



TRANSITION TO TRANSITION (T2T) INITIATIVE

“Stimulating Growth and Investment During Transition”

Cairo, 24 October 2011

REPORT

Organised by the EBRD Office of the Chief Economist

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INTRODUCTION

On the 24 October, 2011, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in association with the Federation of Egyptian Industries (FEI) and the Egyptian Junior Business Association (EJB) organized the 'Stimulating Growth and Investment During Transition' event to promote the sharing of reform experiences between public and private sector experts from Egypt and Central and Eastern Europe. The event was the first in a series of events under the Transition to Transition (T2T) Initiative¹. Taking place at the Intercontinental Cairo Citystars Hotel, the event (sponsored by The Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation of Egypt (MOPIC)) was attended by prominent public and private sector representatives with attendees such as **Fayza Abounaga**, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation of Egypt, **Jan Krzysztof Bielecki**, Former Prime Minister of Poland, **Jan Fischer**, Former Prime Minister of the Czech Republic and current EBRD Vice President, **Ahmed Galal**, Executive Director of the Economic Research Forum (ERF), **Galal Zorba**, Chairman of FEI, **Omar Sabbour**, Chairman of EJB, **Erik Berglof**, EBRD Chief Economist, **Magda Kandil**, Executive Director of The Egyptian Centre for Economic Studies (ECES) amongst many others.

OPENING PLENARY

Understanding the Economic Challenges Facing Egypt in Transition and Reform Insights from Central and Eastern Europe

The opening plenary titled 'Understanding the Economic Challenges facing Egypt in Transition and Reform Insights from Central and Eastern Europe' attempted to provide an answer to the crucial question of how Egypt will emerge from the current transition period. Moderated by Jonathan Charles, Director of Communications at EBRD, each of the panelists presented their viewpoint on the necessary private and public sector reforms needed in this time of transition.

Minister Fayza Abounaga was first invited to share her point of view on the above issue. She began by highlighting that Egypt is going through 'the most crucial period in its history' as the country experiences many severe economic challenges. The national income was severely hit as the tourism industry suffered dramatically with 70% of employment contracts terminated so far. Before the uprisings of the 25th of January, Egypt's balance of payments amounted to \$36 billion but the country has been losing \$3 billion on a monthly basis since January. Today, the balance of payments has declined to \$24.56 billion negatively impacting the country's net reserves. In order to pave the way for Egypt's transition, two battles should be fought in sync; that of combining political stability with renewed economic growth, incorporating social justice as a fundamental pre-condition for success. Although major milestones have been achieved on the political front with the announcement of the

¹ The Transition-to-Transition (T2T) Initiative is a framework within which the EBRD can facilitate and exploit a "peer-to-peer" exchange of transition and reform experience between the Bank's current countries of operations and countries of the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean region. A detailed description of the Initiative can be found in the Annex.

parliamentary and presidential election roadmap, Egypt cannot emerge as a successful model of transition without incorporating, within its political agenda, socio-economic reforms. What ignited the revolts of the 25th of January was the people's demand for an inclusive model of growth that would promote above all social justice. She recommended that in order to absorb the considerable rate of unemployment amongst the youth, a national project should be put in place. She suggested moving forward with the national housing unit project that aims at building one million units of houses over a period of five years. This project would help promote labour intensive industries and would address many strategic economic challenges facing the country such as unemployment and the shortage of affordable housing units for the youth.

Ahmed Galal, Executive Director of the ERF, began his opening remarks by stressing Egypt's positive economic attributes. The country's economy is large and diversified with one the world's youngest and most dynamic populations. However, what is lacking in Egypt is a vision for the future as well as a reform plan that would articulate this vision clearly. The second challenge he pointed out was how the interim government should manage the current period of economic instability. He suggested that the government should not be making crucial economic decisions difficult to reverse in the future and must turn to foreign financial assistance immediately as relying on internal borrowing has and will only incur further negative pressure on business activities. The third challenge he discussed was how to revive the private sector that was severely hit since the 25th of January. The private sector is currently operating on the defensive mode having been severely criticized by the people and with a number of infamous businessmen being pursued by the law. There needs to be a government-led campaign that differentiates between 'good capitalism' and 'bad capitalism' in order to revive the recognition amongst the people of the importance of encouraging private sector activities in the economy and also to attract foreign investors once again in Egypt.

Sherif El Gably, Deputy Chairman of FEI, stressed that Egypt had been doing well on the macro-level over the past five years achieving rates of growth as high as 7%. Egypt is naturally endowed with a plethora of natural resources and fertile agricultural land making the country's potential for an even higher growth rate very probable. However, the missing brick in the country's economic success which eventually ignited the 25th of January uprising was the inequitable distribution of growth. As the trickling down of economic prosperity failed to reach the largest unprivileged portions of the society, a revolution against the past regime was inevitable. In order to revive the economy to its past levels of prosperity, there needs to be a new transparent and accountable government that promotes strict governance amongst the public and private sectors in order for business activities to pick up and capital flows to enter the Egyptian economy once again.

Omar Sabbour, Chairman of the EJB, argued that there is, without a doubt, hope and potential for economic growth in the medium and long-term prospect in Egypt. Sabbour's primary concern was that many of the key elements that would affect the country's performance in the future are the decisions and actions taken by the interim government. Entrepreneurship needs to be supported immediately. Creating an ecosystem that would provide abundant technical assistance, financial support and mentorship are key attributes necessary to build an environment to help entrepreneurs grow. He applauded EBRD's commitment to invest in Egypt.

Jan Krzysztof Bielecki, Former Prime Minister of Poland, proudly shared his country's successful economic transition experience. He stressed that a key factor for Poland's success

was its commitment to meet the requirements needed to enter the European Union and NATO. He disagreed with the Egyptian government's decision not to seek the financial assistance of the International Monetary Fund arguing that the institution has become much more flexible and less dogmatic than it was in the past and could very successfully articulate a model of transition that would balance growth with fiscal stability. EBRD is uniquely positioned to help Egypt through this economic and political transition period as it benefits from its past experiences and work in Central and Eastern Europe and Turkey. EBRD would be a valuable contributor to designing a model of economic and political transition. He highlighted the need for economic and political reforms to go hand-in-hand and not be thought of as mutually exclusive items on the government's agenda. Reconciliation amongst the people and a fair and honest assessment of the past by the government are pre-conditions to ensure the country moves forward.

Jan Fisher, Former Prime Minister of the Czech Republic and current EBRD Vice President, pointed out that transition is a 'complex issue' coupled with the inevitable intertwining of politics and economics. He stressed the importance of setting up a civil society that would stimulate positive thinking and behaviour amongst the people. The importance of encouraging the establishment and promotion of small and medium enterprises is crucial as it would help develop a robust and strong middle class. He concluded by reiterating the engagement of EBRD in Egypt during the transition period. He continued saying that EBRD will opt for 'on the ground initiative' in Egypt working directly with Egyptian authorities as well as the private sector in this extremely strategic moment in Egypt's history.

The opening plenary was highly fruitful as it laid out the principal challenges facing Egypt by some of the country's most knowledgeable economic and political practitioners both in the public and private sectors. In addition, the knowledge sharing of the transition experience in Central and Eastern Europe of the EBRD by Jan Krzysztof Bielecki and Jan Fischer was instrumental in providing practical solutions to the many challenges raised by the Egyptian panelists.

PARALLEL WORKING SESSIONS

Session 1: Promoting Growth and Employment through Development of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)

This session was chaired by Magda Kandil, Executive Director of the Egyptian Center for Economic Studies (ECES). The session brought together a large group of Egyptian stakeholders including local and foreign-owned banks, SMEs, representatives from the Central Bank of Egypt and the General Authority for Investment, as well as representatives from two banks from EBRD's existing region: Ramona Ivan from Banca Comerciala Romana (BCR) and Marcello Sala from Intesa Sanpaolo and representation from the EBRD Banking team, the Office of the Chief Economist (OCE), the Legal Transition team, TAM-BAS and the Office of the Co-financing Unit (OCU).

The discussion focused on the challenges faced by SMEs in obtaining access to finance and what needs to be done to improve this. The conversation covered a range of topics from the banks' SME lending skills, to ways of improving SMEs' business skills, to the role that information technology could play in dissipating knowledge among SMEs. Participants raised concerns over the lack of information available to SMEs. The need for additional means of funding through intermediaries such as venture capital funds was also discussed.

On an institutional level, participants addressed the issue of the Government's role in this area and its industrial policy to legal barriers such as bankruptcy and collateral laws. In addition, participants discussed the need for an improved environment for private equity and venture capital funds.

The session left an impression that in Egypt there is not one or two key issues, but rather a much broader set of obstacles and array of potential solutions that participants thought would be beneficial.

In terms of EBRD operational objectives, this discussion suggested that the Bank could use tools used in the old region to try and refine banks' MSME lending practices. In order to do this, however, each given bank will require a strong commitment from the top management, which currently seems to be missing.

Recommendations:

- Banks should adopt a more focused approach to SME lending. For example, they need dedicated departments (possibly even dedicated SME branches) and more tailored SME and MSE credit practices. At the moment, Egyptian banks seem to be approaching SMEs as small corporates, often without adopting specific credit practices and appropriate internal incentive structures. There was also some support for establishing an SME-focused bank, although that seems to be a reaction to inability of commercial banks to do SME lending properly rather than a genuine belief that that is the best way to resolve the problem.
- The creation of an internet portal that would provide information to SMEs.
- Participants saw a need for credit guarantees, improved environment for private equity and venture capital funds, such as tax credits, and better coordination between the IFIs currently active in the country.
- On the institutional level, discussants saw a need to create a more structured representation for SMEs, such as an SME council and a formal forum for discussions on improving access to finance for SMEs. These advisory councils would involve SMEs, banks and IFIs.
- There was also a call for more favorable tax incentives for SMEs, and indeed a broader industrial policy. The potential industrial policy that was agreed upon would enable the government to choose sectors with particular upstream and downstream linkages, and then to use limited resources available to facilitate growth in these sectors by providing guarantees and tax incentives. There was talk of geographical clusters.
- Reform in legal barriers such as bankruptcy and collateral laws to provide a better basis for SME lending.
- The establishment of a common size definition of MSEs and SMEs among banks and policymakers.

Session Two: Investing in Food Security: Finding Opportunities in Constraints

This session was chaired by Tarek Tawfik, Chairman of Egyptian Agriculture Competitiveness Council and the CEO of the Cairo Poultry Group. There were about 20 participants in the session from the local business community, government and civil society. Milan Djakov,

Director from the Indemnity Fund, Serbia participated in the session from the old EBRD region.

The discussion addressed many issues ranging from the wastage of perishable crops to the need for developing the retail sector to the need for R&D in the agriculture sector. Wastage of perishable crops due to underdeveloped supply chain facilities, including proper storage, transport and packaging was one of the main issues raised.

The discussion also addressed many potential areas for investment in irrigation and agriculture, as well as the need for more investment attention in the regions outside of Cairo, especially for water security and irrigation in the delta region.

On the institutional level, there was discussion on property rights and the allocation of land to investors. There was also discussion on the length and complexity of procedures to register land. These are potential areas for policy dialogue between EBRD and the future government.

Many participants asked EBRD staff about specific financing conditions and policy dialogue experiences, highlighting the fact that they are used to subsidised lending from other institutions.

Recommendations:

- The development of the modern retail sector is an important issue to drive the development of the supply chain, and to improve food quality and hygiene. The retail sector is underdeveloped, with only 2-3 supermarket chains, the largest of which has close to 30 stores, the others less than 10 stores each.
- Investment in R&D to increase farming productivity is important, including research facilities to produce high quality seeds to match Egyptian conditions.
- Better organization and consolidation of farmers to increase productivity and efficiency.
- More attention is needed in Upper/South Egypt for investment in logistics and agribusiness infrastructure.
- Investments are needed in the following areas: development of milk and grains collection centers, grain processing, silos for smaller farms, cultivation and processing of tomatoes, as well as in irrigation in the Delta region (the agriculture heartland in the north of Egypt).
- Disposal and recycling of waste is a key issue. Farmers have been burning the waste of rice over the past few years, creating major pollution problems in Cairo.
- Milan Djakov's presentation on WHR financing and the holistic approach this entails (involving private grain producers, banks and the Ministry of Agriculture to provide the legal, institutional framework as well as financial support to get the process started) was very well received and both the moderator as well as several other experts commented that this would be a very good idea for Egypt
- The lack of an operational fertiliser industry constraints the efficient production and increases vulnerability to oil price fluctuations. Egypt exports nitrogen and phosphate and imports nitrogen and phosphate based fertilisers.
- Water security is particularly important in the Delta region, but also elsewhere to produce more food per drop. A key perceived bottleneck by the discussants was the lack of financial incentives due to subsidies on water and energy inputs.

- Accessing agricultural land was raised as an issue – there needs to be clear policies from the government regarding conditions for allocating land to investors – whether existing agricultural land or desert land to be reclaimed. Procedures for registering ownership of land are also very complicated and lengthy. These are potential areas for policy dialogue between the EBRD and the future government.
- Potential policy dialogue with the support of EBRD is welcomed to cover areas such as land ownership and land accessibility, reform of cooperatives law and reforming the system of licenses and permits.
- The role of the civil society is larger than in other areas of Egypt and participants encouraged EBRD to involve them in any bigger policy dialogue initiatives, in particular when there is a perception that subsidies will be involved.

