



**AACC**

حرفة التجارة العربية النمساوية  
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österreichisch-arabische handelskammer

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## **6th Arab-Austrian Economic Forum / International Conference in Vienna:**

### **Sudan & Europe: Prospects of Cooperation for Regional Peace**

#### **Round Table Discussion / B-2-B Meeting**

10-11 October 2012

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(1) REPORT (ENGLISH)

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**6th Arab-Austrian Economic Forum / International Conference in Vienna:  
Sudan & Europe: Prospects of Cooperation for Regional Peace  
Round Table Discussion / B-2-B Meeting**

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**Opening of the Conference** © AACC / philippthutter.com

On October 10th 2012 the Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce (AACC) had its annual highlight with its "Event of the Year", the **6th Arab-Austrian Economic Forum**. This Forum was held in Vienna at the Hotel Hilton Vienna City and was visited by approximately over 500 people concerned with and interested in Arab-Austrian economic relations in general and in meeting leading personalities from both, the Republic of Austria and the Republic of the Sudan, in particular.



**Press Conference (left-to-right): Minister Ali Ahmed KARTI - Vice-Chancellor Minister Dr. Michael SPINDELEGG - Deputy Minister Hon. Prof. Elias Nyamlell WAKOSON - AACC President Dr. Richard SCHENZ - Ambassador Mahmoud ELAMIN** © AACC / philippthutter.com

This year's Forum was under the banner of “**Sudan & Europe: Prospects of Cooperation for Regional Peace and Development**”. The Forum's speakers came from both, Austria and Sudan and included several top-level personalities, among many others **H.E. Dr. Michael SPINDELEGGGER**, Vice-Chancellor and Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Republic of Austria, and **H.E. Mr. Ali Ahmed KARTI**, Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Republic of the Sudan. Several Arab Ambassadors accredited to Austria, businesspeople from Sudan and Austria and numerous interested persons also participated in this event.

The 6th Arab-Austrian Economic Forum with its particular focus on Sudan and Europe was organized by the AACC in fruitful cooperation with other institutions and partners: first and foremost the **Embassy of the Republic of the Sudan in Austria**, the **Political Academy of Austrian People's Party (PolAk)**, the **Austrian Institute for European and Security Policy (AIES)**, the **Austrian Federal Economic Chamber (WKO)**, **UNIDO**, **UNDP** and the **Austrian-South Sudan Society** and the **Austrian Sudan Society**.

The **Opening Session** of the 6th Arab-Austrian Economic Forum was chaired by **Dr. Werner FASSLABEND**, President of the Political Academy of Austrian People's Party (PolAk), who also gave the opening remarks. After that **H.E. Dr. Michael SPINDELEGGGER**, Vice-Chancellor and Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Republic of Austria, and **H.E. Mr. Ali Ahmed KARTI**, Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Republic of the Sudan, gave their introductory notes and welcomed the interested audience. Other speakers during the opening session were: **H.E. Hon. Prof. Elias Nyamlell WAKOSON**, Deputy Minister for International Cooperation in South Sudan, **H.E. Mr. Petar STOYANOV**, Former President of the Republic of Bulgaria and President of the Centre of Global Dialogue, **H.E. Mr. Jan FIGEL**, Deputy Speaker of the National Council in the Republic of Slovakia and Former EU-Commissioner and Deputy Prime Minister, **H.E. Ambassador Tomas ULICNY**, Head of European Union Mission to Sudan, and **H.E. Ambassador Samir HOSNI**, Representative of the Secretary General of the League of Arab States.



Opening speeches by Vice-Chancellor SPINDELEGGGER (left above), Minister KARTI (right above), President of PolAk FASSLABEND (left below) and Deputy Minister WAKOSON (right below) © AACC / philippshutter.com

After the opening addresses of the esteemed speakers of the Opening Session, **Dr. Richard SCHENZ**, President of the Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce (AACC) and Vice President of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber (WKO), and **Mr. Yousif Ahmed YOUSIF**, Chairman of the Union Chambers of Commerce in Sudan, signed a **Memorandum of Understanding**.



**Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding: AACC President Senator Dr. Richard SCHENZ (left) and Mr. Yousif Ahmed YOUSIF, Chairman of the Sudanese Businessmen & Employers Federation (right)** (c) AACC / philippthutter.com

The **First Session** of the 6th Arab-Austrian Economic Forum was dedicated to issues of “**Economy**” and chaired by AACC President **Dr. Richard SCHENZ**, who also gave the opening notes. The introductory notes to this session were given by **H.E. Dr. Mustafa Osman ISMAIL**, Minister of the Supreme Council of Investment in the Sudan. **Dr. Abdel-Rahim HAMD**, Former Minister of Finance in the Republic of the Sudan, followed him by presenting opportunities of investment in Sudan. **Mr. Fahad Rashid AL IBRAHIM**, Director General of the Arab Investment & Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (DHAMAN) also talked about the Arab investment in Sudan. Another high-level participant and speaker of this first session was **H.E. Mr. Magdy Hassan YASSIN**, State Minister of Finance in the Republic of the Sudan, who presented the Sudanese Economic Framework. Other important speakers to the economic session were: **Mrs. Olga ALGARYEROVA**, Advisor to the Prime Minister of Slovakia, and **Dr. Kurt ALTMANN**, Austrian Commercial Councillor for Egypt and Sudan, Ethiopia, South-Sudan, Djibouti, Eritrea and Somalia, who discussed the potential for economic cooperation with Sudan. Two other discussants were: **Dr. Jan KAVAN**, Former Deputy Prime Minister and Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, and **Mr. Mohamed BIN YOUSSEF**, Director General of the Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organisation (AIDMO).





**First Session on "Economy"** (c) AACC / philippthutter.com

After the delicious lunch buffet the **Second Session** of the 6th Arab-Austrian Economic Forum was held on the issue of **"European and International Cooperation: Successful Foreign Investments in Sudan"**. The introductory notes were given by **Mr. Henry HAFEZ**, Vice President of the Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce. After the introduction **Mr. Sayed AGHA**, Country Representative of the UNDP-Sudan gave some interesting insights on UNDP projects and future cooperation with Sudan. **Mr. El Zubair Ahmed EL HASSAN**, Chairman of the Kenana Sugar Company and Former Minister of Finance and Economy in the Republic of the Sudan, stressed in his speech on the potential of the agricultural sector in Sudan. He was followed by **Dr. Abdulrahman AL-KHIDIR**, Governor of the State of Khartoum, who talked about investments in the State of Khartoum. After him, **Mr. Taizo NISHIKAWA**, Deputy Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), discussed UNIDO projects and future cooperation with Sudan. The discussants in the second session were: **Dr. Taj El-Sir MUSTAFA**, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Gum Arabic Board (GAB), **Mr. Ahmad KHALIFA**, Member of the Board of Al-Rajhi International for Investment in Saudi Arabia, **Mrs. Eng. Widad YAGOUB** from the Sudanese Businessmen & Employers Federation and **Dr. Emmanuel CAULLIER**, an international expert from France.



**Second Session on "European and International Cooperation"** (c) AACC / philippthutter.com

After a short coffee break it was time for the **Third Session** which dealt with “**Banking & Financing**” and was chaired by **Dr. Stefan PISTAUER**, Regional Manager for Africa and Middle East at the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber (WKO). The introductory notes of the last session were given by **Mr. Badr Eddin MAHMOUD**, Deputy Governor of the Bank of Sudan. Then **Mr. Kamal EL ZUBAIR** from the Al Mal United (Kuwaiti Bank in Sudan) spoke about banking, financing and guarantees in Sudan in general terms. After him, **Mr. Khaled HILAL**, Representative of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) discussed Islamic Development Bank projects in Sudan. He was followed by **Eng. Erwin MARCHHART**, Deputy Head of Department of Export Guarantees of the Österreichische Kontrollbank (OeKB), who informed the audience about loans and guarantees. Another important speaker of the third session was **Mr. Khalid AL-ZAYER**, Senior Public Sector Operations Officer of the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID), who talked about OFID projects in Sudan. Likewise, **H.E. Mr. Magdy Hassan YASSIN**, State Minister of Finance in the Republic of the Sudan, gave some additional remarks on banking and financing issues in Sudan. Further discussants were: **Mr. Fadi AL FAQIH**, CEO of Bank of Khartoum, **Mr. Musaddaq Taha AL-MALIK** from the Qatar National Bank, **Mr. Majid Shamas TOMA** from the Czech Export Bank and **Mr. Ahmed Amin ABDULLATIF** from the Sudanese Youth Businessmen.



