



AACC 25th Anniversary

Vienna - May 22nd 2014

خوفية التجارة العربية النمساوية

austro-arab chamber of commerce

österreichisch-arabische handelskammer



Our special thanks to

Dr. Michael Häupl,
Mayor and Governor of Vienna

Kommerzialrat Nabil R. Kuzbari,
Founder & Vice-President of the AACC

and all our members and partners



INDEX

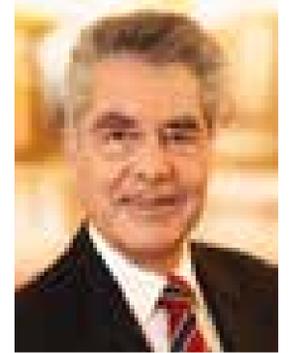
- 11 Senator Dr. Richard SCHENZ, *President of the AACC*
KommR. Nabil KUZBARI, *Vice-President & Founder of the AACC*
Dipl.-Ing. Mouddar KHOUJA, *Secretary General of the AACC*

The following honorabilities paid tribute
to the Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|---|
| 7 | Dr. Heinz FISCHER,
<i>Federal President of the Republic of Austria</i> | 25 | Mr. Suleiman AL-HERBISH,
<i>Director General of the OPEC Fund for
Int. Development (OFID)</i> |
| 9 | Dr. Nabil EL-ARABI,
<i>Secretary General of the League of Arab States</i> | 27 | Dr. Christoph LEITL,
<i>President of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber</i> |
| 13 | Mr. Werner FAYMANN,
<i>Federal Chancellor of the Republic of Austria</i> | 29 | Prof. Reinhart GAUSTERER,
<i>Vice-President of the AACC & Director General
of the Austrian State Printing House</i> |
| 15 | Dr. Michael SPINDELEGGER,
<i>Vice-Chancellor and Minister of Finance
of the Republic of Austria</i> | 31 | Mr. Henry HAFEZ,
<i>Vice-President of the AACC & CEO Hafez Group</i> |
| 17 | Dr. Michael HÄUPL,
<i>Mayor and Governor of Vienna</i> | 33 | Dr. Herbert STEPIC,
<i>Honorary President of the AACC & Senior Advisor
to the Board, Raiffeisen Bank International</i> |
| 19 | Mr. Adnan KASSAR,
<i>Honorary President of the General Union
of Arab Chambers</i> | 37 | Dr. Thomas BIRTEL,
<i>CEO Strabag SE</i> |
| 21 | Dr. Reinhold MITTERLEHNER,
<i>Federal Minister of Science,
Research and Economy of the Republic of Austria</i> | 39 | Thanks to our sponsors,
exhibitors & promotion partners |
| 23 | Dr. Franz VRANITZKY,
<i>Former Federal Chancellor of the Republic of Austria</i> | 41 | Imprint |



AACC 25TH ANNIVERSARY FEDERAL PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA



Dr. Heinz FISCHER
*Federal President
of the Republic of Austria*

Dr. Heinz FISCHER

The year 2014 is an important date for the Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce (AACC), as it celebrates its silver anniversary.

Since its foundation, in March 1989, the Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce has continuously strived to promote and strengthen the relations and ties between the Republic of Austria and the Arab countries, not only in the field of business and trade but also in culture and science.

Today, 25 years later, the Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce can boast numerous successes as a result of mutual visits of high-ranking business delegations, substantially strengthening our economic relations.

The AACC also played a supportive role in establishing the Austrian Embassy and Trade Department in Doha, Qatar.

I was able to be present at the opening in December 2011.

It is a fact that Austria was one of the first European countries to strengthen its relations to the Arab world and many Austrian statesmen established close ties. A look at the steadily growing trade volumes between Austria and the Arab countries and our increasing cooperation in many other aspects of life proves that we are on the right path, and I am confident that the dedicated work and support of the Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce will continue to enhance

our good relations also in the future to the benefit of us all. On behalf of the Republic of Austria I would like to congratulate the Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce on its 25th anniversary and extend my best wishes for another 25 years of ongoing success.

