

## Press release | 19.11.2012

### The German-Arab organisation EMA opens its first “Forum for the Mashriq and Gulf Region” in the Federal Foreign Office today

Berlin - At this morning's opening ceremony of the “EMA Forum for the Mashriq and Gulf Region” in the Federal Foreign Office, Secretary General Dr. Abdelmajid Layadi of the German-Arab organization EMA emphasized that given the current situation in the Arab countries German-Arab cooperation is more important than ever: “The Arab people and especially the young generation are longing for freedom, for political as well as economic, cultural and social participation.” Dr. Layadi further said that this wish has to be supported and to be addressed on a political level.

The forum, organized by the Federal Foreign Service and the EMA, is a first step towards achieving this goal. Under the patronage of the Foreign Federal Minister, Dr. Guido Westerwelle, about 200 German and Arab representatives of the political, business, science and civil society sector gathered to discuss the pressing issues. In eight workshops, this interdisciplinary event will go far beyond political statements and address the topics that are relevant for sustainable growth, for example:

- Foreign Financial Relations
- Recruitment and Know-How-Transfer
- Legal Frameworks
- Water Management and the Environment
- Health Care and Life Sciences

The forum is concluded by an exclusive gala dinner in the delegate's restaurant in the German Federal Parliament. Klaus Brandner, Chairman of the German-Egyptian Group of Parliamentarians, will be holding the keynote.

Tomorrow's framework programme also offers an excellent opportunity for networking. High-ranking representatives will participate in a historic tour of Potsdam, a reception in the Federal State Government of Brandenburg and a visit of the new Berlin-Brandenburg Airport (under construction).

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#### The German-Arab Organisation

The EMA is working towards a deepened economic, political and cultural cooperation between Germany and the countries of North Africa and the Middle East (EMA-region). Please find more information on our homepage: [www.ema-germany.org](http://www.ema-germany.org)

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