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## Contents

75 years of NUMOV	1
Editorial	3
Personalities	3
NUMOV: NUMOV Near and Middle East Annual Conference 2009	4
Iran: Investments in Iran Gasfields	10
Qatar: Qatari Economy Driving Force in the Middle East Four mega projects on their way	16
Kuwait: Kuwait's petrochemical industry keeps expanding	17
Kuwait: Kuwait's ruler announces new cabinet after elections	17
Turkey: Energy-efficiency in Turkey's industrial enterprises	22
Afghanistan: Afghan-German Business Round Table with H.E. President Hamid Karzai	24
News & Projects	26
Iraq: "Seize the early opportunity" Iraqi Minister of Transportation for the first time in Germany	29
Iraq: Iraqi government invests USD 70 bn in infrastructure and services	29
News in brief	30
Exchange rates	30
Japan firms set to win USD 10 bn Iraq oil contract	30
Zollrecht	30
NUMOV's annual meeting	31
Egypt: Egypt - New Law to Boost Renewable Energies	32
Global Media Forum	33
Wirtschaftstag 2009 in Berlin	33
Business page	34
Business enquiries	34
Services for NUMOV members	35
NUMOV Services	36
Application form for members	36
Introducing a NUMOV member: Taklog Multicargo Forwarding	37
Imprint	38
Board of NUMOV	38

## 75 Years of NUMOV

by Alexander Rieper



H.H. Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al Missned

On May 29<sup>th</sup> 2009, NUMOV, the German Near and Middle East Association, celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The gala event took place in the prestigious Konzerthaus at the Gendarmenmarkt,

a masterpiece of German classicism from the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Among the many premieres held is Beethoven's Symphony No. 9.

continued on page 8

**NUMOV**

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# NUMOV Near and Middle East Annual Conference 2009

by Alexandra Kottisch



f.l.t.r.: H.E. Prof. Dr. Maliha Zulfacar, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in Germany; H.E. Ahmad Muhammad Aldoseri, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain to Germany; H.E. Jamal Ali Omar El-Baraa, Ambassador of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to Germany; H.E. Moncef Ben Abdallah, Ambassador of the Republic of Tunisia to Germany and Doyen of the Arab Ambassadors in Germany; Dieter Ernst, Member of the Board of NUMOV and Chairman of the Board of Berlinwasser International AG; H.E. Ali Reza Sheikh Attar, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Germany; H.E. Alaa Al-Hashimy, Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to Germany; H.E. Dr. Hussein Omran, Ambassador of the Syrian Arab Republic to Germany; H.E. Hael Al-Fahoum, Palestine General Delegate to Germany

As it has become a tradition over the past years, this year's general meeting and annual gala event was again accompanied by a NUMOV – Near and Middle East Annual Economic Conference. As a highlight and appropriate to the occasion of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of NUMOV, the conference assembled high-ranking speakers. Chaired by **Dieter Ernst**, Member of the board of NUMOV and Chairman of the Board of Berlinwasser International AG, the conference exclusively featured ambassadors from countries of the Near and Middle East to Germany.

**Dieter Ernst**, welcoming the attending Excellencies and NUMOV members and interested business representatives, touched upon the stable growth in the region despite the global crisis. "The region provides many opportunities and, due to its young population, holds a great potential for the future," Ernst said. Also pointing towards the future, he mentioned the regions interest and investment in promising sectors such as services, Islamic finance, health care and the high-tech industry.

The first speaker was **H.E. Moncef Ben Abdallah**, Ambassador of the Republic of Tunisia to Germany and Doyen of the Arab Ambassadors in Germany. Tunisia, both Dieter Ernst and the Tunisian ambassador pointed out, is of growing importance to Germany and also the most important trade partner of Germany in the Maghreb region.

Having achieved enormous progress over the last 20 years, the country has become the most advanced in the region

with an annual growth of 5%, **H.E. Ben Abdallah** said. The modernization of the infrastructure has been a main concern, he went on. Among the initiatives of the government are a few mega projects, namely three power plants for domestic usage and export, and a connection to the Italian power grid. Further, he enumerated a new desalination plant, a



H.E. Moncef Ben Abdallah, Ambassador of the Republic of Tunisia to Germany and Doyen of the Arab Ambassadors in Germany

deep-water port and an extension of the national highway system. Until the year 2040, the government will focus on "high-value sectors in particular the knowledge-based technology" which should be increased to 35% of GDP already until 2017. In terms of foreign

investors, Ben Abdallah stressed the number of jobs German investment and German companies have created in the country and named several new laws for the protection of foreign investments, copyrights and the like.