Session Three: Preparing for a Sustainable Future

This session was chaired by Ahmed Gaber, Chairman of Chemonics, Egypt and Professor of Chemical Engineering at Cairo University. The session was attended by representatives from the Ministry of Public Works and Water Resources, companies in the energy and water sectors and civil society, as well as Milko Kovachev, Former Minister of Energy, Bulgaria. The group discussed the key ingredients of sustainability in Egypt, mainly efficient use of energy and water, including renewable sources of energy.

The discussion focused on three key areas: the integration of energy and water efficiency, pricing of energy, and subsidy reform.

Participants focused on the similarities and integration of the two sectors in Egypt. The energy and water sectors share many similar features. They are scarce, dominated by state utilities, and are network industries, where production and distribution are strongly linked. In addition, both have similar value chain structures, use renewable sources, and are regulated in a similar way. They are also strongly linked to climate change.

They are also increasingly interdependent in Egypt. Irrigation in agriculture faces constraints both because of water scarcity and because of the limited capacity of power grids to pump large volumes of water. Producing more water, for example through desalinization, requires a lot of energy as well. Integrated resource efficiency is a key challenge for industry and public infrastructure.

Energy pricing was also a focal point of the session. The chairman stressed that “if we talk about efficiency we can not talk about pricing”. *Energy saved* is often the cheapest form of energy. If energy is cheap, however, energy saving becomes very expensive and financially unattractive to consumers. Energy subsidies in Egypt are widespread. They put unsustainable strain on public finances. They discourage rational use of energy and deter commercially driven investments in energy efficiency in private and public sectors. In addition, these subsidies are poorly targeted, benefiting mainly the rich population, which consumes excessive amounts of fuels and electricity.

Energy efficiency services were established 20 years ago, some ESCOs exist, and there is a rich literature on energy performance contracting. However, the market remains dormant because of the subsidized costs of energy.

Egypt also has large and poorly targeted water subsidies, particularly in agriculture.

They encourage wasteful use of water, which becomes scarce for municipal and industrial uses.

There is, however, a growing consensus among Egyptian leaders that continuation of the present subsidy programs is not sustainable for the finances of the country, not good for people and for investments.

There are plans of gradual phasing out of subsidies, starting from removal of energy subsidies to large industry. Industrial leaders seem to accept the need for change in pricing signals. There was discussion that Egyptians companies may face anti-dumping measures among importers if industry does not pay the full cost of energy. Some discussants highlighted that eventually the subsidy removal programme should be extended to all sectors of the economy in order to avoid permanent cross-subsidization of the municipal sector by large industry, which could be inefficient and detrimental to the international competitiveness of the important locomotives of Egyptian economy.

Since delivery of energy to households costs more than to large industrial consumers, in most countries retail electricity prices are higher than industrial prices. In Egypt this would require however a better social safety net system that could shield the poorest and most vulnerable households from poverty and provide access to essential services.

Recommendations:

The key priority elements of needed energy sector reform are:

- The establishment of an independent sector regulator who would set tariff rules rather than politicians setting them.
- Predictable policy to attract low cost independent private investors in renewable energy.
- The gradual development of energy market institutions, unbundling and establishing of wholesale market segments to attract much needed private investments, particularly in generation.
- In order to mitigate the worst impact of water stress, more commercial rules for water management systems, that are increasingly based on user pays principle with affordability constraints, should be introduced.
- EBRD possible engagement could be targeted in the following areas: waste to energy projects in industry, projects that improve climate resilience in water intensive industries based on integrated energy-water efficiency audits, projects involving the combined heat and power generation, projects that integrate EE/RE performance standards into the government co-funded program of providing affordable housing to young married couples. This can have a collateral benefit of supporting development of local suppliers of small renewable and energy efficient technologies, such as solar heaters etc.

Session Four: Driving Competitiveness through Innovation

This session was chaired by Mona Al Baradei Professor of Economics, FEPS, Cairo University and Senior Advisor, Egyptian National Competitiveness Council (ENCC). The session was attended mainly by representatives of the private sector, with some representation from the civil society.

The session focused on the following two main questions: what are the obstacles to innovation as a driver of competitiveness and what are the short and medium term priorities for Egypt to foster innovation.

The quality of institutions, especially the IPR protection, was repeatedly mentioned as a key challenge. The quality of the education system was another topic discussed – although the system produces a large number of educated people, the quality is a major challenge. The link between academia and business was probably the most frequently mentioned challenge. Participants highlighted the lack of trust between academia and business (business does not see academia as credible enough, academia sees business as untrustworthy). There are also gaps in terms of infrastructure and the overall innovation ecosystem. For example, venture capital is missing and there are no major science parks. On the other hand, the ecosystem seems to be overcrowded with too many different institutions and bureaucracy making it difficult for private sector companies to navigate within the system.

Some of the issues identified above may not bear fruit in the short or medium term horizon. However, it was understood that these changes need to take place as soon as possible, so as not to lose momentum and improve the long term perspectives.

Recommendations:

- There is a need for a comprehensive and clearly publicly communicated strategy for promoting innovation (there was an understanding that this strategy needs to be tailored to the specifics of Egypt, not implanted from another country).
- The institutional environment needs to be improved – specifically mentioned was the need to strengthen IPR protection rules, develop a new bankruptcy law, develop tax relief and other incentives to encourage private R&D and establish a venture capital industry.
- The links between the different innovation stakeholders need to be strengthened, especially those between academia and business – mutual trust between the two needs to be developed.
- The education system needs to be reformed to focus on quality rather than just quantity – the objective should be to integrate the concept of innovation into primary, secondary and higher education.
- The importance of social innovation needs to be recognised – NGOs should be engaged in funding projects to overcome community challenges and social problems, a social innovation fund should be considered.
- The focus should be on sectors with the greatest innovation potential, such as ICT, agribusiness, renewable energy, health and water.
- Streamlining of the system rather than adding additional bureaucracy on top of the existing ones is needed.

CLOSING PLENARY

Egypt's Blueprint through Transition and Beyond

The closing plenary was led by the moderators of the four working sessions: Magda Kandil, Executive Director of The Egyptian Center for Economic Studies (ECES); Tarek Tawfik, Chairman of Egyptian Agricultural Competitiveness Council and CEO of the Cairo Poultry

Group; Ahmed Gaber, Chairman of Chemonics Egypt and Professor of Chemical Engineering at Cairo University; Mona Al Baradei, Senior Consultant at the Egyptian National Competitiveness Council, as well as Erik Berglof, EBRD Chief Economist and Mohamed Mourad El Zayat, Youth Leader/Activist and Owner of PharaohTech. The discussion was moderated by Sherif el Diwany, CEO of Al Marsad Inc. The moderators reported back to the plenary on the findings of their respective discussions. The conclusions of the sessions aimed at outlining the priorities of the four sectors and demonstrating different partnership alternatives between the EBRD and Egypt in the country's different sectors and industries in order to build a prosperous future.

Magda Kandil, session chair on the discussion of *Promoting Growth and Employment through the Development of SMEs*, called for the creation of an attractive political and economic environment to foster the growth of this sector. She suggested that a better definition of the many types of SMEs present in the Egyptian economy is fundamental to assessing the financial, regulatory and vocational assistance needed to encourage and promote these industries. She also explained that a new growth model should also be introduced in Egypt whereby inclusive growth is no longer an option but a crucial necessity to target geographical areas that were in the past ignored and forgotten. She concluded by stating that Egypt can make use of EBRD's financial and mentorship assistance in constructing such a model that would promote a more equitable distribution of wealth.

Mona Al Baradei, session chair of *Driving Competitiveness through Innovation*, urged the need to harness the skills needed to increase productivity and plant the seeds of innovative thinking within the Egyptian educational curriculum. She continued that a paradigm shift is needed in the mindset of Egyptians whereby entrepreneurial risk-taking is encouraged by creating an economic regulatory system that would cater to the needs of the entrepreneurs. Also a bridge needs to be built to bridge the gap between academia, the public sector and the private sector in order to promote mutually beneficial investment opportunities for these sectors as well as encouraging cross-sharing of knowledge and experiences. There is also a need to introduce a system that rewards entrepreneurial initiatives in particular in strategic industries such as ICT and renewable energies. She concluded that Egypt can greatly learn from EBRD's past experiences in Eastern and Central Europe in particular in the area of vocational training and mentorship of newly nascent entrepreneurs.

Tarek Tawfik, session chair of *Investing in Food Security: Finding Opportunities in Constraints*, stressed the importance of recognizing food security as a matter of national security of highest importance in particular with the high level of malnutrition amongst Egyptian people, the burden of subsidies on agricultural products on the government's fiscal budget and the construction of illegal buildings on fertile agricultural lands. He stated that the inefficiencies that have plagued the agricultural sector for so long are actually a channel of opportunities for the Egyptians as they can generate value-added activities for the economy. However, a framework needs to be set up that addresses issues such as investment infrastructure, research and development, supply chain development, nutritional habits amongst Egyptians and maximal utilization of crops. The EBRD can invest in this strategic sector of the country's economy by helping the government address some of these issues as well as many others such as waste water recycling, desalination of water in coastal areas and using cooperatives as a venue for increasing agricultural productivity. Egypt can benefit from EBRD's special experience in this strategic sector extensively.

Ahmed Gaber, session chair of the *Preparing for a Sustainable Future*, argued that energy and electricity are fundamental elements in the production and delivery process of goods.

However, the price of goods in Egypt will be highly vulnerable if a decrease in subsidies of energy to the industries is indeed implemented by the government which would eventually lead industries to opt for renewable energy alternatives to produce and deliver their goods.

Erik Berglof noted that Egypt, unlike most of Central and Eastern Europe at the time of their transition, is actually doing much better than expected keeping the growth rate still on the positive side of the scale and having already gone a long way in applying market economy policies. He also pointed out that Egypt has a functional banking system. He stressed that any project that is in the process of being implemented needs not to happen in a vacuum, but rather consider the context in which it operates in. He explained that this is why the EBRD will unquestionably partner with all the different stakeholders in the Egyptian economy. He also argued that there needs to be a growth model that incorporates the private as well as the public sectors of the economy in order to encourage an inclusive and sustainable prosperous future for the Egyptian economy.

Sherif el Diwany, CEO of Al Marsad Inc, concluded the meeting by saying that in addition to an inclusive growth model that is undeniably of high importance to Egypt, there needs to be a strong sense of vision within the society and a 'result oriented' mindset amongst the Egyptian people.

ANNEX

TRANSITION TO TRANSITION INITIATIVE

A peer-to-peer approach for transfer of reform experience to the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean region

Summary of the T2T Initiative

The Transition-to-Transition (T2T) Initiative is a framework within which the EBRD can facilitate and exploit a "peer-to-peer" exchange of transition and reform experience between the Bank's current countries of operations and countries of the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean region.

In this spirit and among other activities, under the heading "From One Transition to Another", the Bank will help organize a series of events in the region in the coming months (Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia and Jordan). The Bank's role will be that of a facilitator, bringing old and new "peers" of reforms together, and a listener in order to better understand the differences between the reform experiences in the two regions.

Focusing on private sector development, the transfer will involve plenary panel discussions with high-level policy makers, private and public sector experts and think-tanks on broader reform insights, including political and social aspects, as well as thematic, interactive parallel sessions on specific experience in EBRD priority sectors.

Background and motivation

At the summit in Deauville in May of this year, the G8 gave an ambitious new mission to the EBRD and other international financial institutions to assist the recovery and the transition of a number of economies in the North Africa and Middle East region. In this process, the EBRD would like to engage with a wide range of stakeholders in the private as well as in the public sector and civil society to assess and respond to those challenges in the best possible fashion and in a spirit of collegiality and shared purpose.

The Southern and Eastern Mediterranean region has had a mixed reform experience thus far and the international institutions are to varying degrees associated with this record. In addition, there is an inherent negative sentiment about Washington Consensus conditionality and Western-imposed solutions. As a result, policy recommendations coming from sources associated with these institutions and such approaches are easily rejected.

As the people in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean region get to grips with the challenge of translating the civil values for which they fought in the recent popular protests into practical and sustainable policies and institutions, they are keen to hear and learn from other transition experiences and countries that have been through the process themselves and managed to implement transition successfully. Several countries in Central and Eastern Europe, as well as other emerging countries around the world serve as reform models for the new

governments in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean region. Some direct contacts have already been established, but there is scope for much more exchange.

The EBRD was asked to enter the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean region because the European transition experience was deemed relevant and the Bank's model of development in Central and Eastern Europe with a strong focus on the private sector was seen as the most acceptable and appropriate for the new region. However, the historical and political context, as well as the specificity of the recent experience of the "new" region, would require the Bank to take a position of a "listener", at least at the beginning, to better understand the differences in reform experience in the two regions and in that way respond adequately to the needs and the challenges of the "new" region.

The attractiveness of the peer-to-peer approach

The ultimate choices, models of governance and policies will have to come from the people in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean region themselves. However, without seeking to impose specific models, others who have been through the process can share opinions, experiences and best practices learned as developed by local actors. The process of dialogue and conversations can create new thinking and opportunities for exploring alternative perspectives.

