

Egypt's exports expected to hit USD 200bn in 2030

The Central Bank of Egypt (CBE) has launched an initiative to boost the local industry with EGP 100bn or EUR 5.589bn with the aim to increase production, boost exports and raise employment rates. According to the Deputy Governor of the CBE, Gamal Negm, Egypt's imports are expected to reach about USD 150bn, and exports to reach USD 200bn by 2030. The industrial sector contributes to the gross domestic product by about 16.5%. The CBE initiative is expected to raise the industrial sector's contribution to the GDP to 24% in six months. The increase of exports contributes to supporting the state's public treasury and shall create 206,000 jobs.

Two IPOs expected in 2020

The long-awaited initial public offering of one of the biggest banks in Egypt, Banque du Caire, could draw funds from outside the region. Nearly three years ago, Egypt unveiled a program to sell stakes in state-owned enterprises as part of broader efforts to revive the economy by devaluing the currency and raising interest rates to curb a dollar crunch that had battered business activity. Officials expect to start the roadshow for a 30%-40% stake offering in Banque du Caire in January 2020. In addition, Egyptian payments firm e-Finance is wrapping up preparations for an IPO in the first quarter of 2020. The government had said it plans to raise EGP 100bn or EUR 5.589bn from the sales in three years in sectors including banking, oil and finance, but have moved at a slower pace than expected.

Egypt to increase crude oil production and sign new agreements

The Egypt Minister of Oil, H.E. Tarek al-Molla, said during a technical conference on improving the efficiency of research and exploration operations that Egypt's government will increase crude oil production to bridge declining domestic consumption through developing systems and procedures, offering bids and signing petroleum agreements. A joint technical committee from the oil sector and a number of heads of international companies, experts and industry professionals will study improving oil fields in Egypt and will present their recommendations at the end of the first quarter of 2019-2020. Egypt's average production of crude oil and condensates are currently about 630,000 barrels per day. The target for this figure is about 690,000 barrels per day for the end of the fiscal year 2019-2020.

Egypt tops list of countries concluding financing deals for start-ups

During the 6th conference of bankers and businesspeople, the Egyptian Investment Minister, H.E. Sahar Nasr, said on December 8th 2019 that Egypt tops the list of countries clinching financing deals for start-ups in the MENA region with 27% of concluded deals and ranked second in terms of attracting investments to emerging companies in the technological domain. According to the 2020 doing business report released by the World Bank, Egypt jumped six places and 19 places in the enterprise start up index.

Egypt and Germany sign EUR 2m agreement for agricultural cooperation

Egypt and Germany signed on 9th December 2019 a EUR 2m grant agreement to guarantee high-quality of agricultural production. The agreement, which was inked by Investment and International Cooperation Minister H.E. Sahar Nasr and German Ambassador to Egypt H.E. Cyrill Nunn, aims to improve the quality of agricultural products and set up a platform for dialogue between the two countries' experts as regards agricultural production. The German investments in Egypt are estimated at USD 7.4bn. In addition, there are 1,215 German companies operating in Egypt in the domains of petroleum, iron and steel, gas, communications, car manufacturing, chemicals and car components. The Minister lauded the size of cooperation between Egypt and Germany which now stands at EUR 2bn.

Egyptian billionaire acquires Thomas Cook franchise in Germany

Egyptian entrepreneur Samih Sawiris acquired the Thomas Cook franchise in Germany through his Raiffeisen Touristik (RT) Group. Sawiris owns 74.9% of the Raiffeisen Touristik Group, which generates around EUR 3.5bn in sales per year. The group includes Otto brand Reiseland, Thomas Cook Netherlands, and 700 private travel agencies. Sawiris, the Head of Orascom Development, is considered one of the country's leading travel businessmen. He is famous for renovating the Swiss ski village Andermatt, making it an attractive tourism hotspot. In Egypt, He is best known for building El Gouna, a luxury resort town located along the coast of the Red Sea.