The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Germany, **H.E. Ali Reza Sheikh Attar**, followed as the second speaker. He acknowledged NUMOV as the association which "makes decisions after studies and updates us and its members on the developments in the whole region." Due to the extensive work, "NUMOV can take the right decisions."

These words gave a suitable introduction to his speech which focussed on the fact that Germany had been a major trading partner of Iran in the past, a circumstance which should be revived. "Iranians today have good trust in Germany, German companies and goods," he said. "This is a great asset for German companies which should be fostered and promoted." As a potential activity he named the automotive industry: As the country has a burgeoning demand for cars, the assembly of foreign brands



The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Germany, H.E. Ali Reza Sheikh Attar

under license may provide opportunities for ailing western manufacturers. And also the renewable energy sector provides "good opportunities for German companies to explore in Iran."

Giving an overview on recent developments, **H.E. Sheikh Attar** explained that over the last three years a paradigm shift in economic policies has taken root in the highest political bodies. At the forefront of this shift is the privatization of companies, in particular companies in the communications sector, the railway, the downstream oil and gas sector and the steel industry. "In almost all sectors," **H.E. Sheikh Attar** said, "Iran welcomes foreign investors and shareholders."

In terms of the recent discussion on the trade restrictions, he bluntly voiced his opinion: "Business people are cleverer than politicians." Underpinning this, he mentioned the imports from the US which have recently grown by an astonishing 100% due to the lack of trade obstacles for US companies.



*H.E. Jamal Ali Omar El-Baraq, Ambassador of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to Germany*

As the third speaker **H.E. Jamal Ali Omar El-Baraq**, Ambassador of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to Germany gave his presentation. He warmly welcomed the audience and invited all interest companies and business representatives to visit the Libyan embassy, pledging support with respect to questions and detailed information on trade with and in Libya.

As valuable information to investors, **H.E. El-Baraq** outlined the top priorities

of the Libyan government for the near future. Among them are the improvement of the infrastructure and the health care sector, for the latter particularly in cooperation with foreign hospital operators. Like many other countries in the Near and Middle East, Libya is also pushing on with a city particularly designed for the needs of foreign companies.

He also informed all interested listeners on marking their calendar for July 2010. Then, **H.E. El-Baraq** said, the next German-Libyan common forum, discussing the economic plans of the Libyan government, will take place.

Also the Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to Germany, **H.E. Alaa Al-Hashimy**, who followed, provided insights and the prospect of a further conference on Iraq. As the security situation is still a major



*H.E. Alaa Al-Hashimy, Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to Germany*

obstacle for companies wanting to do business in Iraq, **H.E. Al-Hashimy** gave an overview on the recent betterment. Among it were great successes in fighting terrorism and improving the security situation as a whole. "Over the last years," he continued, "Iraq has also made great progress with respect to parliamentary work." As an achievement towards a more democratic Iraq he brought in that politicians are now recognising the performance principle of elected government representatives.

For 2010, Iraq is planning an Iraq-German economic conference to be held in Baden-Wuerttemberg. Additionally, the Iraqi embassy in Germany will publish around 500 projects of interest for German investors on their website. "Iraq is as attractive as ever," **H.E. Al-Hashimy** concluded. With greater focus on the strategic position, the presentation of

**H.E. Ahmad Muhammad Aldoseri**, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain to Germany was next on the agenda. The peg to his presentation was the strategic location of Bahrain with respect to the GCC states and the wider Gulf region. "Considering the market potential of the GCC states," he said, "Bahrain is



*H.E. Ahmad Muhammad Aldoseri, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain to Germany*

the ideal gateway to a trillion dollar market." As he went on, Bahrain has become home to the regional offices of many international companies wanting to explore the market of the GCC states. A good prerequisite to this, **H.E. Aldoseri** said, are the central location of the country, the good relations with its neighbours, minimal costs for businesses, high productivity and a well-developed infrastructure. In short: "Bahrain works with, not against businesses."

Further, and not in the least irrelevant, **H.E. Aldoseri** said that "Bahrain has an open, tolerant and welcoming society. The quality of life is among the highest in the region, especially for families."

The next speaker again pointed to an unresolved issue in the region: the Near and Middle East conflict. **H.E. Hael Al-Fahoum**, Palestine General Delegate to Germany spoke on the recent developments and the most pressing issues of his country.

