share of the national wealth produce.

On the eve of concluding the unity, a vast geographical gap existed between East and West Germany. However, the Federal Republic of Germany has succeeded, through its diligent endeavours, to bridge this gap, by adopting drastic measures, such as directing 50% of the state budget – according to reports – to the development of Eastern provinces.

This process is still going on, with the aim of creating a balanced society, while eliminating, altogether, the economic and cultural gap between East and West Germany.

In spite of the burden imposed by such a measure, still Federal Germany has succeeded in occupying its natural position, as one of the major economic powers, worldwide.

As stated by Counsellor Gerhard Schroeder in his speech on the economic situation: “There is no more any place for doubts, where Germany has attained a strong economic position.

Here, in this country, we have the opportunity to render the first decade of the new century a decade for economic rationality and social stability. Definitely, we shall seize this opportunity”.

One of the fields of human development, in which the Egyptian German cooperation has achieved a great success, is vocational training, especially that Germany enjoys a distinguished experience in sustainable training of its employees and workers throughout their vocational life, which ends in magnifying the multiplied value of their work revenue and extending their functional life cycle.

Today, Germany does not only represent a model of economic success, but is also an honourable example of rational democratic application. Germany enjoys a successful democratic experience that allows partisan plurality within the framework of clear party programmes and clear concepts and directives of public political figures.

This is thanks to a system that allows a governmental coalition, which includes prominent figures from all parties, in accordance with criteria of efficiency and competency.

This gives the chance for qualified persons to step forward and serve their nation, regardless of their different partisan affiliations.

It is noteworthy here to stress on the concern of Germany for Arab relations. An example of this is the “Bilateral Dialogue of Arab & German Media”, which was launched upon an initiative of the Press & Media Department of the Federal German government, in collaboration with the “Foreign Relations Institute”.

Up till now, the “Bilateral Dialogue” has held three meetings, the last being in Rabat and attended by representatives of 13 Arab countries, in addition to representatives of Germany and Switzerland.

As for relations with Egypt, Germany is the biggest commercial partner for Egypt. The trade exchange has tripled between the two countries over the past ten years.

Furthermore, the Egyptian German Business Council has been established to complement the activities of the Arab German Chamber of Commerce that has been functioning for years in Cairo.

Today, Egypt welcomes its great guest Counsellor Gerhard Schroeder with an open heart and an open mind, as a dear friend and counsellor to a friendly country, which occupies a distinguished position, worldwide, and which has been linked to Egypt with strong ties over the ages.