

Ambassadors of 25 European states are looking at the

Sunday meeting

**Radical solutions to the obstacles and exports trade with the
European Union**

Dr. Nader Riad, President of the Federation of Egyptian-European Business Organizations, added that next Sunday the federation will organize an Egyptian-European seminar to discuss the problems and obstacles currently facing the Egyptian exports, in addition to possible solutions.

Included on the agenda, is discussion on ways to develop and modernize the trade and assist Egyptian manufactories and exports to effortlessly cope with the European specifications.

Dr. Riad added that farms come within the framework of the federation plan to boost exports and discuss strategies for cooperation between European Union (EU) and Egypt in coordination with the government. The conference was attended by the European Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson, the Minister of Trade and Industry Eng. Rashid Mohamed Rashid, the EU Ambassador Mr. Klaus Aiberman, the EU ambassadors to the 25 states, leaders of Federation of Egyptian Industries, the Federation of chambers of commerce, heads of Commodity Council and the major companies which are exported to the European Union.

Dr. Alla Ezz, Secretary General of the Federation of Egypt-Europe Business Organizations, stated that recently the federation has been coordinating important meetings with the European commissioners of health

and consumer protection to discuss health specifications of the European imports, as well as issues related to consumer protection of quality and price.

In addition to this, he has further held two meetings with other commissioners abroad. The first was a meeting with the European Commissioner for Scientific Research to discuss opportunities for cooperation between Egyptian and European companies and scientific research centers.

The second was held two days ago with the European Commissioner for Environment. He pointed out that an additional fourth meeting is to be held next week with Fisher Bowel, the European Commissioner for Agriculture, to discuss opportunities for the development of agriculture exports, thus then assisting the Egyptian companies to then apply the new policy of tracking. Mahmud Qays, President of the federation in the South Valley, contributed by adding that currently a committee involving all Egyptian business organizations has been formed, who are solely concerned with following up the results obtained from discussions, in order to obtain the support of business organizations in all of the 25 European Union states.

This support will enable for the development and adoption of an integrated strategy to support the Egyptian exports, solve the problems of exporters and seek to increase the quotes allocated to Egypt.

For its part, Hosna Rashid, President of the Federation in Alexandria, confirmed that the focus is now on gaining cooperation with the ministry of transport and the Alexandria governorate. With this, the plan to develop the section in Alexandria that is the primary outlet for more than half of Egyptian exports can be implemented.

This will be achieved through attracting international companies to invest in port services in addition to directing liner direct to the section for the effect on lowering the cost of fright.

Dr. Nader Riad added that this meeting comes at a time when we need to discuss practical mechanisms by which Egypt obtained in the framework of the convention. And he pointed out that this convention will be transferred to the Egyptian-European cooperation horizons far beyond the partnership, especially with opening the European services market for European Companies.

In his meeting with the federation of Egyptian–European business organizations

16% increase in the volume of trade exchange between Egypt and Union states.

Eng. Rashid Mohamed Rashid Minister of Trade and Industry said that the negotiations between neighboring Egypt and the European Union have made significant progress.

He added that five rounds have been held between the two sides during which most of the members involved agreed on the plan of action in trade and investment.

He explained that the European Union is the first trade partner of Egypt. The volume trade exchange between Egypt and the European Union increased to approximately 13.3 billion euro last year compared to 11.5 billion euro in 2004; an increase of 16%.

A meeting was held in the late evening the day before yesterday between Eng. Rashid Mohamed Rashid and the European Negotiator Peter Mendelssohn, with the addition of other members of the union. Eng. Nader Riad, Chairman of the Federation of the Egyptian-European Business Organizations, said that during the meeting an in depth discussion about the unions history took place.

Such topics raised were: that the union was founded in May 2004 and became the great leap in the history of Egyptian-European economic relations; that the membership includes various companies with currently 7000 members of the institutions; that these members have been working in Egypt for half a century through the 25 joint chambers; that the aim is to create a common European dialogue, develop cooperation between the Egyptian business organizations in order to maximize the usefulness of the European partnership agreement, and to prepare for the Euro-Mediterranean free trade area in 2010. In addition to this, it also aims to accelerate the process of modernization, technology transfer and development of Egyptian exports to the European market Mediterranean.

European commissioner Peter Mendelssohn said that, Egypt with its immense potential has become an influential member and essential partner in trade with the European Union, especially after the financial and economic reform adopted by the Egyptian government over the last two years.

Kabbazard: reasonable price of oil from 50 – 60 dollars

Kuwait – Royters: Alabath (OPEC) said in a number of statements published yesterday that the price of oil in the range between 50 to 60 dollars a barrel is very reasonable for OPEC and would not impair global economic growth.

Said Hassan Kabbazard, Director of the Joint Research Organization of Keait News Agency, would prefer to keep oil prices stable at levels between 50 to 60 dollars, which is approximately the levels recorded automatically. He believes that this is reasonable because there is a steady growth in the world. Immediately after Kabbazards point of view, it was unclear as to whether he was referring to the OPEC

basket price index, which hit \$54.98 per barrel last Thursday, or the American crude price which hit \$60 a barrel yesterday.

