

No. 3 - September 2011

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# Iraq's massive economic potential for Germany

## Visit by H.E. Hussain Al-Shahristani

by Tom Wells



H.E. Dr. Philipp Rösler, German Federal Minister of Economics and Technology and H.E. Hussain Al-Shahristani, Deputy Prime Minister for Energy of the Republic of Iraq

Continuing the trend of ever-improving Iraqi-German bilateral relations H.E. Hussain Al-Shahristani, Deputy Prime Minister for Energy of the Republic of Iraq, completed an official state visit to Berlin in July this year. Central to H.E. Al-Shahristani's visit was his attendance of the 'Pugwash Conference' taking place in the German capital from 1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> July. During his official visit to Berlin, H.E. Al-Shahristani was also invited to meet H.E. Dr. Philipp Rösler, German Federal Minister of Economics and Technology. Additionally, H.E. Al-Shahristani took part in bilateral discussions with Dr. Christoph Heusgen, Foreign Policy and Security Advisor to German Federal Chancellor H.E. Dr. Angela Merkel. H.E. Al-Shahristani was accompanied to all meetings by H.E. Dr. Hussain M. F. Alkhateeb, Iraqi Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany.

This year marked the 59<sup>th</sup> edition of the Pugwash conference, which has been taking place since 1957. It was sponsored by and took place at the German Federal Foreign Office in Berlin and brought together influential individuals from science and world affairs. The aim of the conference is to strive towards nuclear disarmament in all countries and to reduce the threat of war. An opening keynote speech was delivered by H.E. Dr. Guido Westerwelle, German Federal Foreign Minister, in which he touched on important issues of global security. On the final day of the conference, H.E. Al-Shahristani also contributed to the proceedings, holding a speech on the topic of the developments of energy policy in Iraq.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, H.E. Dr. Guido Westerwelle met H.E. Al-Shahristani in the presence of