AACC 25TH ANNIVERSARY LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES



Dr. Nabil EL-ARABI
*Secretary General
of the League of Arab States*

Dr. Nabil EL-ARABI

On the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce, I have the pleasure, on behalf of the League of Arab States, to congratulate the President, the Vice-Presidents, the Secretary General and all the staff of the Chamber: The close cooperation and the coordination between the Arab Embassies in Vienna and the General Union of the Arab Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, made it possible for the Chamber to develop its work and improve the quality of its services for the benefit for both the Arab States and Austria. In the seventies Chancellor Dr. Bruno

Kreisky laid the foundations for enhancing economic and commercial relations between Austria and the Arab countries. In this context it is only appropriate to express sincere appreciation for the dedicated and selfless efforts of Kommerzialrat Mr. Nabil Kuzbari, the spiritual father of the Chamber. It was upon his initiative and, in cooperation with the Council of Arab Ambassadors in Vienna at that time, that this Chamber was established.

The past twenty-five years the Chamber introduced to the business community on both sides

the potential benefits of commercial, financial and investment ties between the Arab countries and Austria. It also introduced to both sides the commercial rules and regulations regarding export and import as well as investment opportunities in every single Arab country. Moreover, the Chamber played a leading role in organizing seminars, forums, visits and conferences between Austrian and Arab delegations with the aim of encouraging trade, tourism, transfer of technology, promotion of exhibitions and tenders that take place in the Arab countries; all these activities aimed at opening

windows to the Arab countries and their different products.

The 25th anniversary of the Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce is an important event that manifests the existing strong relations between Austria and the Arab countries, not only on the commercial and economical levels, but also on the political, cultural and social levels. It is also an occasion to look forward to further consolidating these ties in all fields.





AACC 25TH ANNIVERSARY STATEMENT FROM THE AUSTRO-ARAB CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (AACC)



President Senator Dr. Richard SCHENZ, Vice-President & Founder KommR. Nabil R. KUZBARI and Secretary General Dipl.-Ing. Mouddar KHOUJA

The Arab region has brought forth the world's oldest cultures: From Mesopotamia – widely considered the cradle of civilisation; to ancient Egypt, which owed its well-known success to its advantageous location along the Nile River valley; to Carthage, a sparkling star in the Mediterranean.

The Kingdom of Saba in Yemen invented the world's oldest irrigation systems, the Kingdom of Morocco is the oldest monarchy in the world and the mesmerizing scents of Arab spices were carried around the world on the ocean routes from Oman. The Arab region is also where the three monotheistic religions emerged. Today, Arab countries pride themselves on these ancient treasures of culture

and civilisation, and offer the world fascinating tourist destinations. Moreover 30 per cent of the world-wide crude oil and natural gas reserves have provided a solid base for the development of infrastructure, furthering international investments and cooperation.

Austria, situated between the stunning Alps and the beautiful Danube River, home to scientists, composers, writers and poets, can proudly look back on a centuries-long tradition of continuous interaction with various cultures. The country's economic and technical development in combination with exceptional innovations in many fields of life has contributed to Austria's exemplary

global reputation. In 2013 Austria's GDP per capita amounted to 42.500 USD, ranking Austria 21st among the wealthiest countries in the world.

The Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce is celebrating a quarter century since its foundation in 1989 and takes pride in the services it provides, supporting relations between Arab countries and Austria, both in economy and trade, as well as culture and science.

For the last 25 years the Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce has acted as a bridge builder and provider of valuable networking opportunities between Austria and Arab countries. The Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce operates under the umbrella of the

General Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture for Arab Countries (GUCCIAAC) and the League of Arab States. 2013 showed extraordinary trade volume figures never seen before in the history of trade between Austria and the Arab world, amounting to approximately 6.7 billion US Dollars. The Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce is proud of being an active contributor to this success in cooperation with the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber (WKO).