As the conference elaborated on economic issues, the General Delegate to Germany highlighted the importance of the economy also for his country. He bemoaned the "scarcity of economic dis-

*continued from page 6*

continued from page 5

course on Palestine,” as the “economy is the vital factor for any nation, country and people.” The worst obstacle to the Palestinian economy, **H.E. Al-Fahoum** said, “is the stage of siege.”

Going on with his speech, he promoted a bottom-up approach to solving the economic challenges of his country. Such an approach, however, may only succeed with strong and immediate international cooperation, he added. In the short term, his country requires immediate relief and reconstruction aid “to help the Palestinians become self sufficient.” In the medium term, the country has to establish a stable economy allowing normal business activity, “in order to enable Palestinians to make a contribution to the wealth and stability of the region,” **H.E. Al-Fahoum** closed.

The penultimate speech was delivered by **H.E. Prof. Dr. Maliha Zulfacar**, the



*H.E. Hael Al-Fahoum, Palestine General Delegate to Germany*

Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in Germany. Also **H.E. Zulfacar** stated that it is “difficult to isolate the economic situation of a country from its political situation.” Today, Afghanistan is one of the poorest countries of the Near and Middle East. But



*H..E. Prof. Dr. Maliha Zulfacar, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in Germany*

international support has resulted in an increase of trade providing some perspective for the Afghan economy and society.

Three good reasons for investors to cast an eye on Afghanistan, she said, are that the country has a rapidly growing market, a strategic location with easy access to neighbouring markets and, finally, it promotes private investment by removing obstacles and the establishment of a free, liberal market. An additionally advantage, she added, lies in the fact that Afghanistan has no export tax, while having at command a wealth of natural resources such as oil, gas, iron, etc.

The conference was rounded off with a multimedia presentation by **H.E. Dr. Hussein Omran**, Ambassador of the Syrian Arab Republic to Germany. He promoted Syria as being “the right partner for Germany in the region.”

As key achievements since the year 2000, **H.E. Omran** recited facts such as the decrease of debt as per GDP from 160% in 2000 to only 8% in 2007 and a dramatic, 12-fold increase of investments since 2001. But, he assured the listeners, the government will not rest on its laurels. It has already started to focus on the challenges of the future, such as the lack of competitiveness in the econo-

my or the adjustment in terms of lower oil revenues in the future.



*H..E. Dr. Hussein Omran, Ambassador of the Syrian Arab Republic to Germany*



*Attendants of the Economic Conference*

These issues are also address with major projects such as the industrial and residential city of Hassia, which provides infrastructure, services and the location for companies interested in settling in Syria. But also other trends in Syria provide perfect opportunities for foreign investors, among them are a growing tourism industry and the willingness of the government to cooperate with German investors in the improvement of the water treatment sector and the establishment of a micro financing bank.

The NUMOV – Near and Middle East Annual Economic Conference was closed by Dieter Ernst after a lively discussion of final questions and with a short summary of the conference and the insights the presentations yielded. Again, he thanked the high-ranking speakers for their participation in and contribution to this conference.



*Speakers of the conference*

# 75 Years of NUMOV

*continued from page 1*

Following the Annual Economic Conference, that took place in the afternoon and comprised speeches of eight ambassadors of the Near and Middle East, the gala evening started with a ceremonial act in front of 1450 guests at the grand hall of the Konzerthaus. Guest of honour was **Her Highness Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al Missned**, consort of **His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani**, Emir of Qatar and Chairperson of Qatar Foundation. The mission of the Qatar Foundation is to make Qatar a leader in innovative education and research. Within the scope of

the foundation also falls cultural exchange. With the Qatar Symphony, a concert piece by the famous composer **Dr. Salem Abdul-Karem**, the foundation has the unique possibility to promote dialogue between cultures by the means of music.

In his speech, NUMOV Honorary Chairman and former Chancellor **H.E. Dr. Gerhard Schröder** emphasized the economic, cultural and scientific ties between Germany and the Near and Middle East. By welcoming **Her Highness Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al Missned**, Gerhard Schröder pointed out that



*H.H. Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al Missned and H.E. Dr. Karl-Theodor Freiherr zu Guttenberg*



*f.l.t.r.: H.H. Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al Missned welcomed by H.E. Dr. Gerhard Schröder, NUMOV Honorary Chairman and former Chancellor; Martin Bay, Chairman of NUMOV; Helene Rang, CEO of NUMOV and Jens-Ove Stier, Deputy Chairman of NUMOV and Managing Director, Winterstein Kontor GmbH*



*H.H. Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al Missned and Prof. Sheikha Abdulla Al-Misnad arriving at the concert house*

Qatar is a good example of how a country uses its "richness in natural resources to bring about sustainable development, peace and social progress."

