

# Egypt-EU Relations, *in motion*

March 18, 2007, 1:30 pm - Aida Ballroom, Cairo Marriott Hotel, Zamalek

Inauguration address by

**Dr. Eng. Nader Riad**  
Ceeba Chairman

- Your Excellency, Fayza Abouel Naga, Minister of International Cooperation
- Your Excellency Eng Rachid Mohamed Rachid, Minister of Trade & Industry
- Your Excellency Dr. Klaus Ebermann, EU Ambassador and head of EC delegation.
- Mr. Mohamed Farid Khamis, chairman of the Industry & Energy Committee of the Upper House and president of the German Arab Chamber
- Your Excellencies Ambassadors and heads of missions honoring us today.
- Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of our 27 bilateral Egyptian-European Chambers, and our 7,000 member companies, it gives me great honour, to welcome this esteemed gathering, discussing a new era of Egypt's growing relations with the European Union.

An Era that was land marked less than two weeks ago in Brussels with the joint adoption of the action plan of the European Neighborhood Policy.

Such a policy that will enhance the already strong ties that bridge the shores of the Mediterranean.

Such historical ties that were institutionalized by the Association Agreement in 2004 and regionalized by the Barcelona Declaration back in 1996.

I hereby announce, on behalf of our member chambers and associations, that the Egyptian European business is with, and for, the neighborhood policy and all its actions that would contribute to strengthening our bilateral relations.

Such a stance is within the vision of our business enabling Government that is working hand-in-hand with Egypt's vibrant private sector for a better Egypt.

Thanks to our Government's initiatives, Egypt- EU trade has almost doubled in to reach a record of 16.3 billion Euros in 2006, almost bridged the gap in our trade balance, and made Egypt the number one recipient of EU investments within the region, along with its novel technologies and modern management practices.

And that is only the tip-of-the-iceberg. The snowball impact is at the horizon with liberalization of agriculture and services in progress and a Euro-Mediterranean free trade area by 2010 where the sky would be the limit.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

Today we shall hear what our following steps are as business community, from no less than the makers of this reality.

So let us walk the talk, and start concrete actions with our EU neighbours.

Thank you all and enjoy our event

Nader Riad

**In a symposium about deepening neighborly relations with Europe:  
Negotiations for the liberalization of trade in service.**

Eng. Rashid Mohamed Rashid "Minister of trade and Industry" added that currently was being negotiated with the European Union for liberalization of trade in agriculture products to obtain exemption from the quotas of agriculture products and foodstuffs from the Egyptian customs when it enters the markets of the European union.

This came in a speech delivered by Eng. Rashid at a symposium organized by the federation of the European – Egyptian Business organizations led by Dr. Nader Riad occasion of the start of the Egyptian plan to activate Neighborhood policy with European Union.

The symposium was attended by Mr. Klaus Aiberman "president of the European commission" ,European Business Ambassadors in Cairo, Nader Riad "Chairman of the federation of Egyptian Business organizations" , Mr. fared khames "Chairman of the German Arab Chamber of Industry and Commerce" a large number of businessmen , heads of business organizations and the joint Egyptian – european members.

The minister said that being the founding 8 subcommittees during the current year to support the rules and procedures for the action plan of the Egyptian policy – neighborly relations with the European Union.

Klaus Aiberman "president of the European Commission" said that Egypt is an essential partner of the European Union in many fields, and the European investments increased by 60% last year in Egypt.

Dr, Nader Riad "Chairman of the Federation of Egyptian – European Business organizations" pointed in his speech to the activation dialogue with the European Union in an orderly and integrated coordination with the Egyptian Ministries concerned is one of the priorities of Russian.

The members of the federation met with six European commissioners in 2006 and the same commissioners in 2007, with the heads of the European investment Bank and the Central Bank to discuss ways of activating the mechanisms of joint cooperation.

**Seminar zur Intensivierung der Nachbarschaftspolitik mit Europa:  
Verhandlungen zur Liberalisierung des Dienstleistungshandels**

Ing. Rashid Mohamed Rashid, Minister für Handel und Industrie erklärte, daß gegenwärtig mit der EU (Europäische Union) über Liberalisierung des Handels mit landwirtschaftlichen Produkten verhandelt wird. Thema der Verhandlungen ist die Zollbefreiung von Quoten ägyptischer Landwirtschafts- und Nahrungsmittelprodukten beim Eingang in die EU Märkten. Dies erklärte Ing. Rashid in seiner Rede in dem vom Dachverband ägyptisch-europäischer Unternehmen organisierten Seminar unter Vorsitz von Dr. Nader Riad anlässlich dem Start des ägyptischen Plans zur Aktivierung der Nachbarschaftspolitik mit der EU.

An dem Seminar nahm H. Claus Ebermann, EU Chefbeauftragte teil, sowie zahlreiche EU Botschafter in Kairo, Dr. Nader Riad, Vorsitzender des Dachverbands der ägyptisch-europäischen Unternehmerverbände und H. Farid Khamis, Vorsitzender der Deutsch-Arabischen Industrie- und Handelskammer, sowie eine große Anzahl Geschäftsleuten, Vorsitzende der ägyptisch-europäischen Unternehmerverbände und ihre Mitglieder. Der Minister erklärte, dass gegenwärtig 8 Unterkomitees im laufenden Jahr gebildet werden zur Unterstützung der Regeln und Prozeduren des ägyptischen Arbeitsplans der Nachbarschaftspolitik mit der EU. Claus Ebermann, EU Chefbeauftragte versicherte, dass Ägypten ein Hauptpartner der EU auf zahlreichen Gebieten ist, und dass europäische Investitionen in Ägypten um 60% im letzten Jahr gestiegen sind. Dr. Nader Riad, Vorsitzender des Dachverbands der ägyptisch-europäischen Unternehmerverbände wies in seiner Rede darauf hin, daß eine der Verbandsprioritäten darin liegt, die Aktivierung des Dialogs mit der EU auf organisierter und umfassender Art in Koordination mit den zuständigen ägyptischen Ministerien. Die Verbandsmitglieder trafen zusammen mit sechs europäischen Beauftragten in 2006 und 2007, sowie mit Vorsitzenden der europäischen Investitionsbank und der Zentralbank, um die Mechanismen zur Aktivierung von Zusammenarbeitswegen zu diskutieren.