International experience shows that peer exchanges work best when the exchanges are designed as mutually beneficial, i.e. not strictly in a paradigm of teaching/learning (more advanced to less advanced). This does not mean that the skills exchanged/knowledge transferred have to be equally beneficial to all participants, but it does preserve the space to appreciate local conditions and stimulate creative thinking and perhaps new knowledge to address the particular issue in the exchange.

The greatest impact is achieved when the peers are actively engaged in the design of the transfer of experience, so peers are not seen as "outsiders," but rather as partners. This takes time and trust, and investment over time to provide opportunities for local actors to build their own knowledge (through learning other experiences) and to participate in meaningful civic discourse at home. This is why follow-up exercises and events will be most important.

The role of the EBRD in the peer-to-peer transfer of experience

The EBRD can facilitate the sharing and transfer of transition experience from the existing countries of operations to the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean region by formulating the adequate framework and creating a platform for such exchanges.

The Bank's role will be that of a facilitator, bringing old and new "peers" of reforms together, and listener in order to better understand the differences between the reform experiences in the two regions.

Focusing on private sector development, the transfer will involve events and activities in different locations with the participation of high-level policy makers, private and public sector experts and think-tanks on broader reform insights, including political and social aspects, as well as expert-to-expert exchanges on specific experience in EBRD priority sectors.

High-Profile Advisory Board

To give visibility to the initiative, a Board of prominent policymakers from the two regions will be approached to lend their names to it. The Board would provide advice on the framework and platforms for such exchanges of experiences, policy strategies, case studies and analytical tools, and meet in different constellations for high-profile "peer-to-peer" exchanges of experiences.

A group of policymakers have already confirmed:

- Kemal Dervis, Former Finance Minister of Turkey
- Simeon Djankov, Finance Minister of Bulgaria
- Bozidar Djelic, Deputy Prime Minister of Serbia
- Jan Fischer, Former Prime Minister of Czech Republic
- Radoslaw Sikorski, Foreign Minister of Poland
- Valdis Zatlers, Former President of Latvia
- Gordon Bajnai, Former Prime Minister of Hungary
- Ivan Miklos, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of the Slovak Republic

This group will be joined by a set of prominent policymakers from the countries of the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean.

Draft schedule of forthcoming events and activities

i) Launch event at the World Economic Forum on the MENA region - 21-23 October 2011, Dead Sea, Jordan

To launch this initiative, the EBRD Office of the Chief Economist (OCE), jointly with the WEF team, has conceptualized a panel on the transfer of reform experience from Central and Eastern Europe to the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean region, which will be held at the WEF regional meeting in Jordan in October.

The EBRD Chief Economist will take part in several panels of the public and private programme of the World Economic Forum, including sessions on the transfer of

reform experience, with findings and successful case studies from the transitional economies of the Bank's existing region.

An accompanying media effort prior to and during the Forum will be prepared jointly with the EBRD Communications Department. The launch event will be followed by a set of activities and events in the region.

ii) EBRD 'T2T' events in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean region – Q4 2011/Q1 2012

The Bank, jointly with local partners, will organize T2T events in each of the three North African countries:

- Egypt: Cairo – 24 October 2011 (programme in the Appendix)
- Tunisia: Tunis – 12 December 2011
- Morocco: Casablanca – 21 February 2012 (TBC)
- Jordan: Q1 2012 (TBC)

High-level policy makers from the “old” and “new” regions will be brought together on a panel to share insights about broad reform experiences, including political and social aspects, and potentially explore alternative perspectives for the “new” region.

In addition, thematic, interactive parallel sessions on specific experience in the EBRD priority sectors will bring together public sector experts, think-tanks, entrepreneurs and banks for an exchange of views on how to stimulate private sector investment in the new region.

A draft working agenda for the events in Egypt is included in the Appendix. Subsequent events in the other countries would follow a similar format, adjusted to local circumstances.

iii) Follow-up activities

The EBRD will also seek to partner with other well-established international institutions and organizations to give further visibility to this initiative (tentatively through the Centre for Mediterranean Integration (CMI), but others could be contemplated), in the form of joint programmes and activities.

To continue the sector dialogue, the Bank will consider hosting regional events across the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean events, focused on specific sectors, providing opportunities for further strengthening and deepening of the T2T dialogue across countries in this region.

T2T EVENT IN CAIRO – FULL PROGRAMME



Stimulating Growth and Investment During Transition

Transition to Transition (T2T) Initiative

*Organized by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), with
The Federation of Egyptian Industries (FEI) and
The Egyptian Junior Business Association (EJB)*

*Sponsored by
The Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation of Egypt (MOPIC)*

The InterContinental Cairo Citystars Hotel, Cairo on 24 October 2011

The aim of this meeting is to understand the short- and mid-term priorities for Egypt, particularly the private sector, by engaging and sharing of reform experiences among public and private sector experts from Egypt, Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and Turkey.

Agenda for Cairo, 24 October 2011

09:00 - 09:30 Registration and welcome coffee

09:30 - 10:30

Room Al Saraya

Opening Plenary: Understanding the Economic Challenges Facing Egypt in Transition and Reform Insights from Central and Eastern Europe

Transition experience in Central and Eastern Europe suggests that the benefits of moving to a more open and accountable government and economy are attractive to many stakeholders of society, but they may only materialize in the medium and longer term. During the period of transition, uncertainty can cause slow-down in investment, and economic challenges can emerge in the immediate term. Evidence from earlier transitions shows that the sequencing of reforms in an uncertain economic and political environment is very important, and so is the role of the state institutions, an enabling business environment as well as external anchors.

How will Egypt emerge from the current transition?

Discussion leaders:

- Fayza Abounaga, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation of Egypt
- Jan Krzysztof Bielecki, Former Prime Minister of Poland
- Jan Fischer, Former Prime Minister of the Czech Republic and current EBRD Vice President
- Ahmed Galal, Executive Director, Economic Research Forum
- Galal Al Zorba, Chairman, Federation of Egyptian Industries
- Omar Sabbour, Chairman, Egyptian Junior Business Association

Moderated by Jonathan Charles, Director of Communications, EBRD

10:30 - 11:00 Coffee break and networking

11:00 – 13:00

Parallel, interactive working sessions

***Format:** Closed, by-invitation-only, interactive working sessions aimed at sharing of experience among all participants. The format will be a roundtable. There will be no formal presentations. The Chair of each session will introduce the subject matter for discussion, request 3min introductory remarks by the discussion leaders for a max of 25 minutes then open the discussion to all participants. 15 minutes before the end of the session, the Chair will formulate preliminary conclusions. The Chair of each session is expected to prepare the issues for discussion with the discussion leaders ahead of the meeting and define and circulate a note on these issues to all the session participants in advance of the meeting.*

Participation in all working sessions is by invitation only

WORKING SESSION 1

Room Mamounia

**Promoting Growth and Employment through
Development of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)**

Despite significant shares in GDP and employment, SMEs are yet to effectively realize their full potential in creating and sustaining inclusive growth in Egypt. Several constraints hamper SMEs' operations and growth, and these hurdles have become even more compounded since the recent revolution. What is the most appropriate way of supporting the development of SMEs in Egypt, as the main contributor to employment and growth?

Participants in this session will be invited to address the following questions:

1. **How** to create a conducive macroeconomic environment for SME growth: investment and export strategies, inflation targeting and exchange rate management?
2. **Which** type of industrial policy is needed for SME growth: priority sectors, geographic areas and participation of women?
3. **What** institutional support is required to foster the growth of SMEs: tax incentives, strengthened forward linkages and the impact of production subsidies
4. **Who** will provide finance to SMEs: what are the roles of the Central Bank, the government, commercial banks, the capital market and international institutions?

Session Chair: Magda Kandil, Executive Director, The Egyptian Center for Economic Studies (ECES), Egypt

Discussion Leaders:

- Hala Al Said, The Egyptian Banking Institute
- Hazem Hassan, Chairman, KPMG Hazem Hassan Management Consultants
- Mohanad Taha Khaled, Managing Partner, BDO Khaled & Co.
- Ramona Ivan, Executive Manager, Banca Comerciala Romana (BCR)

- Marcello Sala, Executive Vice Chairman of the Management Board, Intesa Sanpaolo Italy and member of the board of AlexBank, Egypt

WORKING SESSION 2

Room Montaza 2&3

Investing in Food Security: Finding Opportunities in Constraints

There is a strong consensus among most stakeholders in Egypt regarding the country's food security challenges. In 2010, Egypt was a net importer of food in the order of USD 6 billion, its water scarcity puts its population below poverty levels, its food subsidy regime is very costly and inefficient and the waste in its distribution network and supply chain is in excess of 35%. Yet these challenges are can be attractive investment opportunities. Significant investment can be mobilized for grain storage. Private capital can find viable investments in supply chain logistics and storage. Voluntary initiatives can find an excellent collective action platform in a strengthened agricultural cooperative system, which will facilitate efficient water and energy management, support the value added supply chain and enhance agricultural productivity.

What are the challenges and business opportunities for the private sector to invest in the area of food security?

Session Chair: Tarek Tawfik, Chairman of Egyptian Agriculture Competitiveness Council and CEO of the Cairo Poultry Group (*confirmed*)

Discussion Leaders:

- Saad Nassar, Professor of Agricultural Economics, Cairo University
- Khaled Al Anani, Vice Chairman, Dakahlia Poultry and Agriculture
- Omar Abdin, Ministerial Group of Agricultural Policies
- Abla Abdel Latif, Professor of Economics, Cairo University, Cairo, Egypt
- Milan Djakov, Director of the Indemnity Fund, Serbia

WORKING SESSION 3

Room Montaza 1

Preparing for a Sustainable Future

If Egypt's economic growth targets are to be achieved, its water and energy resources will require more efficient management. In response to this challenge, the government has set very ambitious resource management goals in its national development plans. National targets for water management include 30% improvement in water efficiency, investment in desalination technology and tapping renewable water sources. Equally in the energy sector the targets include a 20% improvement in efficiency and a ten-fold increase in the supply of renewable resources.

What are the development levers that could enable Egypt's industry to invest in acquiring technology to improve energy and water efficiency, increase its use of renewable energy and effectively manage solid waste?

Session Chair: Ahmed Gaber, Chairman of Chemonics Egypt and Professor of Chemical Engineering, Cairo University, Egypt

Discussion Leaders:

- Ossama Barakat Guenedy, Managing Director, Energy Systems Business UnitConsukorra Co.
- Dia El Din El Quosy, Expert Water Sources, Ministry of Public Works and Water Resources
- Mohamed el Sobky, Professor, School of Engineering, Cairo University
- Magdi Tolba, Chairman, Cairo Cotton Center, Egypt
- Milko Kovachev, Former Minister of Energy of Bulgaria
- Polina Pimenova, Principal Environmental Specialist, EBRD

WORKING SESSION 4

Room Manial

Driving Competitiveness through Innovation

Egypt's competitiveness challenges post-revolution are compelling if its potential in improving governance and global integration are to be fulfilled. Enhancement of the business environment to promote competitiveness of the economy and investments in human capital, development of technology clusters, incubators and related infrastructure, and attracting investment angels are necessary *now* in order to compete in an innovation-based global economy.

What can government and businesses do to create a better environment for innovation-driven competitiveness, beyond the transition period?

Session Chair: Mona Al Baradei, Professor of Economics, FEPS, Cairo University and Senior Advisor, Egyptian National Competitiveness Council (ENCC), Egypt

Discussion Leaders:

- Seif Fahmy, Chairman, ENCC and CEO, Al Mona Inc., Egypt
- Abeer Shakweer, Advisor, Scientific Research Program in Misr Elkheir Foundation
- Hany Loka, President of Siemens Technology Egypt
- Rafal Rybkowski, Chief Financial Officer, Ciech, Poland
- Izzet Guney, Senior Advisor-ICT Sector, EBRD

13:00 – 14:30

Al Hambra

Working lunch

The Future of the Private Sector in Egypt

Lunch is closed to reporting press

Very often countries revisit the structure of their economy, the role of the private sector and their institutions of governance as they transition during post-revolutionary periods. There is no consensus among political leadership in Egypt, as of yet, as to what role the private sector will be expected to play after the transition.

How will the Egyptian private sector emerge from the current transition and where will the boundaries between the state and private sectors be in the economy?

Keynote speaker: Mahmoud Eissa, Minister of Industry and International Trade, Egypt

Moderated by Jonathan Charles, Director of Communications, EBRD

15:00 - 16:30

Room Al Saraya Closing Plenary: Egypt's Blueprint Through Transition and Beyond

Egypt's foundations for a future economic success are being laid in parallel with its transition to democracy and fully-functioning market economy. Government and business leaders will face the challenge of managing a delicate balance between uncertainty in the short term, protecting the economically vulnerable population and accomplishing economic competitiveness in an increasingly complex and volatile global market. There is one certainty, however, that Egyptians are determined to rely on their home-grown development programmes and agendas.

What proposals, guidelines and strategic advice can the participants of this meeting offer the EBRD and Egypt for a successful partnership in building a sustainable and prosperous future for the country?

The plenary will begin with the moderators of the group sessions reporting back to the plenary on the findings of their respective discussions, followed by an interactive discussion and Q&A with the audience.