The former Chancellor continued by highlighting the role of NUMOV, the German Near and Middle East Association, in the past 75 years in promoting trade relations between Germany and the Middle East alongside building bridges and acting as a mediator for the region. In this regard, he welcomed the shift in US-American politics towards a "road of cooperation and partnership, overcoming

the old paradigm of 'friend or foe' in international politics." Nevertheless, also Europe would have to take part in solving major issues in the Near and Middle East and in paving the way for a better future. One aspect of this would be to accept the grown international importance of emerging nations. To do this, newly industrialized countries should be given more influence in international bodies and institutions. The overall approach is to put emerging countries on an eye level with Europe, in order to move forward towards a flourishing world economy that is characterized by international peace and stability.

Gerhard Schröder pointed out that with regards to the development of countries in the Near and Middle East into what is termed emerging countries, Germany and German companies have had important roles. And these roles should be continued and broadened. He underlined: "German companies doing business with the region have always aimed at longstanding, trusting relations and have thereby laid the foundation for future cooperation."

With regard to the Middle East conflict, Schröder stressed the importance of ending the ongoing violence. Long-

*continued on page 12*

# 75 Years of NUMOV

*continued from page 8*

lasting peace may only be reached between “a sovereign Palestinian state and its neighbour Israel,” he said. Extending the Israeli settlements in the Westbank is not helpful to initiate the process towards peace. With a view to other conflicts in the region, dialogue is the tool for and the prerequisite for reaching solutions. “Violence and the threat of violence are no adequate means for integrating nations into international politics; and neither are economic sanctions,” Schröder said. Now that a shift in paradigm in US politics has become visible, the time has come to seize the opportunity to solve conflicts. The development of the region may be the “blueprint for global co-existence of humans in the future – in political, economical and cultural matters.” Within this framework of dialogue, NUMOV, the German Near and Middle East Association is more than prepared to make a contribution to this process.

Schröder concluded his speech by accenting that the enormous merits of Western civilization, of Europe, were



*H.H. Sheikhha Mozah Bint Nasser Al Missned and H.E. Stanislaw Tillich, Minister-President of Saxonia*

achieved only due to the contributions of the Islamic arts and sciences.

The speech of Gerhard Schröder was followed by the speech of **Martin Bay**, Chairman of the Board of NUMOV and Chairman of the Board of Managing Directors of Deutsche Bahn International (German Railway Group).

In his speech, Martin Bay elaborated on the history of NUMOV. In 1934, as Bay pointed out, “Germany was striving for ways to stimulate its economy, to reduce unemployment in the aftermath of the difficult times after World War I.” Within

this process, a group of German entrepreneurs came together and founded a non-profit organization in order to foster economic and cultural relations with the prospering countries of a region that, in these days, was called “Orient.” These men laid the founding stone for a success story which has lasted for 75 years and which was celebrated again, for the 75<sup>th</sup> time on May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009. In the founding days the association was called “Orient Verein.” The first chairman of the association was **Dr. Hermann Reyss** of Siemens and all founding members of the “Orient Verein” were top industrialists from well-known German companies such as Krupp, MAN, Hochtief, Allianz and Deutsche Bank.

In 1950, the association was renamed and received the name it still bears today: Near and Middle East Association or, in German, the Nah- und Mittelost-Verein e.V., short NUMOV. Within the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, new services were introduced providing in-depth and valuable information and events of business, political and cultural interest. This successful process led to the fact that in 1958, NUMOV became the largest of all regional associations in Germany.

In the 1960s, when the Federal Republic of Germany opened full diplomatic relations with the state of Israel, NUMOV inte-



*H.E. Dr. Gerhard Schröder, Honorary Chairman NUMOV and former Chancellor and H.H. Sheikhha Mozah Bint Nasser Al Missned*

*continued on page 14*

# 75 Years of NUMOV

continued from page 12

grated the country into its portfolio; and it was in the interest of NUMOV's member companies to develop strong economic relationships. Over the last 75 years, **Martin Bay** stressed, the most important lesson has been as follows: "Mutually beneficial economic relations always support security and peace." With boycotts of whatever kind and nature, the world would definitely not have turned into a safer or better place.