Kabbazard added that current price levels in the oil market remains reasonable. If these price levels where to remain stable in the future, the interests of the producers and the consumers alike would be ensured. The agency said that he further pointed out that current prices did not affect the global economy, which is growing at an annual rate of 5.2%. During this year it is expected that the growth will be higher than previous years in comparison. Furthermore, he asked if the OPEC would prefer production by five-hundred-thousand barrels of additional next month, pointing out that there is no specific orientation at the present time to reduce the production.

Botschafter aus 25 europäischen Ländern diskutieren beim Sonntag-Treffpunkt

Grundlegende Lösungen für Hindernisse bei Export und Handel mit der europäischen Union

Essam Hashish schrieb:

Dr. Nader Riad, Präsident des Bundes für ägyptisch-europäische Geschäftsorganisationen, erklärte, der Bund plane nächsten Sonntag ein ägyptisch-europäisches Treffen zur Diskussion über Probleme und Hindernisse im Wege des ägyptischen Exports, Möglichkeiten der Beseitigung dieser Hindernisse, Entwicklung und Modernisierung des Handels sowie Unterstützung der ägyptischen Produzenten und Exporteure, um den europäischen Standards zu entsprechen. Teilnehmer an diesem Treffpunkt seien Peter Mandelson, europäischer Kommissar für Handel, Rashid Mohamed Rashid, Minister für Handel und Industrie, Klaus Ebermann, Botschafter der europäischen Union sowie die Botschafter der 25 Mitglieder der EU.

Vorsitzende der ägyptischen Bunde für Industrie und Handelskammern, Produktrate und Großunternehmen, die an EU-Länder exportieren, haben ebenfalls an dem Treffen teilgenommen. Riad fügte hinzu, dieses Treffen finde im Rahmen eines Planes statt, den der Bund zur Förderung des Exports ausgearbeitet hat. Beim Treffen sollen Strategien zur ägyptisch-europäischen Zusammenarbeit in Kooperation mit der Regierung diskutiert werden. Dr. Alaa Ezz, Generalsekretär des Bundes für ägyptisch-europäische Geschäftsorganisationen, erklärte, der Bund habe neulich mehrere wichtige Besprechungen mit europäischen Kommissaren über Gesundheit und Verbraucherschutz geführt, um über Gesundheitskriterien und –standards europäischer Importware und alles was mit Verbraucherschutz, sei Qualität oder Preise, zusammenhängt, zu diskutieren. Außerdem wurde ein Treffen mit dem europäischen Kommissar für wissenschaftliche Forschung vereinbart; dabei wurden Möglichkeiten der Zusammenarbeit zwischen Firmen und ägyptischen sowie europäischen

wissenschaftlichen Forschungszentren besprochen. Vor zwei Tagen fand ein drittes Meeting mit dem europäischen Kommissar für Umwelt statt, während nächste Woche eine fünfte Besprechung mit dem europäischen Kommissar für Landwirtschaft geplant ist. In der Sitzung sollen Möglichkeiten der Entwicklung von landwirtschaftlichen Exporten und eine Unterstützung ägyptischer Firmen zur Implementierung der neuen Befolgungspolitik ausdiskutiert werden.

Andererseits erklärte Mahmoud El-Qeis, Präsident des Bundes im Süden des Niltals, es werde ein Komitee aus den verschiedenen ägyptischen Geschäftsorganisationen ernannt, um die Resultate dieser Besprechungen zu verfolgen und damit die Unterstützung der europäischen Geschäftsorganisationen von den 25 EU-Ländern zu gewinnen. Es soll eine Gesamtstrategie, die ägyptische Exportwaren unterstützt und Probleme der Exporteure löst und ggf. den Anteil Ägyptens an europäischer Einfuhr erhöht, festgelegt und beglaubigt werden. Hosna Rashid, Präsidentin des Bundes in Alexandria, bestätigte, eine enge Zusammenarbeit herrsche mit dem Ministerium für Transport und der Stadt Alexandria, um den Ausbauplan des alexandrinier Hafens umzusetzen, da dieser der Hauptaushang für die Hälfte der ägyptischen Exportware ist. Man bemüht sich internationale Firmen für Hafenservice anzuwerben und direkte Seerouten zu empfangen; dadurch erhofft man sich eine Senkung der Frachtkosten.

Hinzu fügte Dr. Nader Riad, dieses wichtige Treffen habe zu einem Zeitpunkt stattgefunden, zu dem die Verhandlungen der Nachbarschaftspolitik sich einem Ende zuwenden. Daher ist dies die richtige Zeit, über praktische Mechanismen für Ägypten im Rahmen dieses Abkommens auszuhandeln. Das Abkommen transferiert die ägyptisch-europäische Zusammenarbeit auf ein viel höheres Niveau als das spezielle Partnerschaftsabkommen; hinzu kommt noch die Eröffnung des europäischen Service-Markt für europäische Firmen.