Discussion Leaders

- Magda Kandil, Executive Director, The Egyptian Center for Economic Studies (ECES), Egypt
- Tarek Tawfik, Chairman of Egyptian Agriculture Competitiveness Council and CEO of the Cairo Poultry Group
- Ahmed Gaber, Chairman of Chemonics Egypt and Professor of Chemical Engineering, Cairo University, Egypt
- Mona Al Baradei, Senior Consultant, Egyptian National Competitiveness Council, Egypt
- Mohamed Mourad El Zayat, Youth Leader/Activist and Owner of PharaohTech
- Erik Berglof, EBRD Chief Economist

Moderated by Sherif el Diwany, CEO of Al Marsad Inc., Egypt

FULL PARTICIPANTS LIST



Stimulating Growth and Investment During Transition

Transition to Transition (T2T) Initiative

Cairo, 24 October 2011

General Participants List

Aaron DeLong	Economic and Political Section, U.S. Embassy Cairo
Abd El Rahman Awad Atta	Chairman, Arab African for marketing and consultancy services
Abd El Rahman Hassan	Chairman, Board Members of Leather Tanning Chamber
Abd Elaziz M. Hegazy	Abdel Aziz Hegazi & Co., Accounting and Management Consultants, Former Prime Minister, Egypt
Abdel Hamid EL Demerdash	CEO - MAFA
Abdel Wahab Tayel	Chairman, Inertia Invest, Egypt
Abdullah Kandil Badawi	Chairman, North Sinai Commerce Chamber, Egypt
Abeer Shakweer	Advisor to the Scientific Research Program Misr Elkheir Foundation
Abla Abdel Latif	Professor of Economics, Cairo University

Abdel Latif Olama	Youth Activist
Adel El Ezaby	Chairman of the Labor Committee
Adel Naser	President of El Giza Chamber of Commerce
Adnan Idris Khorakiwala	Business owner, Monginis Foods & Services
Afaf El Kasbany	FEI
Agris Preimanis	EBRD: Senior Economist, Financial Institutions
Ahmed Amin Abel Hamid	Chairman, General Authority for Economic Zone, North-West Gulf Office
Ahmed El Chourbagy	Chain Manager, The Egyptian Company for Int'l Touristic projects - AMERICANA
Ahmed Badr	
Ahmed Darwish	Technical, Vocational & Education Training (TVET)
Ahmed Elezaby	Chairman
Ahmed Gaber	Chairman of Chemonics Egypt and Professor of Chemical Engineering
Ahmed Gaber	Managing Director, Umipack
Ahmed Galal	Executive Director of the Economic Research Forum (ERF)
Ahmed Galal Abou El Dahab	Associate Director SME Credit Banking Group, Commercial International Bank (CIB)
Ahmed Hussein	PR Manager, FEI
Ahmed Mahmoud Sobh	Managing Director, Sobh for Food processing & Cold Store
Ahmed Mashhour	Managing Director, Egyptian Consulting & Trading Co. LTD.

Ahmed Mohamed Sakr	Chairman, Sakr Group
Ahmed Morsi El Soda	General Manager, Dreem S.A.E (Alex.)
Ahmed Nasser Elnather	Engineer, President Sohag Chamber of Commerce
Ahmed Samir El Naggar	Operational Planning manager, Daltex Company
Ahmed Sarhan	Youth Activist
Alaa Abdelmageid Masoud	Assistant Chairman, CEO & MD, Alexandria New Medical Center
Alaa Kenawy	Head of the Egyptian Commercial Services
Alaa Arafa	President of The Export of Garments
Alaa El Shazly	Professor -Department of Economics, Faculty of Economics & Political Science - Cairo University
Aladdin El Afifi	Managing Director, Citadel Capital
Alexander Tanase	EBRD: Senior Banker, Financial Institutions
Ali Mohamed Sharaf el Din	Board Member, Federation of Egyptian Industries
Ali Mousa	Board Member Federation of Egyptian Industries, President of the Board of Directors of United Company for Building Materials
Aliaa Soliman	Senior Partner, AIT Consulting
Alicia Varela	Economic and Commercial Counsellor, Spanish Embassy
Aly Eissa	Chairman - Nahdet Misr
Amal El Tobgy	Senior Partner, AIT Consulting - Secretary General EBA
Ambassador Piotr Puchta	Ambassador from Poland

Amer Elwy	Executive Director EJB
Amira Riad	Officer in Charge of Cooperation with the European Union and the EBRD, Cabinet of the Minister of International Cooperation
Amr Abed	HR Manager, FEI
Amr El Seginy	
Amr Farouk Osman	Chairman
Amr Faisal Mohamed	Owner, Egyptian International Co. for Export
Amr Gohar	President, Ecco Outsourcing
Amr H Allouba	Chairman & CEO, TEA Computers
Amr Medhat El Helaly	C.E.O.Modern Bakeries Co.,
Amr Shaheen	Area Sales Manager, SWEG El-Sewedy
Amr Shawky	Area Sales Manager, SWEG El-Sewedy
Anas Salah Shadi	Second Secretary, North American Affairs, Min of Foreign Affairs
Andreas Bauer	IMF
Ashraf El Gazayerli	Chairman Egyptian Junior Businessmen Association (EJB), General Manager - Levant, Iraq and Sudan Unilever Mashreq
Ashraf Gamal El-Din	Egyptian Institute of Directors, Faculty of Commerce - Cairo University
Assem Wahby	Business Consultant, Advanced computer Technology (ACT)
Ayman Hamdoun	Chairman, ISO Marble
Ayman Ibrahim Laz	Egypt Kuwait Holding Company

Ayman Korra	Deputy Chairman - Chamber Food Industry
Bas Zuidberg	Supply Chain Director, Americana
Basel Hussein Roshdy	Chief Investment Officer & General Manager, Nile Capital
Bojana Reiner	EBRD: Advisor to the Chief Economist
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Dahlia El-Noury	EBRD: Principal Manager - S & E Mediterranean, OCU - Donors and Operations
Dalia Abulfotuh	Research Specialist, ENCC
Dalia El Hawary	Head of Regulatory Reform Unit, Ministry of investment
Dalia Wahba	Managing Partner, Director of Communications & Development, CID Consulting
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Dina Kafafy	ENCC
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Ebthal El Gamal	CEO, Chairman and Co-founder MECATAC
Elhamy El Zayat	Chairman, Egyptian Tourism Federation
Emad Aziz	President, Brisk Consulting
Emad Ghaly	Siemens

Emad Hassan	Energy Advisor, Cabinet of Ministers
Engy Moussa	Chairman's Office Manager, FEI
Erik Berglof	EBRD Chief Economist
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Essam Al Kalza	CEO, United OFOQ
Faisal Eissa	Managing Director, El Sewedy for Wind Energy Generation
Farida Kamel	Arabia Monitor
Fathi A. Morsi	
Fathy El Sayed Morsy	Chairman, El Behira Commercial Chamber
Fayez Ezeldin	Chairman, Canadian Chamber of Commerce
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Hany Shafik Bishay	Director, Prochem Free Zone
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Ibrahim Fawzy	Vice Chairman, Fed of Egypt, President of Assiut Chamber of Commerce
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Khaled Amin Helal	Elhelal and Golden Star Group
Khaled Farouk	Supply Chain Director, Exxon Mobile
Khaled Mansour	Youth Activist
Khaled Mohamed Abdou Al Said	Chairman Of Board Of Directors Of Alfa Egypt For Paper Products
Khaled Mohamed Azzam	Chairman, Advanced Global Industries (AGI)
Khaled Salah	Chief Editor Al Youm 7
Khaled Salah Mohamed abdel Jaleel	Egyptian Film Center
Khaled Samir	CEO. Dar el Oyoun Hospitals
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Magda Kandil	Executive Director ECES
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Marcin Rebalski	Head of the Economic Sector, the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Cairo
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Minister Ali Zein Al-Abdeen Salim	Minister of Transportation
Minister Fayza Mohamed Abounaga	Minister of Planning and International Cooperation
Minister Hassan Ahmed Younis	Minister of Electricity and Energy
Minister Mahmoud Eissa	Minister of Trade and Industry
Minister Mohamed Fathy Abdel Aziz El-Baradei	Minister of Housing, Utilities & Urban Development
Minister Salah Al-Sayed Youssef Farag	Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation
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Mohamed Aglan	President, Gama for Trading & Contracting
Mohamed Ahmed Almallah	Chairman, Suez Commerce Chamber, Egypt
Mohamed Ahmed El Khayat	Chamber of Leather Industry
Mohamed Ahmed Mokhtar	
Mohamed Ashour	Chairman, Ashour Press
Mohamed Barakat	Chairman of the Board of Directors, Al AKHBAREL
Mohamed El Bahey	Board member, FEI

Mohamed El Fayoumi	Chairman, Qalyubeya Industry Chamber, Egypt
Mohamed El Gebely	General Manager - The Int'l Co. for Agricultural & Processing
Mohamed Fikry Abdel Shafei	Chairman and Managing director, Egyptian Industrial Detergents
Mohamed Gamal Alaidy	VC of TIBA Co. of Alum & Metals
Mohamed Gamal El Din Shoukry	Chairman of Board of Directors of Mifad Co
Mohamed Helal	President, Sadat City Investors Association
Mohamed Hassen	Translator
Mohamed Ihab Elmessiri	MD, Garment and Towel Industrial Co (GATT)
Mohamed Kafafi	Executive Chairman and CEO of the Egyptian Credit Bureau " i-Score".
Mohamed Mohi Eldin	Managing Director, Mubadara
Mohamed Mustafa Ashour	Board Member Federation of Egyptian Industries, Director General of Ahmed & Mustafa Ashour Press & Partners
Mohamed Mourad El Zayat	Managing Director/Board Member, Pharoh Tech
Mohamed Nader Alsayed	Founding and Managing Director, Archer Consultancy
Mohamed O. El Khouly	Youth Activist
Mohamed Raafat Rozeika	Chairman, Golden Foods
Mohamed Safwat Abdel Bary	Chairman, Master Group Company, Egypt
Mohamed Shoukry	Chairman, Chamber of Food Industries - CFI
Mohamed Soliman	Managing Director,HCCA Academy

Mohamed Taymour	Pharos Holding Co. For Financial Investments
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Mohamed Youssef Momen	Chairman, Momen Food Group
Mohamed Zakaria	Chief Director, The Egyptian Banking Institute
Mohamed Zaki El Sewedy	Vice Chairman, Federation of Egyptian Industries
Mohammed Hammam	Assistant to Minister in Charge on International Regional and Araba Financing Institutions
Mohammed Hassan Ramzy	Chairman, El Nasr Films Company
Mohamoud Farghali El-Shandweely	Chairman, Sohag Investors Association
Mohannad Taha Khaled	BDO Auditing, Senior Partner
Mona Al Baradei	Executive Director Egyptian National Competitiveness Council (ENCC)
Mootaz El- Alfy	President of Americana Group
Mostafa Hunter	Corporate Governance Director
Mounir El Gazayerli	Marketing Manager, Unilever Mashreq
Mustafa Elsayid	Marketing
Nader El Biblawy	President, Gezira Travel
Nabeel Mahmoud EL Shorbagi	General Manager, Five Star Flour Mills Co.
Nagui Erian	vice Chairman, Egyptian Hotel Association
Naguib Sawiris	Chairman and CEO of Orascom Telecom

Natalia Meylunas	EBRD: TAM-BAS Head of Regional Programme
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Nemat Alzayetti	Deputy Chief Editor Ahram Ektesady
Nevine Shafei	Vice Chairman GAFI
Nibal Zgheib	EBRD: Communications CCT position
Nihal El Megharbel	
Nihal Mahmoud Said	General Manager, Kemet for Natural Food
Nour Abdelmaksoud	Diplomatic Attaché - International Economic Affairs Department - Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Omar Abdin	Ministerial Group of Agricultural Policies
Omar Hassanein Abu Shara	Translator, Interpreter, Commercial Chamber, Behira
Omar Sabbour	Chairman Egyptian Junior Business Association
Omneia Helmy	ECES Deputy Director for Research and Lead Economist
Osama Aglan	Marketing and Sales Director, Al Firoz Trading
Osama Aly Mourad	Chairman & CEO Arab Finance Brokerage
Osama Mohamed El Saady	Head, Egyptian Export Council
Ossama Barakat Guenedy	Managing Director, Energy Systems Business Unit Consukorra Co.
Pavel Dvorak	EBRD: Economist, Project and Sector Assessments
Perihan Abou Zeid	Youth Activist

Polina Pimenova	EBRD Principal Environmental Specialist
Rafal Rybkowski	CFO of Ciech, Poland
Ramadan Galal	Antidumping and subsidy specialist, FEI
Ramona Ivan	Executive manager of BCR
Rania Al-Mashat	A. Sub Governor, Head of Monetary Policy Department Central Bank of Egypt
Rebecca Greenberg	EBRD: Intern, Office of the Chief Economist
Reem El Saady	Executive Director, General Authority for Investment and Free Zones
Rejan Rashad	Managing Director
Richard Jones	EBRD: Director, Official Co-Financing Unit
Saad Nassar	Professor of Agricultural Economics, Cairo University
Safwan Ahmed Thabet	Chairman & Managing Director, Juhayna Food Industries
Sahar Nasr	Lead Financial Economist - Economist, Egypt Country Dept. The World Bank
Sahar Tohamy	
Samir El Gamel	Advisor to the Minister of Industry and Foreign Trade of the Information
Sayed Abu Alkomsan	Minister Advisor for Trade Affairs, Min of Industry and Foreign Trade
Sayed Ismail	Chairman, SI Technologies
Sayed Mahmoud Atteya El Barhamtoushy	Board Member, Federation of Egyptian Industries
Seif Abou Zaid	Youth Activist

