

No. 1 - January 2011

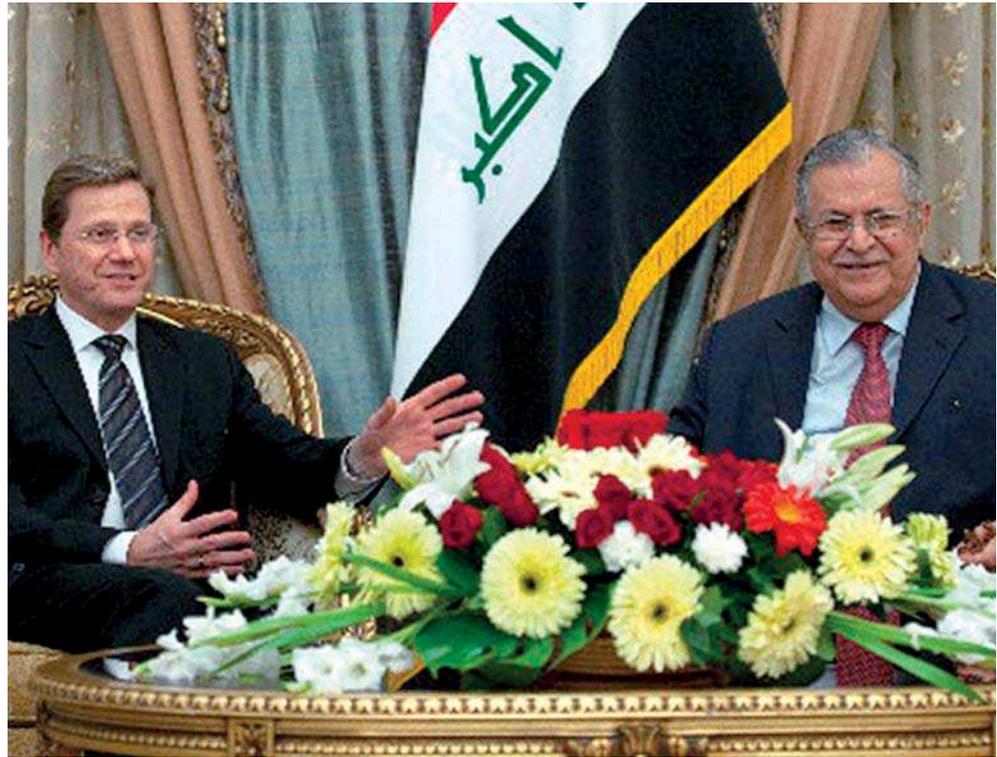
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# Investment Protection Agreement signed between Germany and Iraq

by Ludwig Schulz



H.E. Dr. Guido Westerwelle, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany and H.E. Jalal Talabani, President of the Republic of Iraq

**H. E. Dr. Guido Westerwelle**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany, signed an Investment Protection Agreement between Germany and the Republic of Iraq on a visit to Baghdad on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2010. The Agreement was also signed by **H. E. Fawsi al-Hariri**, former Iraqi Minister of Industry and Minerals. Both ministers expressed their wish for an enhanced cooperation between the two countries.

The new accord will help to improve economic and legal conditions for German companies working in Iraq, Dr. Guido Westerwelle said in a statement. The foreign minister offered Iraq the "closest of partnerships with Germany". Dr. Guido Westerwelle is the first European foreign minister to visit Iraq since the parliamentary elections from 7<sup>th</sup> March 2010. He was

accompanied by members of the German Federal Parliament and business representatives. During his visit to the Iraqi capital, the Foreign Minister also met **H.E. Jalal Talabani**, President of Iraq, **H. E. Nuri al-Maliki**, newly reinstated Prime Minister and **H.E. Hoshyar Zebari**, former Iraqi Prime Minister and current Foreign Minister, as well as Parliament Speaker **H.E. Usama al-Nujaifi**.

In a press conference, his counterpart **H.E. Hoshyar Zebari** expressed his welcome to all German companies. Economic relations between Germany and Iraq have to be deepened immediately; Iraq should profit from the German companies' "excellent" experience. The Investment Protection Agreement between the two countries therefore is an adequate basis for future cooperation and investment.

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