Relating to this, **Martin Bay** welcomed the trip of former Chancellor Gerhard Schröder to Iran in order to promote dialogue. What is more, he extended his thanks to the present ambassadors of

business representatives. All these efforts are strengthening the bilateral ties between Germany and the region, he said.

Furthermore, Bay shed light on the fact that successful organisations always rely on strong personalities and experienced leaders. Concerning NUMOV, this personality is the Honorary Chairman. In the past, between 1999 and 2005, it was **Hans-Jürgen Wischniewski** who served for several years in senior minister positions. He was highly respected in the Near and Middle East region and well-known under his nickname "Ben Wisch." In 2005, he was succeeded by the former Chancellor **Gerhard Schröder**,



H.H. Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al Missned and Eva Luise Köhler

CEO of NUMOV, **Helene Rang**, for her commitment since she became the CEO in 1997.

Last, but not least, **H.H. Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al Missned** addressed the audience. She congratulated Gerhard Schröder, representing the Board of NUMOV, the representatives and executives of the association, on the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of NUMOV and praised the association's "diligent work in building partnership" between Germany and the Near and Middle East.

Her Highness continued by picking up remarks made by H.E. Gerhard Schröder concerning Europe's role to promote peace at its borders. She pointed out that "the destruction of the educational infrastructure in the conflict zones of the region is having a devastating impact." She called for unity and unanimous actions in order to give future generations hope and perspectives.

**H.H. Sheikha Mozah** went on stating that she had passed wonderful days in Germany and that she was glad to have visited some of Germany's best educational and scientific institutions. With a view to the long-lasting relations between Germany and the region, she highlighted the role of German scientists in exploring the Arab language and Islamic culture. Another sign for the good relations, she pointed out, is that today about 3.5 million Muslims call Germany their home.

Concerning economic relations, Her Highness underlined that Germany is a major trade partner of Qatar. However,



H.H. Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al Missned and H.E. Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs



f.l.t.r. Alexander Rieper, Head of Regional Managers of NUMOV; Dr. Salem Abdul-Karem, Composer of the Qatari Symphony and H.E. Dr. Dirk Baumgartner, Ambassador of the Federal Republic Germany to the state of Qatar

the region for their participation in the economic conference of the same afternoon which was attended by almost 150

who, as Martin Bay underlined, "has contributed with his in-depth knowledge of the region and personal friendships with many leaders, to cultural and educational projects in particular with young people from both sides."

Martin Bay continued by extending a special thanks to **Hans-Dietrich Genscher**, the former German Federal Foreign Minister, who already attended the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of NUMOV in 1984. Finally, Martin Bay thanked the

more can be done to strengthen the economic and cultural ties. Going on, **H.H. Sheikha Mozah** outlined a vision of Qatar's path into the future, in which Qatar is to be transformed "into a hydro carbon, knowledge-based economy by attracting commercially oriented research and development." A central means to achieve this goal is the Qatar Science and Technology Park (QSTP), a research and development hub comprising the country's first free-trade zone and numerous companies from all over the world. More than USD 300 million have been invested in the park to initiate and attract research. Her Highness also invited German companies to establish branches in Qatar and to be part of the development of the country.

Her Highness concluded by mentioning that music from German composers such as Bach, Beethoven, Mozart and Brahms have for a long time enjoyed admiration in the Arab world. Consequently, she expressed her appreciation for having the opportunity to present the Qatar Symphony to the German audience, "the first symphonic composition that tells the story of the challenges and achievements of the State of Qatar."

Her words for describing the music are telling: "I have always believed that music is a fluid vocabulary that can transcend all barriers, con brio; that can embrace peace, con amore; that can celebrate our similarities and differences, con spirito. I hope tonight, you will

While the concert musicians took their seats, **Susanne Koelbl**, foreign correspondent of the German magazine *Der Spiegel* in Asia and the Middle East, gave a short introduction into the evening's symphony, the Qatar Symphony, composed by **Dr. Salem Abdulkarem**.

**Susanne Koelbl** pointed out that this piece of music, "for the first time in history, unifies oriental melodies with occidental composition norms in a symphony of such kind." The symphony is divided into three acts or parts. Each part tells a piece of the



*H.H. Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al Missned and H.E. Moncef Ben Abdallah, Ambassador of the Republic of Tunisia to Germany and Doyan of the Arab Ambassadors*



*f.l.t.r.: H.H. Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al Missned; Hartmut Mehdorn, Member of the Board of NUMOV and his wife Hélène Mehdorn*



*H.E. Rachad Bouhlal, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco and Martin Bay, Chairman of the Board of NUMOV and Chairman of the Board of Managing Directors of Deutsche Bahn International (German Railway Group)*

learn more about us, as I have about you, by sharing our musical story."