Seif Fahmy	Chairman of ENCC and CEO AI Mona
Serag Zakaria	Chairman of the Board AI Safwa Hospital
Sherif A. Afifi	
Sherif Abd Elrahim	Chairman, Egyptian Group for manufacturing investments, Prima
Sherif el Diwany	Founder and CEO of AI Marsad Inc., Egypt
Sherif El Gabaly	Board Member, Federation of Egyptian Industries (FEI), Procurement Manager, Abu Zaabel Fertilizers & Chemicals Co.
Sherif F Abd El Gawad	ERADA
Sherif Yehia Bahnas	Chairman & CEO, Sunprism Energy Technology
Stephane Maurin	Purchasing & Merchandising Food Director - Board Member - Makro Group
Stephen O'Dowd	Economic and Political Section, U.S. Embassy Cairo
Suresh Narayanan	Chairman & Chief Executive Officer - Nestle Egypt
Tamer Samir Nassar	Managing Director Setcore Petroleum Services
Tamer Sayed Mohamad Abdul Aziz	Board Member, Federation of Egyptian Industries
Tawfik Mohamed Ouda	President Directeur General
Tarek el Sherbini	EBRD: Principal Banker, Agribusiness
Tarek Osman	EBRD: Political Counsellor
Tarek Tawfik	Managing Director Cairo Poultry Group (CPG), Chairman of Agriculture Egyptian Competitiveness Council
Wael Ghanem	Board Member EJB, Freightex MEA

Wagdy El Kerdany	Member of the Board, Egyptian Tourism Federation
Wahid A. M. Diwedar	Chairman, Al Wadi Al Gadeed Industry Chamber, Egypt
Walid Aly	Chairman, Tahrir Press
Yasser Sherif	CEO, ENVIRONICS
Yehia Mohammed Yehia Abdel Rahman	
Yehia Said Mohamed Zalat	Chairman, Chamber of Leather Industries
Yehia Shankir	Sales Director El Sewedy for Wind Energy Generation "SWEG"
Yvette Eechoud	Counsellor Head of Economic Affairs & Development Co-operation - Netherlands Embassy
Zaki Abdo Basyouni	Vice Chairman, Federation of Egyptian Industries
Ziad Ali	Youth Activist
Ziad Mokhtar	Youth Activist

Working Sessions

By Invitation Only

Working Session Number 1: Promoting Growth and Employment through Development of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)

Session Chair: Magda Kandil, Executive Director, The Egyptian Center for Economic Studies (ECES), Egypt

Discussion Leaders:

- Hala Al Said, The Egyptian Banking Institute
- Hazem Hassan, Chairman, KPMG Hazem Hassan Management Consultants
- Mohannad Taha Khaled, Senior Partner BDO Auditing
- Ramona Ivan, Executive Manager, Banca Comerciala Romana (BCR)
- Marcello Sala, Executive Vice Chairman of the Management Board, Intesa Sanpaolo Italy and member of the board of AlexBank, Egypt

Registered Participants including discussion leaders (37):

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Abd Elaziz M. Hegazy	Abdel Aziz Hegazi & Co., Accounting and Management Consultants
Agris Preimanis	EBRD: Senior Economist, Financial Institutions
Ahmed Gaber	Managing Director, Umipack
Ahmed Galal Abou El Dahab	Associate Director SME Credit Banking Group, Commercial International Bank (CIB)
Ahmed Mashhour	Managing Director, Egyptian Consulting & Trading Co. LTD.
Alexander Tanase	EBRD: Senior Banker, Financial Institutions

Aliaa Soliman	Senior Partner, AIT Consulting
Amr El Seginy	
Ashraf Gamal El-Din	Egyptian Institute of Directors, Faculty of Commerce - Cairo University
Ayman Ibrahim Laz	Egypt Kuwait Holding Company
Basel Hussein Roshdy	Chief Investment Officer & General Manager, Nile Capital
Dahlia El-Noury	EBRD: Principal Manager - S & E Mediterranean, OCU - Donors and Operations
Hadia Hamdy	Advisor to GAFI
Hassan El Khatib	Managing Director, Carlyle Group
Hussein Magdy Allam	Chairman, Caravel Financial
Malak Reda	ECES Senior Economist
Michel Nussbaumer	EBRD: Chief Counsel, Legal Transition
Mohamed Aglan	President, Gama for Trading & Contracting
Mohamed Kafafi	Executive Chairman and CEO of the Egyptian Credit Bureau " i-Score".
Mohamed Mohieldin Taher	Managing Director, Mubadara Capital
Mohamed Nader Alsayed	Founding and Managing Director, Archer Consultancy
Mohamed Taymour	Pharos Holding Co. For Financial Investments
Mohamed Zakaria	Chief Director, The Egyptian Banking Institute
Mootaz El- Alfy	President of Americana Group

Mostafa Hunter	Corporate Governance Director
Mounir El Gazayerli	Marketing Manager, Unilever Mashreq
Nevine Shafei	Vice Chairman GAFI
Osama Aly Mourad	Chairman & CEO Arab Finance Brokerage
Rania Mashat	CBE
Sahar Nasr	Lead Financial Economist - Economist, Egypt Country Dept. The World Bank

Working Session Number 2: Investing in Food Security: Finding Opportunities in Constraints

Session Chair: Tarek Tawfik, Chairman of Egyptian Agriculture Competitiveness Council and CEO of the Cairo Poultry Group (*confirmed*)

Discussion Leaders:

- **Saad Nassar, Professor of Agricultural Economics, Cairo University**
- **Khaled Al Anani, Vice Chairman, Dakahlia Poultry and Agriculture**
- **Omar Abdin, Ministerial Group of Agricultural Policies**
- **Abla Abdel Latif, Professor of Economics, Cairo University, Cairo, Egypt**
- **Milan Djakov, Director of the Indemnity Fund, Serbia**

Registered Participants including discussion leaders (33):

Abdel Hamid EL Demerdash	CEO - MAFA
Adnan Idris Khorakiwala	Business owner, Monginis Foods & Services
Ahmed Ahmed El Chourbagy	Chain Manager, The Egyptian Company for Int'l Touristic projects - AMERICANA
Ahmed Mahmoud Sobh	Managing Director, Sobh for Food processing & Cold Store
Ahmed Mohamed Sakr	Chairman, Sakr Group
Ahmed Morsi El Soda	General Manager, Dreem S.A.E (Alex.)

Ahmed Samir El Naggar	Operational Planning manager, Daltex Company
Aly Eissa	Chairman - Nahdet Misr
Amr Faisal Mohamed	Owner, Egyptian International Co. for Export
Amr Medhat El Helaly	C.E.O.Modern Bakeries Co.,
Ayman Korra	Deputy Chairman - Chamber Food Industry
Bas Zuidberg	Supply Chain Director, Americana
Floris Wessling	Managing Director - Danone
Hans van der Beerck	Counsellor for Agriculture at the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
Heike Hagenguth	Food Safety & Marketing Consultant
Heike Harmgart	EBRD: Acting Regional Economist for MENA
Helmy Ali Eissa	General Manager, Nahdet Misr Co. for Agro Industries
Herb Williamson	Agri-business Development Consultant Pro-poor Horticulture Value Chains in Upper Egypt Project
Hussein Mansour	Ministry of Trade and Industry Food Safety Expert & Head of Food Safety Agency Management Team
Magda Awadallah	ECES
Mahmoud Al Garf	
Mohamed Youssef Momen	Chairman, Momen Food Group
Nabeel Mahmoud EL Shorbagi	General Manager, Five Star Flour Mills Co.
Nihal El Megharbel	

Nihal Mahmoud Said	General Manager, Kemet for Natural Food
Omneia Helmy	ECES Deputy Director for Research and Lead Economist
Richard Jones	EBRD: Director, Official Co-Financing Unit
Stephane Maurin	Purchasing & Merchandising Food Director - Board Member - Makro Group
Suresh Narayanan	Chairman & Chief Executive Officer - Nestle Egypt
Tarek el Sherbini	EBRD: Principal Banker, Agribusiness
Yvette Eechoud	Counsellor Head of Economic Affairs & Development Co-operation - Netherlands Embassy

Working Session Number Three: Preparing for a Sustainable Future

Session Chair: Ahmed Gaber, Chairman of Chemonics Egypt and Professor of Chemical Engineering, Cairo University, Egypt

Discussion Leaders:

- **Ossama Barakat Guenedy, Managing Director, Energy Systems Business UnitConsukorra Co.**
- **Dia El Din El Quosy, Expert Water Sources, Ministry of Public Works and Water Resources**
- **Mohamed el Sobky, Professor, School of Engineering, Cairo University**
- **Magdi Tolba, Chairman, Cairo Cotton Center, Egypt**
- **Milko Kovachev, Former Minister of Energy of Bulgaria**
- **Polina Pimenova, Principal Environmental Specialist, EBRD**

Registered Participants including discussion leaders (19):

Ahmed Badr	
Ahmed Darwish	Technical, Vocational & Education Training (TVET)
Aladdin El Afifi	Managing Director, Citadel Capital
Emad Ghaly	Siemens
Grzegorz Peszko	EBRD: Senior Energy and Environmental Economist
Mohamed Soliman	Managing Director, HCCA Academy
Osama Aglan	Marketing and Sales Director, Al Firoz Trading
Sherif Gabaly	Chairman Of The Board Of directors
Sherif Yehia Bahnas	Chairman & CEO, Sunprism Energy Technology
Stephen O'Dowd	Economic and Political Section, U.S. Embassy Cairo
Tamer Samir Nassar	Managing Director Setcore Petroleum Services
Yasser Sherif	CEO, ENVIRONICS

Working Session Number Four: Driving Competitiveness Through Innovation

Session Chair: Mona Al Baradei, Professor of Economics, FEPS, Cairo University and Senior Advisor, Egyptian National Competitiveness Council (ENCC), Egypt

Discussion Leaders:

- **Seif Fahmy, Chairman, ENCC and CEO, Al Mona Inc., Egypt**
- **Abeer Shakweer, Advisor, Scientific Research Program in Misr Elkheir Foundation**
- **Hany Loka, President of Siemens, Egypt**
- **Rafal Rybkowski, Chief Financial Officer, Ciech, Poland**
- **Izzet Guney, Senior Advisor-ICT Sector, EBRD**

Registered Participants including discussion leaders (28):

Alaa Arafa	President of The Export of Garments
Alaa El Shazly	Professor -Department of Economics, Faculty of Economics & Political Science - Cairo University
Amer Elwy	Executive Director EJB
Amr Gohar	President, Ecco Outsourcing
Ashraf El Gazayerli	Chairman Egyptian Junior Businessmen Association (EJB), General Manager - Levant, Iraq and SudanUnilever Mashreq
Dina Kafafy	ENCC
Emad Aziz	President, Brisk Consulting
Emad Hassan	Energy Advisor, Cabinet of Ministers
Ghada Darwish	Board Member, Piza Trading
Heba Zayed	ENCC
Hany Shafik Bishay	Director, Prochem Free Zone
Hossam Al-Arudy	CEO, Senior Director, Altweller Farid Pumps

John Speaks	Economic and Political Section, U.S. Embassy Cairo
Khaled Abo El Makarem	
Khaled Farouk	Supply Chain Director, Exxon Mobile
Loay El Raghy	Managing Director/ Country Head, Noble
May El Batran	Managing Director, TMA Egypt
Mohamed Tera	Managing Director, Tera Spinning & Weaving
Mona Al Baradei	Executive Director Egyptian National Competitiveness Council (ENCC)
Mona El Garf	Regional Competitiveness Advisor, Chemonics International
Pavel Dvorak	EBRD: Economist, Project and Sector Assessments
Rejan Rashad	Managing Director

MEDIA COVERAGE



Media Coverage Report “Transition to Transition” “Stimulating Growth and Investment During Transition”

Cairo, Egypt, 24 October 2011



European Bank
for Reconstruction and Development

Media Coverage Report

"Transition to Transition"

"Stimulating Growth and Investment During Transition"

Cairo, Egypt, 24 October 2011

The EBRD listening exercise "Stimulating Growth and Employment" was well attended by local and international media. The EBRD received coverage in more than 35 media outlets.

Comprehensive media coverage focused mainly on statements made by the Bank's officials. Jan Fisher was quoted in the Daily News Egypt as saying "One of Egypt's main priorities should be to stabilize the labour market. The relation between the civil society and establishments in Egypt is vital, therefore communication must be developed because civil society is the capital and the essence of the country."

The opening ceremony of "Stimulating Growth and Employment" was broadcast by local and regional TV stations and reported by leading newspapers in Egypt.

A number of interviews with the Bank's officials was arranged during the event in Cairo. In particular, the EBRD Chief Economist Erik Berglof talked to the CNBC TV programme "Ain Ala Masr" and Al Arabiya and was quoted in leading newspapers. Jonathan Charles talked to ON TV, the Middle East News Agency, Daily News Egypt, Al Mal newspaper and several media outlets.

The EBRD was featured positively in the media as the articles and interviews were factual and objective and reflected the aim of the listening exercise in understanding the short and mid-term priorities for Egypt.

The full press coverage of "Stimulating Growth and Employment" 2011 follows below. The coverage starts with the international media, the regional and the local media in English and then in Arabic. It closes with the press release and the article "A big day for the EBRD in Egypt" written by Jonathan Charles.

