

الجمعية الألمانية المصرية المسجلة في هانوفر

DEUTSCH-ÄGYPTISCHE GESELLSCHAFT IN HANNOVER e.V.

الرئيس

DER PRÄSIDENT

**His Excellency
Mr Amr Musa
Secretary General of the League of Arab States
C/o Head Office, Cairo**

April 1, 2005

Solidarity with the Arab youths

Yours Excellency

With great interest I am observing the current efforts to reform the League of Arab States. I am born in Egypt, but German citizen for many years, and I am proud having you on the front of the Arab League. Therefore, please allow me at the outset to congratulate you on your great achievements.

We all know that reforms are overdue, but we know as well that it will take a long time to unite the Arab States concerning political, social and economic structures. Nevertheless, there are some urging issues which can be approached more easily: I am very concerned about the precarious situation of the Arab youths.

Unemployment tops the list of problems facing Arab youths in a region that is one of the world's youngest. But unemployment and frustration, this is what many terror experts think, can drive young people in the arms of extremists, who give them simple answers to their questions why they have no chance to live in prosperity. (This is, of course, a problem which can be found everywhere in the world.)

As a matter of fact, only a small part of the Arab Youth is looking into a bright future, with great job opportunities and high salaries. Just because of nepotism and patronage, they are given jobs for instance as senior managers, the greater part of the Arab youth never will get, even if they have a better education.

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We have to fight against this unfair social segmentation with new strategies for youth development everywhere in the Arab region. I hope that we all feel responsible for the youth's fate. We must create job opportunities for young men and women; establish programs for a better education in schools and universities. Young people have to be put in the place to become self-employed with their own enterprises. Therefore, innovative programs have to be designed especially to promote the interests of young people.

I have long years' business experience in the Arab countries, therefore I know and I am convinced that it is possible to give youth a real break. The fundament of such a change is there:

- a) In the whole Arab region there are well trained and motivated young people;
- b) The whole Arab region is a promising sales market with underachieved potential.

It is my considered opinion, that democratisation and modernisation in the Arab world, discussed as "new thinking" in Egypt for instance, will lead to more prosperity and economic growth, provided that this process comes from inside and that there will be no interferences from the United States, Europe or anywhere else. Democratisation needs an open dialogue. I am convinced, that the Arab world has got an enormous potential and the capabilities, to perform this process with great success.

The Arab youth will benefit from this development mostly. But to support this process and to achieve success more quickly, we do not only need a mental change for the purpose of "new thinking". We need investments – directly or indirectly – for the well-being of the Arab youth.

We can put up capital with ease – just think, dear Mr Musa, of the huge oil sales. There have been times a barrel was worth US\$ 12, today it is worth 56. And if we trust some experts' forecasts, oil could reach US\$ 105 a barrel. So what about if the Arab countries established a Solidarity Fund for the future of the youth? I propose to pay US\$ 1 of every barrel over to this fund. According to the huge oil sales, there would be enough money to finance programs for a better education and job training as well as projects for technology transfer, setting up businesses and many more. A commission under the control of the Arab League could manage the funds: So all together, the Arab countries would decide how to spend the means in a fair and effective way, so that every region would benefit from the funds likewise.

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The youth is our capital, it creates our future; we have to support this process with maximum employment. I would appreciate a dialogue with you on my ideas (also referring to the reorganisation of the League itself).

Moreover, I have developed a strategic conception how to intensify co-operation between the Arab people who live abroad in Europe or the United States and their country of origin. The Arab countries can stand to benefit from their “own men and women” who live all over the world (and the other way around), if they participate in their political and financial virility, their economic experience, their business contacts and their knowledge concerning technology transfer, modernisation and optimization. Actually, the Arab countries have to expect positive effects, both directly and indirectly, on every aspect of economy and society. The Arab fellow countrymen can be understood as “fuel” for this process. Last not least, they will give support to the exertion of political influence in their new homelands.

Co-operating with Arab people in the Western world, this is what I think, would expedite the proceedings of democratisation and economic development and by this hold off interferences from outside.

I have got the right points of contact, the capabilities and the ideas and I am ready to help realizing above mentioned projects.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Please accept my high esteem and my best wishes.

Yours sincerely

Mohamed Attia