Third Session on “Banking & Financing” (c) AACC / philippthutter.com

The Forum was closed with **final remarks** by **Eng. Mouddar KHOUJA**, Secretary General of the Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce (AACC), the Chairman’s Summary by **Dr. Werner FASSLABEND**, President of the Political Academy of Austrian People’s Party (PolAk) and the closing statements by **Dr. Arnold KAMMEL**, Secretary General of the Austrian Institute for European and Security Policy (AIES).

Parallel to the Forum an Exhibition comprised of approx. 20 Austrian and Sudanese exhibitors was convened throughout the day. Companies and institutions such as the [Austrian Federal Economic Chamber \(WKO\)](#), [Dr. Max Huber Realbüro](#), [Emirates Airlines](#), [Lights of Vienna](#) and [Austrian State Printing House \(OeSD Group\)](#), [Judith Hornok](#) from Hornok & Partners, were among the Austrian exhibitors, together with a considerable display of Sudanese companies and institutions such as the [Ministry of Petroleum](#), [Kenana Sugar Co.](#), [GIAD Co.](#), and many others.



**Exhibitor's Area** (c) AACC / philippthutter.com

The **Austro-Arab Chamber's Executive Committee** – represented by its President **Dr. Richard SCHENZ**, Vice-President **Kommerzialrat Nabil R. KUZBARI**, Vice-President **Mr. Henry HAFEZ** and Secretary General **Eng. Mouddar KHOUJA** – were present throughout the whole Forum and enjoyed the remarkable interest and positive feedback both to the Forum and the integrated Exhibition for Austrian and Sudanese exhibitors.



**Left above: AACC Vice-President KUZBARI – AACC President SCHENZ – AACC Vice-President HAFEZ – AACC Secretary General KHOUJA /// Right above: Vice-Chancellor and Minister SPINDELEGGER greets AACC Vice-President KUZBARI at the Conference /// Below (left-to-right): KHOUJA – SCHENZ – KUZBARI – H.E. Mohammad AL-MALKI, Ambassador of Qatar – H.E. Dr. Zuheir ELWAZER, Ambassador of Palestine – H.E. Dr. Ali EL MHAMDI, Ambassador of Morocco – H.E. Dr. Abdulhakim AL-ERYANI, Ambassador of Yemen – Min.-Counsellor. Ali DROUCHE, Embassy of Algeria** (c) AACC / philippthutter.com



The next day, **Thursday the 11th October 2012** featured an exclusive **Round Table Discussion** on the challenges and opportunities of financing investments and business cooperation and trade in Sudan. The round table was held at the headquarters of the **Raiffeisen Bank International**, whose Director General is **Dr. Herbert STEPIC**, the AACC's Honorary President for Life. The welcoming address was given by **Dr. Gerhard BERGER**, Director for Institutional Clients and Financial Institutions & Sovereigns for Africa and the Middle East. **Dr. Werner FASSLABEND** was chairing the Round Table, which was opened by **H.E. Mr. Ali Ahmed KARTI** and **H.E. Dr. Mustafa Osman ISMAIL** with introductory notes. The discussion saw a participation of more than 85 experts from different Austrian and Sudanese institutions and companies, among others: **State Minister of Finance in the Republic of the Sudan, Deputy Governor of the Bank of Sudan, Austrian Ministry of Finance, Österreichische Kontrollbank, Arab Investment & Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (DHAMAN)**, and many more.



