

PRESS RELEASE

EUROCHAMBRES launches programme to strengthen Egyptian business organisations

EUROCHAMBRES, the Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry, has signed a contract in the framework of the EU-Egyptian Industrial Modernisation Programme (IMP). It aims at supporting Egyptian business organisations and developing sustainable links with their European counterparts.

EUROCHAMBRES will organise over the next 2 years capacity building sessions for Egyptian business organisations and support a range of twinning agreements between European and Egyptian Chambers, with focus on internationalisation services for SMEs. The contract will operate with a € 1.65 mn budget.

EUROCHAMBRES' Secretary General Arnaldo Abruzzini said: *"The EU-Association Agreement with Egypt, which has now been ratified by all 15 Member states, will generate increased opportunities for European businesses to enter this strategic location; Egypt is a gateway to the Arab and African markets. Through EUROCHAMBRES' activities, the European Chamber network will be able to build up privileged links with Egyptian counterparts, to the benefit of business."*

The Egyptian Minister of Industry and Technological Development Dr. El Saeidi. expressed confidence in the European Chamber network to support their Egyptian counterparts, to the benefit of EU-Egyptian relations.

The EU is Egypt's largest trading partner, accounting for over 30% of its exports and imports. Traditionally, Egypt has been a major beneficiary of EU financial co-operation in the framework of its Mediterranean policy. The IMP programme is co-funded by the Egyptian government and the European Union MEDA programme.

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