We are looking forward to being able to continue to provide our services to further intensify the good cooperation between Austria and the Arab countries for many years to come.



Senator Dr. Richard SCHENZ
President of the AACC



KommR. Nabil KUZBARI
Vice-President & Founder of the AACC



DI Mouddar KHOUJA
Secretary General of the AACC



AACC 25TH ANNIVERSARY FEDERAL CHANCELLOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA

Mr. Werner FAYMANN

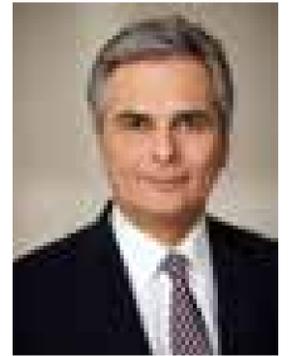
Austria and the Arab world can look back on a long tradition of mutual relations. Already for the former Chancellor Bruno Kreisky the strengthening of political, cultural and economic contacts was a special concern. The establishment of the Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce 25 years ago was an important initiative for building common networks.

The Arab region offers an enormous export potential to Austrian

entrepreneurs. Austria offers Arab investors a business location with a highly developed infrastructure and well-trained staff. Our country is also a favourite tourist attraction for visitors from the Arab world. Cultural interaction and cooperation in science and research are of considerable relevance to us.

Especially in times of economic and political challenges the existence of a solid basis of international relations is of advantage. I

also consider it one of Austria's responsibilities to support the establishment of mutual relations by providing a neutral venue for international dialogue. The Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce has made a valuable contribution to Austria's position as a central place of encounter. I wish you every success in your future endeavours to enhance the relations between Austria and the Arab world!



Werner FAYMANN
*Federal Chancellor of
the Republic of Austria*



AACC 25TH ANNIVERSARY VICE-CHANCELLOR & MINISTER OF FINANCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA

Dr. Michael SPINDELEGGER

Ladies and gentlemen, friends and fellow supporters of Austro-Arab relations,

The Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. In these times of rapid change and volatility, the Chamber's active involvement in promoting commercial relations and friendship for a quarter of a century deserves our particular respect and high regard. With these remarks, I wish to pass on my appreciation and best wishes on the occasion of the Chamber's anniversary.

As a result of the cooperative efforts of its Austrian and the Arab members, and the mutual respect and appreciation for both cultures which the AACC embodies, this organisation has enjoyed success after success in imparting values, promoting cross-cultural relations and achieving concrete mutual goals. This commemorative publication, appearing on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce, is a manifestation of and a testimony to this success story.

I would like to extend my highest

congratulations to the Chamber of Commerce and all of its members and staff on this special anniversary and wish them every success going forward.

Yours Sincerely



Dr. Michael SPINDELEGGER
*Vice-Chancellor and
Minister of Finance of
the Republic of Austria*



AACC 25TH ANNIVERSARY
MAYOR AND GOVERNOR OF VIENNA
StaDt  Wien



Dr. Michael HÄUPL
Mayor and
Governor of Vienna

Dr. Michael HÄUPL

Vienna enjoys an excellent reputation as a city of international dialogue, having promoted cooperation and joint initiatives for decades. As a UN city we regard it as our duty and mission to help maintain and intensify international contacts.

In my capacity as Mayor of this cosmopolitan, internationally-minded city, Vienna's relations to other countries are of special importance to me. I therefore take particular pleasure in congratulating the AACC on its 25th an-

niversary, and in expressing my gratitude for our good partnership. The AACC has served as a key link between Austria and the Arab countries over the past 25 years. It is always gratifying for me to see that business partners from the Arab world feel welcome in Vienna and, in addition to making major business contacts here, take home memories and inspiration from experiencing art and culture in Vienna.

I am firmly convinced that Vienna and Austria as well as the Arab

world stand to profit from their intensive mutual cooperation, in which the AACC is known to play an indispensable role. Let me thank all those who actively contribute to the work of the AACC, and wish you the best of success for the future.