Qatar's present, into a fast and energetic, vivid and modern life. The final act,

history of Qatar. "The Beginning" centres around the hard live exposed to the fierce sun, sand and storms. "The Dream" focuses on a people that accepted the struggle to strive toward a better future. "The Challenge and Achievement", the third act, takes the listener into

"Forward," looks forward into the future of the Qatari nation from the poet's perspective and the struggle to find a balance between the native, authentic heritage while embracing the world and the technologies of tomorrow's world.

The performance of the Qatar Symphonic Orchestra lasted one hour. After performance of the Qatar Symphony an encore was given due to the prolonged, enthusiastic applause by the audience which was very impressed by the combination of the styles of the Orient and the Occident. The applause was a reward for both the composer and the orchestra. For the first time, the Qatar Symphony

*continued on page 20*

# 75 Years of NUMOV

continued from page 15

was performed in Berlin. With the end of the concert, the doors of the great hall opened and the festive dinner began. Food was served on all levels of the Konzerthaus and soon intensive talks about the music, the region itself and the bilateral ties to Germany were discussed. As the weather was convenient, many people went out onto the grand outside stairs to enjoy the wonderful view over the Gendarmenmarkt, one of the most famous squares of Europe. The rest of the evening was filled with conversations within the impressive atmosphere of the event and the surroundings.

The visit of **Her Highness Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al Misned** to Germany had already started on Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup> when she arrived in Dresden. At the Dresden International Airport, Her Highness was welcomed by **H.E. Dr. Johannes Beermann**, Chief of the Saxon State Chancellery and Minister of State for Federal and European Affairs. Subsequently, she was escorted to the famous Eckberg Castle hotel where she attended a dinner as guest of honour, hosted by **H.E. Stanislaw Tillich**, Minister-President of the Free State of Saxony. The dinner was also attended by the mayor of Dresden, **Helma Orosz**, as well as other high-ranking members from the industry and research institutions.

On the next day, May 28<sup>th</sup>, Her Highness visited the famous Green Vault, which enjoys world renown as one of Europe's most sumptuous treasure chambers. A visit to the Fraunhofer Institute for Material and Beam Technology IWS followed, where **H.H. Sheikha Mozah** was welcomed by **Prof. Dr. Eckhard Beyer**, the head of the institute. During a presentation of the scientific research work by **Prof. Beyer**, Her Highness took the chance to dwell on the possibilities for cooperation in the education sector bet-



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ween Germany and Qatar. As Chairperson of Qatar Foundation, it is one of her major interest to boost Qatar's transformation into a knowledge-based society.

On the same day, Sheikha Mozah was escorted from Dresden to Berlin. On Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, Her Highness met **H.E. Dr. Karl-Theodor Freiherr zu Guttenberg**, Federal Minister of Economics and Technology. The meeting covered issues related to education and technology and reviewed subjects concerning scientific research. Since Qatar has the world's third-largest gas reserve, it is also an important trade partner for Germany and German companies.

Thereafter, Her Highness met **Eva Luise Köhler**, wife of the Federal President of Germany, **H.E. Horst Köhler**, in his official residence Bellevue Palace. They discussed possibilities for and achievements in social commitment towards children and the youth as well as how to improve the fate of disabled people.

The lunch was taken at the well-known Hotel Adlon at the invitation of **H.E. Gerhard Schröder**, the former German Chancellor and Honorary Chairman of NUMOV, the German Near and Middle East Association and in accompaniment of the Members of the Board of NUMOV. Being the oldest business association for the Near and Middle East in Germany with over 600 member companies, NUMOV plays a central role in promoting German business activities in the region and in Qatar in particular.

In the afternoon, Her Highness met **H.E. Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier**, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs. Points for discussion were educational issues as well as common investment mechanism in scientific research.

The meeting was attended by **H.E. Dr. Abdulla bin Hussain Al-Kubaisi**, the Executive Director of Sheikha Mozah's office, **H.E. Saleh Mohamed Al-Nesef**, the Ambassador of the State of Qatar to Germany, **Dr. Sheikha Abdulla Al-Misnad**, the President of Qatar University and the German Ambassador to Qatar, **H.E. Dirk Baumgartner**.