



## Das Hamburger Umweltforum für die EMA-Region

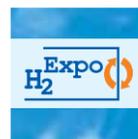
- Innovativ in eine gemeinsame Zukunft -

07. - 08. Juni 2011 im Haus der Wirtschaft, Hamburg (Messe und Rahmenprogramm)

Unter der Schirmherrschaft  
des Prinzen des Haschemitischen Königreichs von Jordanien,  
S.K.H. Prinz El Hassan bin Talal

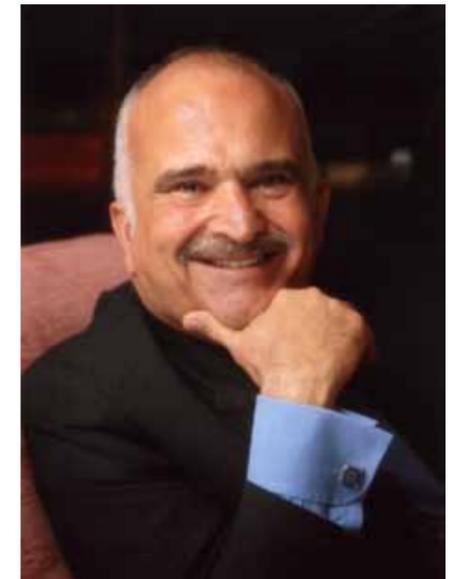
der Senatorin für Stadtentwicklung und Umwelt  
der Freien und Hansestadt Hamburg, Jutta Blankau

Kooperationspartner:



## Grußwort

*From: His Royal Highness  
Prince El Hassan bin Talal,  
Chairman of the West Asia –  
North Africa Forum*



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Due to the weight of their impact on the carrying capacity of our region, water, energy and environmental concerns are among the gravest existential threats that we in the Arab world face today. I am pleased to have the opportunity to introduce this issue of **EMA magazine – Mediterranes** which is dedicated to discussing many of the problems, as well as the emerging opportunities, this region faces.

Too often in the past, cooperation among the neighbours of the Mediterranean has been limited to one or two important aspects of environmental sustainability: conservation and the 'management' of natural resources.

The reality in Arab countries is characterized by the crushing, combined stresses of inherent water, food and fuel shortages. These, in turn, are further exacerbated by increasing climate change, in addition to demographic change, degradation and the spill-over effects from neighbouring conflicts. Simply said, the efficacy of conservation and management as a genuine solution has always been questionable and has never rested in our hands alone. We are painfully aware that we need to develop new mul-

ti-sector approaches with the help of our partners that involve greater risk-taking – and we need to have done so yesterday.

### *What are our best options?*

Renewable energy, and Concentrated Solar Power (CSP) projects, in particular, have gained new importance – particularly in light of the popular demands for change that began spreading across the mostly non-oil producing countries of the region in recent months.

The DESERTEC concept discussed in this volume is an initiative that I – since my days as President of the Club of Rome – have advocated as the most promising and mutually beneficial of the win-win solutions experts propose. Energy from the deserts is now expected to benefit from increased concessional climate financing, as well.

The joblessness and dignity deficits which have fuelled the total disenfranchisement of the southern Mediterranean region's youth can be mitigated by the integration of Europe's energy needs and its investments, with the power of the Arab sun and with an educated work

force that hopes to create more free and prosperous societies.

According to a recent (Jan 2011) report of the World Bank, with ESMAP, Ernst & Young and Fraunhofer, as many as 80,000 new jobs could be created in the MENA region by 2025 through, and as a result of, CSP production. Additional jobs would likely be added indirectly through associated supply chain industries.

While DESERTEC's detractors may continue to point out that cooperation between the states of Europe and the states of the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean is certain to be challenging, it remains the case that the Arab States remain a place of profound possibility and an area of the world in which ideas and challenges are increasingly being welcomed.

S.K.H. Prinz El Hassan bin Talal

Amman, im Juni 2011