AACC 25TH ANNIVERSARY

THE HONORARY PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL UNION
OF CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY
AND AGRICULTURE FOR THE ARAB COUNTRIES



Mr. Adnan KASSAR

I extend my best wishes for the 25th anniversary of the Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce, an organization representing the Austro private sector which has effectively promoted Austria's ties to the Arab world thus largely contributing to Austria's economic prosperity and development.

We, at the General Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture for the Arab countries, pride ourselves with the excellent relations with the Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce, to productively promote the Austro-Arab economic, investment and trade relations.

We congratulate the Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce on this special occasion and commend the excellent visionary leadership of this

distinguished Chamber.

We all recognize the important work and personal dedication of our esteemed friend, Mr. Nabil Kuzbari, who spares no effort to see the development of this Chamber and the strengthening of Austro-Arab relations. Mr. Kuzbari's great involvement since the establishment of this joint chamber and his continued collaboration with our General Union to resolve any issues, ensured its success and growth.

The Austro Arab trade and investment relations have proven their importance to both the Austrian and the Arab markets. The ties also established closer cultural, social and scientific relations.

Austrian and Arab private sectors saw enormous benefits derived

from closer Arab and Austrian relations, given the outstanding shift in trade, business and investment exchanges between both sides. The AACC, under the umbrella, and with the support of the General Union of Arab Chambers, strengthened and diversified economic, trade and investment relations. We saw the current exchange more than quadruple, and the trade volume between Austria and the Arab countries reaches 5 billion Euros in 2012, as compared to 1.2 billion Euros in 1990.

The Joint Chamber has succeeded in proving itself as an important link in strengthening and widening trade and cultural interactions between Austria and the Arab world. It has also proved its capabilities and abilities to be an active player in the economic field on both the

Arab and Austrian sides, given the high patronage, attention, and ultimate guidance of Mr. Kuzbari, whom I highly value, and the efforts of the Chamber's Presidents and Secretary Generals, whose efforts deserve high praise and appreciation. I would like to recognize the distinguished efforts of current President Senator Richard Schenz, and the Secretary General Mr. Mouddar Khouja.

Moreover, the General Union has always played an important role in promoting economic cooperation among Arab countries, which certainly stimulates investment and trade relations between the Arab economies on the one hand, and the Arab and international business communities, such as the Austrian business community, on the other hand.

AACC 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HONORARY PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL UNION
OF CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY
AND AGRICULTURE FOR THE ARAB COUNTRIES



Mr. Adnan KASSAR

I would like to put on record, on a personal level, that Austria is very dear to my heart. I always recall the memorable and wonderful times spent in Vienna, especially when I was awarded in 2009 by the Former President of the Chamber Dr. Herbert Stepic, and in 2013 when I was nominated, in Vienna, by the Union of Arab Banks as the "Arab Banker of the year 2012-2013". I was delighted by the warm reception that I was given by Former President Thomas Klestil in 1999 and the current President Dr. Heinz Fisher in 2013.

I have always been pleased to travel to Austria as I greatly appreciate this country, and I have always seen it as one of the most glamorous and attractive countries in the world. Austria has great comparative advantages based on

a well-developed market economy that features a large services sector, a sound industrial sector and a highly developed agricultural sector. It is also worth mentioning the special human capital that Austria enjoys, who are highly educated and well-known as honest and professional. That is why I have always considered this country as an attractive destination for investments and business for the Arab private sector. I have thus ensured the presence of high-level business delegations joining me in my repeated visits to Vienna.

On the other hand, our Arab region is also an attractive investment hub, in many sectors, including tourism, banking, industry, health, education, arts amongst others, where the Austrian businessmen can benefit from pursuing the pre-

sented investment opportunities. Additionally, many Arab countries have witnessed large development projects in infrastructure and important reforms including in investment laws to better correspond to global changes. Partnerships with the Arab region would give the Austrian private sector the opportunity to enter into a custom-free market of over 22 countries with more than 320 million consumers.