Egypt to discuss funding from IMF, others: minister

Reuters, 24 October 2011

Egypt will discuss financing from the International Monetary Fund with IMF officials this week with an open mind, a minister said on Monday, after Egypt turned down a \$3.2 billion deal offered by the Washington-based Institution in the summer.

Planning Minister Falza Abu el-Naga also said Egypt was continuing negotiations with Gulf states and others, including the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), for other financial support.

Egypt's economy was battered by the uprising that ousted President Hosni Mubarak and investors remain wary because of ongoing uncertainty as the transition from military rule to an elected civilian government has dragged.

Consultancy firm Geopolicity said in a report that Egypt's uprising had cost the economy \$9.97 billion up to September.

"With the IMF we're open, there are no taboos actually but we're looking at what is really in the interest of the country and will take our decision accordingly," Abu el-Naga said on the sidelines of a conference arranged by the EBRD in Cairo.

She said a mission from the IMF, which offered preferential terms in its last package, was arriving on Monday.

"I confirmed that there are no conditionalities in what the IMF is offering and the decision in the end is ours," she said.

When Egypt turned down an IMF facility over the summer the finance minister, who has since left office, said the army had not wanted to build up debts.

Economists have said Egypt would most likely have to return to the IMF. Such a facility could provide reassurance to other possible lenders.

Egypt is also discussing financing with Gulf Arab states. Qatar and Saudi Arabia have so far given \$500 million each in budget support. Gulf states have offered billions of dollars more in project financing and other support.

"We are negotiating with Qatar, with the United Arab Emirates, with Saudi Arabia on the rest of the financial package that aims at actually funding some developmental projects," she said.

The EBRD said in a statement it was able to offer up to 1 billion euros a year to Egypt, though this had not been agreed.

Abu el-Naga said EBRD funds would largely target small and medium-sized enterprises and the private sector, adding there was still "some time" to go before any deal would be reached.

She said the G8 group of nations had pledged \$70 billion to Egypt, Tunisia, Jordan and Morocco.

"Egypt, as the biggest country in terms of population, could ... could get around half that amount ... But no decision has been taken yet," she said.

"Our goal is to decrease and lighten our external debt," she said.

Continues next page

Abu el-Naga said Egypt planned to eliminate subsidies to energy-intensive industries, a plan discussed even before Mubarak was ousted. That would help to ease pressure on state finances.

"Very soon you will see this will be implemented -- eliminating energy subsidies for energy-intensive industries. There are five major industries that are actually energy-intensive," she said without elaborating.

Economists have said that carrying out government pledges to rein in energy subsidies will be a challenge for the cabinet as many Egyptians have sky-high aspirations about improving living standards after their uprising.

EBRD mulls USD 1bn annual support to Egypt.

25 October 2011

Middle East and North Africa Today

The European bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) plans to provide Egypt with USD 1bn a year to support its troubled economy, Al Shorouk daily reported quoting the bank's communications director Jonathan Charles. Speaking on the sidelines of an industrial conference held in Cairo, Charles said the bank is studying the needs of each Arab Spring country and will provide its assistance based on that. He noted that the bank will focus on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and on creating more job opportunities. Charles emphasized the importance of the agro-industrial sector in Egypt and said that the bank will support the country's food manufacturing sector.

Experts debate economic repercussions of Egypt's transition

By Reem Abdellatif/Daily News Egypt October 24, 2011, 5:21 pm

CAIRO: Officials from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) convened in Egypt on Monday to discuss projects that can help the country along during the critical transition phase.

While there was general consensus on the importance of stability to economic recovery, there was some disagreement on what the transition process entails and what should be expected during this period.

Bringing together top business officials from around the country as well as the Egyptian Junior Business Association and the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, the aim of the Transition to Transition (T2T) Initiative is to understand the short- and mid-term priorities for Egypt.

"It is a good sign that EBRD is here today," Amr Abdel Latif, executive director of the Egyptian Exporters Association, told Daily News Egypt.

"They are here to understand the kind of problems Egypt is facing in order to build future projects that can help the country in this new period."

According to expertise from former leaders in Central and Eastern Europe, moving to a transparent and accountable government reaps attractive economic growth; maintained by equality, government accountability and social reforms.

"We have to keep in mind that transformation is a complex issue," said Jan Fischer, former prime minister of the Czech Republic and the current EBRD vice president, in the opening session.

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EBRD ready to work with civilian, democratic government in Egypt



Jonathan Charles, communications director for the EBRD.

By Reem Abdellatif/Daily News Egypt

October 26, 2011, 6:13 pm

CAIRO: Expecting to start "full investments" in Egypt by early next year, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) stressed the urgency for a civilian government in Egypt.

"We absolutely want to be doing business with a civil[ian] government that will take this country on the path of democracy," Jonathan Charles, communications director for the EBRD, told Daily News Egypt on the sidelines of a conference Monday.

After convening with some of Egypt's top economic experts and youth leaders to discuss the country's development after the January 25 uprising, the EBRD drafted a list of projects that are of "top priority" moving forward.

EBRD officials met with several members from youth coalitions as well as the April 6 Youth Movement, all of whom voiced concern about the direction of the country under military rule.

"We've spent time with these youth who are very passionate about change, it has been uplifting to sit with them," said Charles. "But they've also voiced several concerns about the current uncertainty... I said to them that our help is tied to the democratic progress."

The bank stressed that it would be difficult to achieve these goals without a civilian, democratic government in place.

"We are having a lot of policy dialogue with the current leaders, as long as Egypt remains committed to democracy we will continue to be supportive," he said.

Charles pointed out that in a matter of weeks, the bank would be begin working with members of civil society, private and public institutions, as well as economic experts to help local businesses move forward in this murky economic period.

Underlining that instability is quite normal in this difficult transition period, Charles added it is vital that the country continues moving towards the "right path."

"What Egypt is going through is quite normal. There is a fair amount of chaos, rebuilding an entire society is a messy business... It would be remarkable if there wasn't any turmoil as the country moves towards a post-Mubarak economy," Charles added.

Officials decided that Egypt's economy, which has been battered over the past nine months, will need to focus on boosting small and medium enterprises (SME's) as well as providing new housing developments, in order to speed up recovery.

With current inadequate legislative laws to support and facilitate business for local SMEs, after convening with the EBRD and addressing their concerns, the panel of Egypt's economic experts concluded that new labor laws and credit availability for SMEs will be a top priority.

"We suggest that a national council for the SME core should be established and we will push for this," said Magda Kandil, executive director of the Egyptian Center for Economic Studies, who was also one of the panelists.

"Financing SMEs is very important. They still face some problems that they faced before the uprising," said Kandil. "We suggest establishing a pool fund at banks which would be specifically for SMEs."

The group also stressed that establishing housing projects and linking water as well as energy efficiency to a national housing program would be a priority over the coming months.

"What we will do with all of these ideas is take them back to London and decide which ones are practical," said Charles.

"By the end of November, we will bring in ministerial leaders from Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco and Jordan to discuss what was decided on in the meeting in order to build some of these ideas into each country's strategy."

Kandil added that it is important to establish a center where transparent data regarding SMEs can be recorded.

"We cannot talk about 70 or 80 percent of the economy without any transparency when it comes to information, we also need to adhere to a formal definition of SMEs," Kandil added.

Charles told DNE that one of the bank's top priorities would be to support SMEs because it is a unanimous concern among Egyptian business officials as well as economic experts.

"SME's are the key to economic growth and job creation — also foreign investors will not come in if the country's local investors have lost confidence to do business," he added.

The EBRD could support establishing a bank specifically for SMEs or working with local banks to give small enterprises the credit they need to start up businesses, he said. The EBRD would establish certain criteria for the loans.

EGYPT : A big day for EBRD in Egypt

25 October 2011

Mena Report

An EBRD event in Cairo is an opportunity for Egyptians and eastern and central Europeans to share experiences. It was with a sense of optimism that Egypt's minister of planning and international cooperation, Fayza Aboulnaga, summed up the mood in her country as she talked about the many challenges ahead for the economy. "We are now in the tenth month of our revolution and we can say that the worst is behind us," she said.

She was speaking at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development's Transition to Transition (T2T) Initiative event, in Cairo. The conference was an opportunity for the Egyptians to share their experiences of change with representatives from countries in central and eastern Europe - the EBRD's existing countries of operations - which have already gone through dramatic economic and political turmoil.

The conference was organised with the help of the Federation of Egyptian Industries and the Egyptian Junior Business Association. Former Czech Prime Minister and current EBRD vice-president, Jan Fischer, told the audience that transformation is a complex issue: "After 20 years, my country is still in a transition. The process involves intertwining economic and political issues, legal changes, as well as social aspects." He also said that a lean civil service was a prerequisite. Mrs. Aboulnaga replied by admitting that Egypt had six and a half million civil servants but only fifteen per cent worked effectively.

A former Polish prime minister, Jan Kizysztof Blelecki, told the meeting that you have to accept that transition brings instability - that was his country's experience and governments had to find time for strategic thinking, even in the midst of daily chaos. EBRD Chief Economist, Erik Berglof, believes this sharing of experiences between the EBRD's current and new regions can really help all countries understand the challenges of transition.

During the discussions, many of the participants from Egypt's business community said that their priority would be help for small and medium sized enterprises. This is a sector which finds it hard to access loans, and there was support for the EBRD to get involved to make it easier to find funding.

The EBRD's Director of Communications, Jonathan Charles, said that the Bank was listening intently as it drew up its strategy for Egypt: "We want to know exactly what it is that you want us to do and that is why we are listening so closely."

Apart from examining the general issues of how to stimulate growth, there were additional working sessions on promoting employment through small and medium enterprises, investing in food security, preparing for a sustainable future and driving competitiveness through innovation.

الأوروبي لإعادة الإعمار والتنمية مستعد لضخ استثمارات بمليار يورو سنويا في مصر

الأربعاء، أكتوبر 26، 2011 0 طباعه



فيما وصفت بأنها مرحلة انتقالية شبيهة بتلك التي مرت بها دول أوروبا الشرقية، ورغم تحديات هذه المرحلة سياسيا واقتصاديا في مصر، إلا أن ثمة تفاؤلا بمستقبل الاقتصاد المصري عكسه مؤتمر تحفيز النمو والاستثمار في المرحلة الانتقالية، وهو المؤتمر الذي أكد خلاله البنك الأوروبي لإعادة الإعمار والتنمية استعداده لدعم مشروعات القطاع الخاص في مصر فنيا وماليا بهدف مساعدة مصر على تجاوز هذه المرحلة والتي تتشابه مع مراحل انتقالية مرت بها دول أوروبا الشرقية ولعب خلالها البنك دورا في تحفيز معدلات النمو في تلك الدول.

إبريك بيرخلوف: كبير الاقتصاديين في البنك الأوروبي لإعادة الإعمار والتنمية

أبرز القطاعات التي رشحتها الحكومة والخبراء في مصر للتركيز عليها من قبل البنك الأوروبي، كان قطاع المشروعات الصغيرة والمتوسطة الذي ظل لفترات طويلة يعاني شحا تمويليا رغم اتفاق الجميع على قدرة هذا القطاع على توفير المزيد من فرص العمل والمساهمة في حل مشكلة البطالة المزمنة.

د. فايزة أبو النجار: وزيرة التخطيط والتعاون الدولي في مصر

ويؤكد الخبراء أن سعي البنك الدولي للاستثمار في مصر خلال المرحلة الانتقالية الراهنة بما تحمله من مخاطر استثمارية يعكس حالة من التفاؤل بمستقبل الاقتصاد المصري.

عمر صبور: رئيس جمعية شباب الأعمال المصريين

ويعول الكثيرون على الانتخابات البرلمانية والرئاسية المقبلة لتحقيق استقرار سياسي يعبر بمصر المرحلة الانتقالية ويحقق الاستقرار الاقتصادي.

<http://www.cnbcarabia.com/?p=6416>

25 October 2011

Al Youm7

قنديل: المشاريع الصغيرة ورجال الأعمال

يواجهون تعنت الهيئات الحكومية

ماجدة قنديل المديرية التنفيذية للمركز المصري للدراسات الاقتصادية

كتب سليم على

قالت ماجدة قنديل المديرية التنفيذية للمركز المصري للدراسات الاقتصادية، إن من أهم المشاكل التي تواجه المشاريع الصغيرة والمتوسطة هي عدم المساواة في منح التراخيص وعدم كفاءة النظام التشريعي والإجراءات التصفية التي يوجهها رجال الأعمال داخل الهيئات الحكومية.

وقالت ماجدة أن هدفنا هو تعزيز النمو والعمالة من خلال تنمية المشروعات الصغيرة والمتوسطة من خلال وضع استراتيجية وخطة وتسيير وتحديد المجالات الجغرافية، ومكافحة الاحتكار والاستفادة من الدعم الفني وتحسين مهارات المبادرة.

وأضافت قنديل، خلال مؤتمر تبادل خبرات المرحلة الانتقالية، أن هدف المركز المصري للدراسات الاقتصادية هو إنشاء قطاع أعمال يقوم بتحسين بيئة العمل أمام الصناع، وإنشاء بنوك خاصة لتمويل المشروعات الصغيرة والمتوسطة وتحسين نظم التمويل، وتحسين القروض التي تأخذها المصانع الصغيرة والمتوسطة من البنوك وتحسين النظام الضريبي ووضع برامج مخصصة لحماية الصناعات الصغيرة المعرضة للخطر، مشيرة إلى أن هذه المطالب موجهة إلى الحكومة.