**Round Table Session at Raiffeisen Bank International** (c) AACC / philippthutter.com

In the afternoon, more than 30 Austrian and Sudanese companies and businessmen seized the additional opportunity for personal meetings and specific inquiries and network exchange at the **Business-to-Business Meeting** convened at the Hilton Vienna City.



**B-2-B Meeting in the afternoon** (c) AACC / philippthutter.com

The **6th Arab-Austrian Economic Forum**, the **Round Table** and the **B2B Meeting** were all featured and supported by the following media partners: [MONITOR TV](#), [Promoters Sudan](#), [Bridges](#) and [Milestones in Communication](#).



## (2) DOWNLOADS & LINKS

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### ⇒ Download Reports:

- [Report in English](#)
- [Report in Arabic](#)
- [Program & Speakers](#)
- [Announcement](#)
- [List of Exhibitors](#)
- [Press Release](#)

### ⇒ Event Coverage & Photos:

- [Event Coverage & Photo Gallery on AACC Website \(please visit this link for further updates on documents and information about the event!\)](#)
- [Event Coverage & Photo Gallery & Documentation on AACC Facebook Site in English](#)
- [Event Coverage & Photo Gallery & Documentation on AACC Facebook Site in Arabic](#)
- [Conference Website: www.sudanandeurope.com](#)

### ⇒ Download Speeches & Presentations (selected, collection in progress):

- [Opening Presentation by the Chairman Dr. Werner FASSLABEND, President of Political Academy of Austrian's People's Party \(PoIAk\)](#)
- ["Opportunities of Investment in Sudan" / Dr. Abdel-Rahim HAMDY, Former Minister of Finance Sudan](#)
- ["Sudan Economic Policies, Challenges and Constraints" / H.E. Mr. Magdy Hassan YASSIN, State Minister of Finance, Sudan](#)
- [Speech by Mr. Mohamed BIN YOUSSEF, Director General of the Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organisation \(AIDMO\)](#)
- ["Kenana: A Pioneer Model" / Mr. El Zubair Ahmed EL HASSAN, Chairman of Kenana Sugar Company](#)
- ["UNDP in Sudan" / Mr. Sayed AGHA, Country Representative, UNDP-Sudan](#)
- ["Islamic Development Group in the Sudan" / Mr. Khaled HILAL, Representative of the Islamic Development Bank](#)
- ["Banking, Financing and Guarantees in Sudan" / Mr. Kamal EL ZUBAIR, Al Mal United \(Kuwaiti Bank in Sudan\)](#)
- ["OFID Projects in Sudan" / Mr. Khalid AL-ZAYER, Senior Public Sector Operations Officer, OPEC Fund for International Development \(OFID\)](#)
- [Presentation by Mr. Ahmed Amin ABDULLATIF, Sudanese Young Businessmen Association \(SYBMA\)](#)
- [Chairman's Summary by Dr. Werner FASSLABEND, President of Political Academy of Austrian's People's Party \(PoIAk\)](#)

### ⇒ Links to Press Articles & Media Clippings (in progress):

- [Austrian Broadcast ORF / ZIB 2, 10.10.2012 / Margit Maximilian: Wien: Konferenz über Sudan \(Austria, German\)](#)
- [Sudan TV \(link provided by AACC member eMedia Monitor \) \(Sudan, Arabic\)](#)