All these efforts were made to encourage reciprocal investment flows in both directions and bring unlimited benefits for both parties. However, I believe that there are more opportunities that still exist and the synergies are obvious. We still have more capabilities and resources that can be utilized by our private sectors. Our challenge is to bundle these available op-

portunities and resources with the synergies through promoting these opportunities in the Chamber's upcoming economic events. This could help us build on the excellent historic and ongoing friendly relations that we share, to further stimulate economic, trade and investment relations between the Arab region and Austria.

I allow myself to wish a continued improvement and development of our relations, and to express my thanks and congratulations on the occasion of the AACC's 25th anniversary.

We wish the Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce, its leaders and members, many more years of success, prosperity and peace.



*Mr. Adnan KASSAR
Honorary President of
the General Union
of Arab Chambers*



AACC 25TH ANNIVERSARY

FEDERAL MINISTER OF SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND ECONOMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA



Dr. Reinhold MITTERLEHNER
*Federal Minister of Science,
Research and Economy of the
Republic of Austria*

Dr. Reinhold MITTERLEHNER

The Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce (AACC) continues to play a significant role in facilitating trade activities between Arab and Austrian investors. Especially in today's globalised world it is more important than ever to rely on strong, historic and well established economic ties that are based on mutual trust, appreciation and respect in order to guarantee successful trade and business.

It's quite remarkable that since the AACC was established in 1989, Austria's trade with the Arab world almost quadrupled - rising from then 1.3 billion Euro to 4.9 billion Euro in 2013. Given the growing number of business opportunities, the Austrian economy is very much

looking forward to pursue this trend in the future.

I would also like to underline the importance of comprehensive technology and knowledge transfer including the fields of transportation, science and innovation as well as research which can and should be of mutual advantage and benefit for every involved stakeholder.

For the future, I am confident that investors from the Arab world will continue to appreciate Austria as a prime business location, given our highly skilled and qualified manpower, an excellent standard of living, tax advantages, political stability and security as well as a highly developed infrastructure.

In my capacity as Minister of Tourism I am also honored to witness the rising number of guests from the Arab countries who visit Austria in order to experience our historic heritage and culture, stunning nature as well as tourism sites. I hope that the AACC continues to serve as our experienced guide and trusted travel companion.

Finally, please allow me to take this opportunity to thank the AACC for its remarkable work in the past wish and all its members a wonderful anniversary as well as many successful years for its future work and challenges.



AACC 25TH ANNIVERSARY FORMER FEDERAL CHANCELLOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA



Dr. Franz VRANITZKY
*Former Federal Chancellor
of the Republic of Austria*

Dr. Franz VRANITZKY

On the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Austro Arab Chamber of Commerce I have the pleasure to congratulate the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary General and all the staff of the Chamber on their excellent work.

Late Chancellor Bruno Kreisky laid the foundations for the improvement of economic and commercial relations between Austria and the Arab countries in the 1970s. Since then the relations and connections between the Arab World and Austria - not only in the political field- but also in economics and culture as well as in all the

other areas of common activities and possibilities were intensified and deepened.

Under my chancellorship I had numerous opportunities to participate in outstanding events and meet personalities from different countries and professional backgrounds.

In this context it is important to express our gratitude for the sincere efforts of Commercial Counselor Mr. Nabil Kuzbari who is considered to be the spiritual father of the Chamber. It was upon his initiative and in cooperation with the Council of Arab Ambas-

sadors in Vienna at that time that this Chamber was established and could flourish in the last decades. Many activities showcased the potential prospects of trade and investment in the Arab countries by introducing Austrian businesses and company heads to the economic capacities of the region.

In addition, the Chamber played a crucial role in organizing seminars, visits between Austrian and Arab delegations to encourage trade, tourism, exchange of technology and promotion of cultural activities in various Arab countries aimed at opening windows and to create durable relationship.

Through its humanitarian engagement the AACC contributed to aid victims of war and to relieve consequences of natural disasters in the region.

Celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce is a highly important event to strengthen the existing amicable ties between Austria and the Arab countries, backed by a long history of cooperation and understanding.

In this sense allow me to express my gratitude and best wishes for the years to come.

AACC 25TH ANNIVERSARY

DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE OPEC FUND FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (OFID)



Mr. Suleiman AL-HERBISH

OFID is proud to enjoy longstanding and deep relations with its many Arab partner countries and over the years has worked hand-in-hand with them to foster their socio-economic development.

In 2008, OFID launched its Energy for the Poor initiative to address the urgent issue of energy access in developing countries. Many Arab nations have already benefited from this program, which

favors both traditional and renewable power sources. As OFID continues to work closely with its wide cooperation network to deliver tailor-made energy solutions, our approach has broadened to include the closely related challenges of food and water security. Here too, our Arab partners are at the forefront of our activities.

We wish to congratulate AACC for its excellent work and ongoing

ing efforts towards strengthening relations between Austria and the Arab countries. OFID is indeed privileged to be a partner in this valuable endeavor.



Mr. Suleiman AL-HERBISH
*Director General of
the OPEC Fund for
Int. Development (OFID)*





AACC 25TH ANNIVERSARY PRESIDENT OF THE AUSTRIAN FEDERAL ECONOMIC CHAMBER



Strong ties between the Arab World and Austria – 25 years of successful partnership

Dr. Christoph LEITL

The 7th ARAB-AUSTRIAN ECONOMIC FORUM marks the 25th anniversary of the Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce. From its earliest beginnings the Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce was able to build upon the existing, strong ties between Austria and the Arab Countries. These ties constitute evidence of the deep-rooted, mutual understanding between Austria and the Middle East. Precisely these ties have allowed our countries to benefit so strongly from one another. Our economies are well inter-connected and, as recent data shows,

our economic relations are continuously growing.

The Austrian Federal Economic Chamber has always placed a strong emphasis on the Arab Region. Hence, our early decision to establish a network of local offices in the Middle East. By connecting people, businesses, thoughts and ideas we were able to intensify our ties even further. As an important link within this network, the Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce has always proved to be a valuable partner – both for us and

for Austrian companies. Thus, their activities foster ties between decision makers in the Arab Region and in Austria. Moreover, Austria's visibility in the entire region is being strengthened.

I would like to take this opportunity and express my heartfelt gratitude for your achievements. I convey to you my best wishes and my sincere congratulations on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce.



Dr. Christoph LEITL
*President of the
Austrian Federal
Economic Chamber
WKO*



OeSD

Österreichische Staatsdruckerei

Wir vereinen Tradition mit Technologie zu Ihrer Sicherheit.
Uniting Tradition with Technology for your Security.

PASSEPORT DIPLOMATIQUE



Reisepässe der neuesten Generation sind heute Sicherheitspässe mit integrierter Chiptechnologie. Made by OeSD erfüllen sie die Vorgaben und Sicherheitsstandards der ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization) und der Europäischen Union. Persönliche Daten sowie das Passfoto in digitaler Form werden beim neuen Sicherheitspass zusätzlich auf einem kontaktlosen Chip gespeichert. Sicherheitspässe made by OeSD erfüllen damit ein Höchstmaß an Fälschungssicherheit.

Today's state-of-the-art passports are ePassports with integrated chip technology. Made by OeSD, they comply with all requirements and security standards of the ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization) and the European Union. Additionally, personal data and a digitized passport photo are stored on a contactless chip in the new ePassport. ePassports made by OeSD thus provide a very high degree of forgery protection.

www.staatsdruckerei.at

AACC 25TH ANNIVERSARY VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE AACC & DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE AUSTRIAN STATE PRINTING HOUSE