وقالت منى البرادعى مستشار المجلس الوطنى للمصرى للتنافسية، إن الابتكار هو الذى يؤدى إلى قيادة تنافسية بين الصناع، وأنه من أهم الركائز لبناء استثمار.

وأوضحت، أن ترتيب مصر من الجانب الاقتصادى على الصعيد الدولى ضعيف جداً ويحتاج إلى عمل دراسة لدعم الابتكار القانونى والتشريعى، وتطوير الحوافز والبحث وتعديل قانون الإفلاس، وأشارت إلى أنه يجب على الجهاز الحكومى أن يقوم بتطوير عملية الابتكار، وقالت إن التعرف على أهمية الابتكارات الاجتماعية تساعد على تطلب التحديات الاجتماعية.

قال محمد مراد الزيات عضو جمعية شباب رجال الأعمال، إن مصر من الناحية السياسية قوية وحرية، المتحدث باسم شباب رجال الأعمال أن مصر تحتاج إلى أحزاب قوية تتضمن برامج تجعل مصر أفضل، وأن يكون هناك نظام دون إحداث أضرار، متوقفاً أن هذا سوف يتحقق خلال الفترة الانتقالية.

وقال الزيات، إن الفترة ما قبل الثورة لم تكن كلها سيئة، وشدد إلى أنه يجب على الدولة أن تركز على النتائج واهتمامات البسطاء.

وأضاف الزيات، أن من المفروض أن نركز الفترة القادمة على تطوير التكنولوجيا، وأن ننشرها في كافة المجالات، ولا تكون مقصورة على الانترنت فقط. مشيراً إلى أن التكنولوجيا لها دور كبير في تنمية دول المتقدمة مثل اليابان وأمريكا وغيرها من الدول المتقدمة.

وأضاف أن شباب رجال الأعمال لا يريد أن تكون مصر متعزلة، بل يريد أن تكون مصر جزءاً هاماً من نظام الاقتصاد العالمى، مشيراً إلى أن مصر بها عدد كبير من الشركات العالمية والمحلية مما يدل على قوة السوق المصرية وكفاءة العمالة المصرية.

وأشار الزيات إلى أن من الأشياء المهمة التي يجب أن تركز الدولة عليها خلال الفترة القادمة هو التعليم، مضيفاً إلى أن دون التعليم جيد ومتطور لن ولم تنهض أى دولة، وأن مصر في القاع من حيث الصحة والرعاية الصحية، وطالب بالمزيد من الشفافية خلال الفترة الانتقالية، وتسهيل الإجراءات وتوفير كافة الإمكانيات إلى الشباب المبتكر الذى يملك أفكار للنهوض بالاقتصاد المصري، وإن يكون هناك إدارة تحقق ما يريده الشعب.

وأوضح أن الشعب المصري يريد نتائج فورية وليس قرارات ودراسات أما عن الجانب الاقتصادى، أشار الزيات إلى اهتمام الهيئات الحكومية بالمشروعات الصغيرة والمتوسطة، بحيث أن تكون هذه الشركات هي الجذر الاقتصادى الذى سوف يبنى عليه الاقتصاد المصرى القوي.

وقال إريك برجالوف كبير الخبراء الاقتصاديين في بنك التنمية والتعمير، إن مصر بها مصارف وبنوك جيدة، مطالباً البنوك المصرية بإعطاء القروض وكافة المساعدات إلى المستثمرين أصحاب المشاريع الصغيرة والمتوسطة.

وأضاف برجالوف، أن بنك التنمية والتعمير هو عبارة مؤسسة تقوم بتمويل مشاريع القطاع الخاص، كما تقوم بتقديم كافة المساعدات لتطوير وتقديم هذه المشاريع وإبراز المهارات في تلك المشاريع . مشيراً إلى أن الحكومات تقوم بمساعدة البنك في إنشاء تلك المشاريع وقال إيرك إن مصر تعتمد على نمو التطوير والعدالة في توزيع الأجر، مشيراً إلى أن دول أوروبا الشرقية لا تهتم بذلك، مضيفاً أن بولندا يوجد بها العدالة في توزيع الأجر على عكس أوكرانيا يوجد بها فوارق ملحوظة في الأجر ومن جانبه طالب طارق توفيق رئيس مجلس إدارة مجلس التنافسية للزراعة، بقانون موحد خاص بالطعام والغذاء وزيادة الرفح الزراعية لتوفير الإنتاج الكافي وأضاف أن يوجد العديد من فرص الاستثمار في مجالات التعليم والإعلام وغيرها، مشيراً إلى إمكانية البنك في الاستثمار في تلك المجالات.

24 October 2011

Al Youm7

مدير بنك الإعمار الأوروبي: نعتزم الدفع بمليار دولار سنويا في مصر

الإثنين، ٢٤ أكتوبر ٢٠١١ - ٢٠:٥٦

توماس ميرو رئيس البنك الأوروبي للإعمار والتنمية

(أ. ش. أ)

أعلن مدير الاتصالات بالبنك الأوروبي لإعادة الإعمار والتنمية جوناثان تشارلز عن اعترام البنك الدفع بمليار دولار سنويا في إطار مشاركته بمشروعات من شأنها تعزيز وتحفيز الاقتصاد المصري خلال المرحلة الانتقالية التي يمر بها.

وقال تشارلز - في تصريحات أدلى بها على هامش مشاركته في مؤتمر «تحفيز النمو والاستثمار خلال الفترة الانتقالية»، الذي ينظمه اتحاد الصناعات المصرية بالتعاون مع البنك الأوروبي للتعمير والتنمية والجمعية المصرية لشباب الأعمال، «إنهم لم يأتوا وبحوزتهم مجموعة جاهزة من الخطط، خاصة وأنهم يقيمون حالة كل دولة بشكل فردي ويحاولون أن يتفهموا حاجة الشعب».

وأضاف: «هذا ما نفعله في هذا المؤهر وغيره حيث نستمتع جيدا ثم في نهاية ذلك نضع خطة، ولقد بدأنا بالفعل في القيام بالتحليلات التقنية والتعرف على احتياجات البلاد ومن الواضح أن هناك بعض المجالات التي يمكننا تقديم المساعدة فيها بشكل كبير» وعلى رأسها المشروعات الصغيرة والمتوسطة، حيث إن هناك حاجة كبيرة لتمكين الشركات من الحصول على القروض لأن هذا الأمر صعب للغاية بالنسبة لها في الوقت الحال».

وتابع «أول ما سترغب في القيام به هو البحث عن الآليات لتوفير المال لهذه المشروعات الصغيرة والمتوسطة، لأنها المجال الذي من شأنه تعزيز النمو الاقتصادي وخلق المزيد من الوظائف».

واستطرد « أن مجال قطاع التصنيع الزراعي مهم للغاية بالنسبة لمصر، ولكنه بحاجة لأن يكون أكثر كفاءة، خاصة وأنه همقدور مصر إنتاج المزيد من الغذاء لشعبها، مشيراً إلى أنه مجال شارك فيه البنك كثيرا في وسط وشرق أوروبا وأن الأمر لا يقتصر على زيادة التصنيع الغذائي، ولكن أيضا يدور حول قضايا أخرى متعلقة، مثل توفير وسائل أكثر فعالية لإيصال مياه الري إلى المزارعين، وأن هذه المشروعات تتم في إطار تطوير أداء المجالس البلدية والسلطات الإقليمية ومساعدتها في المشاكل التي تواجهها».

25 October 2011
 Al Ahram

بحث تمويل الاستثمارات مع البنك الأوروبي لإعادة الاعمار والتنمية المصدر: الأهرام اليومي بقلم: محمد حماد

بحث رئيس مجلس إدارة الهيئة العامة للرقابة المالية الدكتور أشرف الشرفاوي امس مع أعضاء بعثة التقييم التابعة للبنك الأوروبي لإعادة الاعمار والتنمية خلال زيارتهم لمصر والتي تأتي متباعدة للطلب المقدم من الحكومة المصرية للتحول إلى دولة عمليات للبنك الاستفادة من استثمارات البنك في تعزيز نشاط القطاع الخاص والاستثمار في قطاعات الطاقة والبنية التحتية والخدمات ودعم جهود جذب رؤوس الأموال للحد من الضغوط السلبية على الاقتصاد المصري.

وقدم الشرفاوي - خلال اللقاء - عرضاً لدور ومهام الهيئة في الرقابة على الأسواق المالية غير المصرفية وأهم التطورات التي شهدتها تلك الأسواق خلال الفترة الأخيرة وتأثير الأحداث السياسية التي تشهدها البلاد والقواعد التنظيمية الجديدة التي أقرتها الهيئة سواء فيما يتعلق بتنشيط سوق السندات أو بالإفصاح وقواعد القيد للشركات.

المنتدى خلال مؤتمر الأوروبي لإعادة الاعمار والتنمية - والتمويل المستدام

استثمار قروض المانحين بالكامل في مشروعات تنموية وليس سد عجز الموازنة

■ سياسة اقتصادية شاملة لاعتماد الاقتراض الخارجي ■ خفض تصنيف مصر غير مؤثر ■ 4 مليارات دولار مساعدات موقوفة من قطر

كتب - محمد فتاح الدين ومحمد رمضان
 والتمويل المستدام

قال الدكتور أشرف الشرفاوي، رئيس الهيئة العامة للرقابة المالية، إن هيئة التمويل الأوروبي المعروفة على مدار 50 عامًا، هي منظمة دولية متخصصة في تمويل مشروعات استثمارية في مختلف دول العالم، وهي تركز على تمويل مشروعات التنمية الاقتصادية والاجتماعية في مختلف دول العالم، وتتميز بكونها منظمة غير ربحية، وتتمتع بسمعة عالية في جميع أنحاء العالم، وتتمتع بقدرة مالية كبيرة، وتتمتع بقدرة عالية على التمويل، وتتمتع بقدرة عالية على الاستثمار، وتتمتع بقدرة عالية على الابتكار، وتتمتع بقدرة عالية على التكيف، وتتمتع بقدرة عالية على العمل مع الحكومات والقطاع الخاص.

وأضاف الشرفاوي، أن هيئة التمويل الأوروبي هي منظمة دولية متخصصة في تمويل مشروعات استثمارية في مختلف دول العالم، وهي تركز على تمويل مشروعات التنمية الاقتصادية والاجتماعية في مختلف دول العالم، وتتميز بكونها منظمة غير ربحية، وتتمتع بسمعة عالية في جميع أنحاء العالم، وتتمتع بقدرة مالية كبيرة، وتتمتع بقدرة عالية على التمويل، وتتمتع بقدرة عالية على الاستثمار، وتتمتع بقدرة عالية على الابتكار، وتتمتع بقدرة عالية على التكيف، وتتمتع بقدرة عالية على العمل مع الحكومات والقطاع الخاص.

وأشار الشرفاوي، إلى أن هيئة التمويل الأوروبي هي منظمة دولية متخصصة في تمويل مشروعات استثمارية في مختلف دول العالم، وهي تركز على تمويل مشروعات التنمية الاقتصادية والاجتماعية في مختلف دول العالم، وتتميز بكونها منظمة غير ربحية، وتتمتع بسمعة عالية في جميع أنحاء العالم، وتتمتع بقدرة مالية كبيرة، وتتمتع بقدرة عالية على التمويل، وتتمتع بقدرة عالية على الاستثمار، وتتمتع بقدرة عالية على الابتكار، وتتمتع بقدرة عالية على التكيف، وتتمتع بقدرة عالية على العمل مع الحكومات والقطاع الخاص.

وأخيراً، أشار الشرفاوي، إلى أن هيئة التمويل الأوروبي هي منظمة دولية متخصصة في تمويل مشروعات استثمارية في مختلف دول العالم، وهي تركز على تمويل مشروعات التنمية الاقتصادية والاجتماعية في مختلف دول العالم، وتتميز بكونها منظمة غير ربحية، وتتمتع بسمعة عالية في جميع أنحاء العالم، وتتمتع بقدرة مالية كبيرة، وتتمتع بقدرة عالية على التمويل، وتتمتع بقدرة عالية على الاستثمار، وتتمتع بقدرة عالية على الابتكار، وتتمتع بقدرة عالية على التكيف، وتتمتع بقدرة عالية على العمل مع الحكومات والقطاع الخاص.

25 October 2011
Al Akhbar



فايزة ابوالنجا في مؤتمر تحفيز الاستثمار

أبو النجا تعلن في مؤتمر تحفيز الاستثمار الغاء دعم الطاقة للصناعة وزيادة الاعتماد على الغاز الطبيعي

كتب عصام حشيش:

الذي نظمه أمس اتحاد الصناعات المصرية بالتعاون مع البنك الأوروبي للاعمار والتنمية. وقالت الوزيرة ان الحكومة واجهت تحديات كبيرة في ظل نقص المساعدات المالية واضطرابات الامن الا ان عمليات التحول السياسي والاقتصادي والديموقراطي التي تجري الان كفيلة بتحقيق العدالة الاجتماعية التي يتطلع اليها المصريون واوضحت ان الحكومة تتفهم احتياجات الشعب ووضعت ضمن اولوياتها خلق فرص العمل وتحسين مناخ الاستثمار إلى جانب خطة لتوفير مليون وحدة سكنية منخفضة الاسعار لمحدودي الدخل خلال ٥ سنوات بمعدل انشاء ٢٠٠ الف وحدة سنويا.