- [Masriya TV \(link provided by AACC member eMedia Monitor \) \(Egypt, Arabic\)](#)
- [Al-Jazeera Internet Portal \(Qatar, Arabic\)](#)
- [Boerse-Express / Foonds Internetportal \(Austria, German\)](#)
- [Die Presse \(Austria, German\)](#)
- [Al-Seyassah Newspaper \(Kuwait, Arabic\)](#)
- [Shorouk Newspaper \(Egypt, Arabic\)](#)
- [Al-Youm Al-Sabee Newspaper \(Egypt, Arabic\)](#)
- [Al-Jadidah Internet Portal \(Austria, Arabic\)](#)
- [Sudan Press Agency \(SUNA\) \(Sudan, Arabic\)](#)
- [Ask Morgan Internet Portal \(Sudan, Arabic\)](#)
- [Al-Bawaba Internet Portal \(Sudan, Arabic\)](#)
- [Middle East Online Portal \(United Kingdom, Arabic\)](#)
- [Syrian Days Internet Portal \(Syria, Arabic\)](#)
- [Kuwait Press Agency \(KUNA\) \(Kuwait, Arabic\)](#)

### (3) REPORT (ARABIC)

#### اتفاق على تعزيز التعاون بين النمسا والسودان في المجال الاقتصادي



اختتم المؤتمر الدولي السودان وأوروبا: آفاق التعاون من أجل السلام والتنمية في المنطقة، والمنبثق عن المنتدى الاقتصادي العربي النمساوي السادس، أعماله مساء يوم الأربعاء 10 أكتوبر 2012 في العاصمة النمساوية فيينا، بإصدار بيان ختامي أكد على عدد من القضايا، شملت سبل التعاون والتنمية بين كل من السودان والنمسا، وكذا السودان والدول الأوروبية، والأوضاع السياسية في جمهورية السودان بعد انفصال دولة جنوب السودان، والإمكانيات الحاضرة والمستقبلية من أجل تحفيز الاستثمار في السودان، سواء من الدول العربية أو من النمسا وأوروبا، وتشكيل الهيئات الاقتصادية المشتركة بين كل من السودان والنمسا لفتح مزيد من آفاق التعاون وتبادل الخبرات والاستثمارات بين البلدين.

فتحت رعاية كريمة من معالي الدكتور ميشائيل شبيندليجر، نائب المستشار النمساوي وزير الشؤون الأوروبية والدولية، ومعالي الأستاذ علي أحمد كرتي، وزير خارجية السودان، انعقد يوم الأربعاء 10 أكتوبر/ تشرين الأول 2012 المنتدى الاقتصادي العربي النمساوي السادس، تحت عنوان: مؤتمر دولي في فيينا - السودان وأوروبا: آفاق التعاون من أجل السلام والتنمية في المنطقة. وقام بالإعداد للمؤتمر، الذي حضره وزراء ومسؤولون رفيعو المستوى من السودان والنمسا وأوروبا والدول العربية والمنظمات الدولية، سفارة السودان لدى النمسا، غرفة التجارة العربية النمساوية، الأكاديمية السياسية النمساوية PoIAK، المعهد النمساوي للسياسات الأمنية والأوروبية AIES، الغرفة الاقتصادية الاتحادية بالنمسا WKÖ، البرنامج الإنمائي التابع للأمم المتحدة UNDP، منظمة الأمم المتحدة للتنمية الصناعية UNIDO، منظمة جسور الدولية BRIDGES، بالإضافة إلى جهات تنظيمية أخرى.

وفي كلمته أمام المؤتمر، أكد وزير الخارجية النمساوي على أن الاتفاقات التي تم توقيعها بين الجانبين تعد علامة فارقة في العلاقات الثنائية، مشيراً إلى اتفاق أديس أبابا الذي تم توقيعها قبل نحو 3 أسابيع بين السودان وجنوب السودان معتبراً أن الاتفاقية تعد مؤشراً قوياً على طريق تحقيق السلام والرخاء والتنمية في المنطقة. ولفت شبيندليجر إلى أن النمسا اهتمت بمساعدة الدولتين في التوصل إلى اتفاق منذ عضوية النمسا المؤقتة في مجلس الأمن عام 2010، معرباً عن سعادته بمساهمة النمسا في التقريب بين وجهات النظر مشيداً بجهود وزير الخارجية السوداني علي كرتي ومعرباً في نفس الوقت عن سعادته بتوصل البلدين إلى اتفاق.