Prof. Reinhart GAUSTERER

Since its foundation in 1989, the Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce has acted as a bridge builder between Austria and the Arab countries not only in matters of trade, but also of culture, education and many more. The Austrian State Printing House has been a member of the Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce since many years and highly appreciates this special cooperation. In the course of the past few years we received numerous Arab delegations – organised of course by the Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce – eager to gain insight into the procedures related to the production of our high security documents, a field in which the Austrian State

Printing House can proudly look back on 200-year-long experience and professionalism. The Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce is our key partner and door-opener for business activities in and with the Arab region with its excellent contact network to local authorities, ministries and key decision-makers, and its understanding and intercultural knowledge of Arab culture and people. It therefore makes me proud of being elected Vice President of the Chamber, a respectable position which I have held up from 2010 to the present day. The mere fact that today we celebrate the Chamber's silver anniversary is proof enough that it has been very successful in

its business and I firmly believe that it will be able to continue its important and highly successful activities in the future. The Arab countries definitely have great potential for cooperation projects in diverse business fields, which can clearly be seen in the highly promising trade volume figures. Therefore it is essential to continue working on the relations between Austria and the Arab countries and to support the Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce in doing so. I would like to congratulate the Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce on its 25th anniversary and wish it all the best for the years to come.



Prof. Reinhart GAUSTERER
*Vice-President of the AACC
& Director General
of the Austrian State
Printing House*



AACC 25TH ANNIVERSARY VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE AACC & CEO HAFEZ GROUP



Mr. Henry HAFEZ
Vice-President of the AACC &
CEO Hafez Group

Mr. Henry HAFEZ

I am honored to herald the Silver Jubilee of the AACC.

Gratefully nominated in representing, since over a decade, the Lebanese Federation of Chambers of Commerce, on the board of AACC, after which I was privileged to be elected as Vice President since 2007.

Along those years, I have witnessed the exponential growth of the Chamber and its active role promoting economical, commercial and business bilateral relations between Austria, Middle East, Gulf and North African economical and industrial sectors.

AACC played a pioneer role and has committed itself to offer facilitation in trade, information, and technological knowhow and needs.

Chancellor Dr. B. Kreisky and President Dr. K. Waldheim led the way and opportunities of Austria towards the Arab world, in merging cultures and supporting diversity.

I convey my gratitude to their contribution in the establishment of the AACC with our esteemed founder members:

H.E. Chairman A. Kassar, jointly with our Kommerzialrat V.P. N. Kuzbari, as well as, to all those who participated in this expansion.

I invite interested parties to join us in this effort on the path of development, better future and the way to a common and joint success.



AACC 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HONORARY PRESIDENT OF THE AACC
& SENIOR ADVISOR TO THE BOARD,
RAIFFEISEN BANK INTERNATIONAL



Dr. Herbert STEPIC
*Honorary President of the
AACC & Senior Advisor
to the Board, Raiffeisen
Bank International*

Dr. Herbert STEPIC

We established the Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce out of the desire to become an active link between the Arab World and Austria. I considered it a big honor and privilege to serve the Chamber as its President for about 10 years, especially because I spent the first 10 years of my career predominantly in North Africa, the Middle East and the Gulf Countries. Besides business and trade we were

always aiming at covering culture, social work, know-how transfer and human relations. From my view, the development of human relations is still a key function of the organization, particular in times of enormous change processes happening in emerging markets and in particular in the Arab World. I am absolutely convinced that the Austro-Arab Chamber will make a valuable contribution to

developing these human relations also in the next 25 years and continue to fulfill its other tasks with equal success as it did in the past quarter of a century.

Your Partners for Paper and Board Across the Middle East & North Africa



GLOBAL HEAD QUARTERS

VIMPEX Handelsgesellschaft m. b. H.
Kärntner Ring 4, A-1010 Vienna, Austria
Tel +43-1-50151-0 Fax +43-1-501511
E-mail: vimpex@vimpex.at www.vimpex.at

MEMBER OF THE KUZBARI GROUP

AACC 25TH ANNIVERSARY VIMPEX



VIMPEX Vienna

Vimpex Vienna is the headquarters of a group of paper trading companies and converting operations based in the Middle East. The group is the market leader for paper and board in the entire Middle East with sales of 600,000 tons per year and 250 employees. Mr. Nabil R. Kuzbari, President of Vimpex, is the third generation of his family in the paper business and his sons, Oussama and Louai, are Executive Vice Presidents. There are 16 member companies of this group, including distributors, converters and supporting companies with a total warehousing capacity of 105,000 m. Combined, this

provides optimal market coverage with highly trained personnel.