اعلنت فايزة أبو النجا وزيرة التخطيط والتعاون الدولي انتهاء الحكومة من وضع نظام جديد لدعم الطاقة للصناعة سيتم إعلانه خلال أيام.. ويقضى بالغاء الدعم المقدم للصناعات كثيفة الاستخدام للطاقة كمرحلة اولى ثم الغاء الدعم نهائيا عن جميع الصناعات بشكل تدريجي وقالت إن الدولة ستساهم بقوة في تزويد جميع الصناعات الصغيرة والمتوسطة بالغاز الطبيعي كوسيلة لتقليل تكلفة الطاقة وحماية البيئة في نفس الوقت، جاء ذلك خلال مؤتمر تحفيز التنمية والاستثمار خلال المرحلة الانتقالية

اليوم السابع | اقتصاد

قنديل: المشاريع الصغيرة ورجال الأعمال يواجهون تعنت الهيئات الحكومية

الثلاثاء، 25 أكتوبر 2011 - 00:34
كتب سليم على



قالت ماجدة قنديل المديرية التنفيذية للمركز المصري للدراسات الاقتصادية، إن من أهم المشاكل التي تواجه المشاريع الصغيرة والمتوسطة هي عدم المساواة في منح التراخيص وعدم كفاءة النظام التشريعي والإجراءات التصفية التي يواجهها رجال الأعمال داخل الهيئات الحكومية.

وقالت ماجدة أن هدفاً هو تعزيز النمو والعمالة من خلال تنمية المشروعات الصغيرة والمتوسطة من خلال وضع استراتيجيات وخطط وتسعير وتحديد المجالات الجغرافية، ومكافحة الاحتكار والاستفادة من الدعم الفني وتحسين مهارات المبادرة.

وأضافت قنديل، خلال مؤتمر تبادل خبرات المرحلة الانتقالية، أن هدف المركز المصري للدراسات الاقتصادية هو إنشاء قطاع أعمال يقوم بتحسين بيئة العمل أمام الصناع، وإنشاء بنوك خاصة لتمويل المشروعات الصغيرة والمتوسطة وتحسين نظم التمويل، وتحسين القروض التي تأخذها المصانع الصغيرة والمتوسطة من البنوك وتحسين النظام الضريبي ووضع برامج مخصصة لحماية الصناعات الصغيرة المعرضة للخطر، مشيرة إلى أن هذه المطالب موجهة إلى الحكومة.

وقالت منى البرادعي مستشار المجلس الوطني المصري للتنافسية، إن الابتكار هو الذي يؤدي إلى قيادة تنافسية بين الصناع، وأنه من أهم الركائز لبناء استثمار.

وأوضحت، أن ترتيب مصر من الجانب الاقتصادي على الصعيد الدولي ضعيف جداً ويحتاج إلى عمل دراسة لدعم الابتكار القانوني والتشريعي، وتطوير الحوافز والبحث وتعديل قانون الإفلاس، وأشارت إلى أنه يجب على الجهاز الحكومي أن يقوم بتطوير عملية الابتكار، وقالت إن التعرف على أهمية الابتكارات الاجتماعية يساعد على تغلب التحديات الاجتماعية.

قال محمد مراد الريان عضو جمعية شباب رجال الأعمال، إن مصر من الناحية السياسية قوية وحررة، المتحدت باسم شباب رجال الأعمال أن مصر تحتاج إلى أحزاب قوية تتضمن برامج تجعل مصر أفضل، وأن يكون هناك نظام دون إحداث أضرار، موقفاً أن هذا سوف يتحقق خلال الفترة الانتقالية.

وقال الريان، إن الفترة ما قبل الثورة لم تكن كلها سيئة، وشدد إلى أنه يجب على الدولة أن تركز على النتائج واهتمامات البسطاء.

25 October 2011
Al Shourouk

مليار دولار من البنك الأوروبي للحكومة المصرية

القاهرة - يعتزم البنك الأوروبي لإعادة الأعمار والتنمية تقديم قرض للحكومة المصرية بقيمة مليار دولار خلال الفترة المقبلة، بحسب ما ذكرته وزيرة التخطيط والتعاون الدولي، فائزة أبوالنجا أمس على هامش المؤتمر الذي نظمته وزارتها بالتعاون مع البنك الأوروبي لإعادة الأعمار والتنمية.

وأشارت الوزيرة إلى أنه من المقرر أن يفتتح البنك غرفة عمليات مصر لتقديم المساعدات، والذي من المقرر أن يتوجه لتمويل المشروعات الصغيرة والمتوسطة بمعدل مليون دولار شهريا.

وأكدت أبوالنجا أن الاقتصاد المصري يمر بمرحلة حرجية وبالرغم من ذلك لا يزال هناك إمكانات واعدة تؤهله للخروج من عازته الحالية. معتبرة أن تباطؤ معدلات النمو خلال الفترة الحالية هو أمر طبيعي نتيجة لما تشهده مصر من احتجاجات واعتصامات عطلت عجلة الإنتاج.

واعترفت الوزيرة أن الخروج من الأزمة الحالية يتطلب خلق فرص عمل وتشجيع المشروعات الصغيرة والمتوسطة، مشيرة إلى أن كل جزء من الاقتصاد المصري أصيب بجزء واضح، حيث فقدت البلاد نحو 100 ألف سائح شهريا بعد ثورة 25 يناير، كما أن 70 % من العقود الداهية مع الشركات السياحية تم فسخها، مما أثر بشكل كبير على الاقتصاد المصري.

من جانبه قال جوتنان تشارلز مدير الاتصالات بينك الصعير الأوروبي، إن البنك على استعداد استثمار الملايين من الدولارات في مصر من خلال المشروعات الصغيرة والمتوسطة لمساعدة الشعب المصري، وأشار إلى أنهم قدموا العديد من المساعدات للعديد من الدول التي قامت بثورات مماثلة.

المصدر : جريدة الشروق



فائزة أبوالنجا: الحكومة ستبني مليون وحدة سكنية في 5 أعوام

كتيب - سليم على

أعلنت فائزة أبوالنجا، وزيرة التخطيط والتعاون الدولي أمس الأول الاثنين، عزم الحكومة المصرية تنفيذ مشروع لبناء مليون وحدة سكنية منخفضة التكلفة في جميع محافظات مصر على مدار الخمسة أعوام المقبلة.

وقالت أبوالنجا، خلال الجلسة الافتتاحية لمؤتمر تحفيز النمو والاستثمار خلال الفترة الانتقالية، الذي ينظمه اتحاد الصناعات المصرية بالتعاون مع البنك الأوروبي للتمويل والتنمية والجمعية المصرية لشباب الأعمال، إن الحكومة المصرية تعزم تحمل 50 في المائة من قيمة المشروع.

وأوضحت فائزة أن هذا المشروع يأتي على أعلى قائمة أولويات الحكومة المصرية التي تضم أيضا ضرورة العمل على توفير فرص العمل وتعزيز وتشجيع المشاريع الصغيرة والمتوسطة.

وأكدت أبوالنجا أن مصر تمر حاليا بواحدة من أكثر المراحل الحاسمة في الاقتصاد المصري، إن لم تكن الأكثر حسما، مشيرة إلى أن الكثير من مكونات الاقتصاد المصري تضررت بعد ثورة 25 يناير، وعلى رأسها السياحة. وهذا أثر بشكل كبير في سوق العمالة في مصر، وبالتالي تسبب في تراجع معدل النمو.

وأضافت فائزة أن قطاع الصادرات تضرر أيضا، وكذلك التحويلات المالية من المصريين بالخارج، مشيرة إلى أن تحويلات العاملين بالكويت والذين يشكلون 38 في المائة من العاملين بالخارج عوضت الخسائر الناجمة عن توقف التحويلات القادمة من ليبيا نتيجة الأحداث هناك.

واعترفت الوزيرة أن مصر تسير على الطريق الصحيح، موضحة أن القضية ليست مقصورة على التأكيد على الإصلاحات السياسية، حيث إن الهدف الرئيس للثورة كان تحقيق العدالة الاجتماعية، وهو ما سيحقق عن طريق القضاء على المظالم الاقتصادية كالبطالة وغلاء السكن.

A BIG DAY FOR THE EBRD IN EGYPT

By Jonathan Charles in Cairo 24 October 2011

"We are now in the tenth month of our revolution and we can say that the worst is behind us." It was with that sense of optimism that Egypt's minister of planning and international cooperation, Fayza Aboulnaga, summed up the mood in her country as she talked about the many challenges ahead for the economy. She was speaking at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development's Transition to Transition (T2T) Initiative event, in Cairo. The conference was an opportunity for the Egyptians to share their experiences of change with representatives from countries in central and Eastern Europe which have already gone through dramatic economic and political turmoil - the EBRD's existing countries of operations.

The conference was organised with the help of the Federation of Egyptian Industries and the Egyptian Junior Business Association. Former Czech Prime Minister and current EBRD vice-president, Jan Fischer, told the audience that transformation is a complex issue: "After 20 years, my country is still in a transition. The process involves intertwining economic and political issues, legal changes, as well as social aspects." He also said that a lean civil service was a prerequisite. Mrs. Aboulnaga replied by admitting that Egypt had six and a half million civil servants but only fifteen per cent worked effectively.

A former Polish prime minister, Jan Kizysztof Blelecki, told the meeting that you have to accept that transition brings instability - that was his country's experience and governments had to find time for strategic thinking, even in the midst of daily chaos. EBRD Chief Economist, Erik Berglof, believes this sharing of experiences between the EBRD's current and new regions can really help all countries understand the challenges of transition.

During the discussions, many of the participants from Egypt's business community said that their priority would be help for small and medium sized enterprises. This is a sector which finds it hard to access loans and there was support for the EBRD to get involved to make it easier to find funding. I told the meeting that the Bank was listening intently as it drew up its strategy for Egypt: "We want to know exactly what it is that you want us to do and that is why we are listening so closely." Apart from examining the general issues of how to stimulate growth, there were additional working sessions on promoting employment through SMEs, investing in food security, preparing for a sustainable future and driving competitiveness through innovation.

Senior EBRD staff also met representatives of Egyptian youth organisations. They explained that they wanted to see swift change and that governments had to see the people as stakeholders whose voices must be heard.

The EBRD has said that it has the capacity to invest, eventually, as much as a billion Euros a year in Egypt, and two and a half billion Euros a year across the southern and eastern Mediterranean region. It is now planning to hold similar listening exercises in Tunisia and Morocco in the coming months.

PRESS RELEASE FOR EVENT IN EGYPT

24/10/11

Author: Jonathan Charles

Stimulating Growth and Investment During Transition

Organized by:

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)
The Federation of Egyptian Industries (FEI)
The Egyptian Junior Business Association (EJB)

Sponsored by:

The Ministry of planning and International Cooperation of Egypt (MOPIC)

WHAT NEXT FOR EGYPT'S ECONOMY?

The EBRD, FEI, EJB and MOPIC hold a Transition to Transition (T2T) event.

How do you want Egypt's economy to change in the coming years? What should be the priority in the short and medium term? Where should investments be made? What can Egypt learn from the experiences of Central and Eastern Europe after the collapse of communism, two decades ago? What can those other countries learn from Egypt? These and many other questions are being asked by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and its partners, during a day of discussion in Cairo. The event, on Monday 24 October, is one of several listening exercises that the Bank is holding in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean region. It wants Egyptians to give their input, as it draws up its plans for operations in the country. EBRD Director of Communications, Jonathan Charles, says: "It's very important that we listen to what Egyptians want for the future of their economy, we have a good track record of project based activities, working effectively on the ground."

The Cairo event, organised in cooperation with The Federation of Egyptian Industries (FEI), The Egyptian Junior Business Association (EJB) and sponsored by The Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC), is an opportunity for Egyptians to share their opinions and experiences with their counterparts in Central and Eastern Europe and Turkey. The Transition-to-Transition (T2T) Initiative is a framework within which the EBRD can facilitate and exploit a «peer-to-peer» exchange of transition and reform experience between the Bank's current countries of operations and countries of the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean region. The Bank's role will be that of a facilitator, bringing old and new «peers» of reforms together, and a listener in order to better understand the differences between the reform experiences in the two regions.

The hope is that by swapping ideas, at the Transition to Transition (T2T) Initiative, everyone will be enriched and the debate will provoke ideas for going forward. The EBRD's Chief Economist, Erik Berglof, believes that: "Transition in Central and eastern Europe, as well as in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean spans a wide range of experience. With this event, the EBRD wants to foster and facilitate peer-to-peer exchange of these experiences, in individual sectors, as well as for the economy as a whole."

The EBRD has been tasked by the international community with helping Egypt and other emerging democracies in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean region. It estimates it will have the capacity to invest as much as a billion Euros a year in Egypt and two and a half billion Euros a year across the region. The EBRD was set up in 1991, in response to the collapse of communism, and has more than twenty years of experience in fostering market economies. In Egypt, amongst the Bank's priorities will be the financing and improving of conditions for investments in the private sector, with particular emphasis on developing small and medium sized enterprises. SMEs are a prime driver of growth and job creation.

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