وتطرق المشاركون في المؤتمر إلى الأوضاع الاقتصادية والسياسية في السودان بهدف إيجاد مقترحات خلاقة وتبادل الأفكار والخبرات من أجل دفع عجلة الاقتصاد في السودان قدماً من خلال تنمية الاستثمار وفتح الباب أمام إبرام الاتفاقيات ذات الصلة، والتي من شأنها أن تضيف ثقة متبادلة بين الطرفين في المجالين التجاري والاقتصادي، بما يحقق المنفعة العامة والخاصة لكل من السودان والنمسا؛ بل والدول الأوروبية بصفة عامة، ويعزز من دور القطاع الخاص في تحقيق الازدهار والنمو.



وأكد السادة المشاركون في المؤتمر على الحاجة الملحة إلى تحقيق انطلاقة جديدة في العلاقات بين البلدين الصديقين، تكون جسراً لعلاقات أفضل بين السودان وأوروبا. وتم التأكيد على أن الحوار المباشر هو الوسيلة المثلى لتحقيق الأهداف المرجوة والآمال المنشودة لتعزيز وتوطيد العلاقات بين السودان والنمسا، والسودان وأوروبا. ومن ثمّ تقرر إقامة مؤتمر دولي تحت عنوان "السودان وأوروبا: آفاق التعاون من أجل السلام والتنمية في المنطقة"، ليكون العنوان معبراً عن الهدف والغاية، وتكون محاوره معبرة عن النقاط الرئيسية للنقاش؛ حيث جاءت على النحو التالي :

♣ التطورات السياسية في السودان بعد انفصال دولة جنوب السودان.

♣ سبل دعم السودان على طريق السلام والتنمية المستدامة.

♣ التطورات الاقتصادية وفرص الاستثمار الأجنبي في السودان.

♣ إمكانيات الاستثمار الأوروبي والعربي في السودان.

♣ إمكانيات تأمين وتمويل المشاريع الاستثمارية في السودان.

♣ إطلالة على المشاريع الإنمائية للمنظمات الدولية في السودان.

وقد أوضحت النقاشات رغبة المشاركين بالانطلاق إلى آفاق أرحب من التعاون في كافة المجالات بين السودان والنمسا، والسودان وأوروبا. كما أكدت العزم على الخروج من غرف المباحثات إلى ميادين التنفيذ، سيما وأن الطريق ممهدة أمام إنجازات ملموسة على أرض الواقع؛ خاصة في المجالين الاقتصادي والتجاري.

وقد اتفق المشاركون على أن هذه الفعالية الدولية وما تضمنته من نقاش مثمر وحوار جاد، تسجل كإنطلاقة جديدة في العلاقات بين السودان والنمسا، وبين السودان وأوروبا. وقدم المشاركون عدداً من التوصيات، التي من شأنها أن تسهم في دعم وتعزيز العلاقات السودانية النمساوية/ السودانية الأوروبية، وهي :

أ (تشكيل وفد تجاري من النمسا والدول المجاورة لها لزيارة السودان.

ب (تنظيم مؤتمر اقتصادي مشترك في السودان.

ج (العمل على استمرار المؤتمرات ذات الصلة في الدول الأوروبية .

د ( تعزيز الدور الأوروبي في مجال دعم وتنمية العلاقات بين دولتي السودان وجنوب السودان .  
ه ( تكوين آلية بين الجهات المنظمة للمؤتمر لمتابعة تنفيذ ما خرج به من نتائج وتوصيات .

وقد انتهت أعمال المؤتمر في تمام الساعة السادسة من مساء يوم الأربعاء 10 أكتوبر 2012 ،  
بالتأكيد على ضرورة التواصل والتعاون المستمر بين السودان والدول الأوروبية ، بما يخدم  
المصالح المشتركة بين الجانبين ، لا سيّما المصالح التجارية والاقتصادية . وكذلك على ضرورة  
العمل على تنفيذ ما خرج به المؤتمر من نتائج وتوصيات .