TRADING COMPANIES AND CONVERTING OPERATIONS

Trading offices and converting plants are located in Syria, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia (3), Dubai (2), Egypt, Libya and Algeria. All have their own modern warehousing and logistics facilities to enable daily deliveries to the customers.

SUPPORTING OFFICES

Group supporting offices are located in the major paper producing areas of the world: Vimpex North America in Ontario, Canada,

Vimpex Germany in Hamburg, Vimpex Brasil in Sao Paulo, Brazil and Vimpex China in Shanghai, China.

The group's greatest asset is the long-term personal relations with its customers and suppliers. All members of the group have a commitment to excellence and a common goal: To satisfy the customers' needs today, tomorrow and in the future.

AACC 25TH ANNIVERSARY
CEO STRABAG SE
STRABAG



Dr. Thomas BIRTEL
CEO STRABAG SE

Dr. Thomas BIRTEL

As a leading technology group for construction services, STRABAG SE possesses a high level of technical expertise in the building of real estate, roads and other infrastructure. It is this expertise, alongside the openness of the Middle East, to which we owe our success in the Arab region. Our work is guided by respect and brings together national and international know-how. Specialty construction services are becoming increasingly interesting for both sides – it is an area of expertise that is se-

curing us a strong position on the growing Arab market.

I want to thank the AACC for helping to pave the way for more intense cooperation between Europe and the Arab world. I see this not only as an economical decision but also as a sign of closer ties between the two cultures. We want to continue to build this intercultural bridge and look forward to doing so in close dialogue with the AACC, which has been doing an excellent job for 25 years. For this

reason, I am offering my heartfelt congratulations in conjunction with these words of encouragement: “Keep up the good work!”



THE AACC THANKS ALL SPONSORS, EXHIBITORS & PROMOTION PARTNERS



IMPRINT

Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce (AACC)
Österreichisch-Arabische Handelskammer
مخزفة التجارة العربية النمساوية

Lobkowitzplatz 1 / 15, 1015 Vienna - AUSTRIA
P.O. Box/Postfach: No. 76

T: +43 1 513 3965
F: +43 1 513 8559

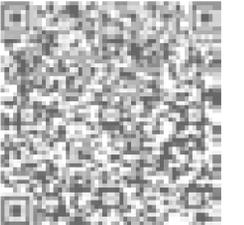
headoffice@aacc.at
www.aacc.at

Facebook Arabic: www.facebook.com/AACC.Arab
Facebook English: www.facebook.com/AACC.Eng

Design & Layout
YSolutions, Daniel Liscio

Copyrights
Pertramer (p7)
www.alamatonline.net (p9)
BKA / Ernst Kainerstorfer (p13)
Christian Jungwirth (p15)
Stadt Wien/PID, Fotograf Hubert Dimko (p17)
Petra Spiola (p23)
Abdullah Alipour Jeddi (p25)
Kurt Keinrath (p33, p37)

Printed by
Druckerei Hermagoras,
Viktringer Ring 26, 9020 Klagenfurt



AACC

مخبرفة التجارة العربفة المصفاوفة

Österreichisch-Arabische Handelskammer
Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce (AACC)

Lobkowitzplatz 1/ 15, P.O. Box 76,

1010 Vienna - AUSTRIA

Tel.: +43 (0)1 - 513 39 65-0

Fax: +43 (0)1 - 513 85 59

E-Mail: headoffice@aacc.at

Website: www.aacc.at

 [AACC.Arab](#) | [AACC.Eng](#)

