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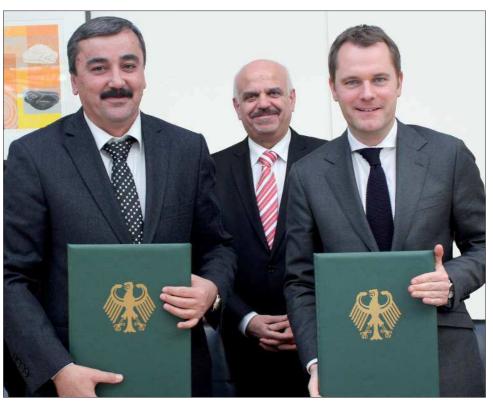
## Contents

Stronger Ties between Iraq and Germany in the Health Care Sector	1
Editorial	3
Iraq to support economic recovery with new USD 100bn investment strategy	4
German Ambassador meets Minister of Planning	5
Iraqi delegation participates at Near and Middle East Annual Conference and the Near and Middle East Gala Event 2012	6
Sheraton to return to Iraq in 2015	7
Foreign investment in Iraq	8
Waste management: A growing market in Iraq	9
Major contract for waste water treatment plant	10
Preparing to take off - Iraq's transport sector requires investment	12
Positive development of bilateral trade	13
German students represent the Republic of Iraq in the National Model United Nations Conference	14
Solving the electricity shortage remains one of Iraq's key priorities	15
Housing drives Iraqi construction sector	17
Spotlight - Basra	18
Current status of Iraq's oil sector	19
Iraq to hold 4 <sup>th</sup> oilfield auction	19
Banking system in Iraq	21
Efforts to develop Iraq's IT & telecommunication sector	23
Business enquiries	24
News	25
Tenders / Flights from Germany to Iraq	26
Fairs 2012, Registering companies in Iraq, Public Holidays in Iraq and Germany	27
NUMOV Services	28
Application form for Membership	28
Useful links	29
Imprint	30
Board of NUMOV	30

Contact: Iraqi German Business Dialogue c/o NUMOV Jägerstr. 63 D D-10117 Berlin Phone: +49 (0)30 - 206410-0 Fax: +49 (0)30 - 206410-10 E-mail: numov@numov.de Internet: www.numov.de

## Stronger Ties between Iraq and Germany in the Health Care Sector

by Peter Schmitz



H.E. Dr. Majeed Hamad Amin, Minister of Health of the Republic of Iraq, H.E. Dr. Hussain M.F. Alkhateeb, Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to Germany and H.E. Daniel Bahr, Minister of Health of the Federal Republic of Germany

During his visit to Germany, H.E. Dr. Majeed Hamad Amin, Minister of Health of the Republic of Iraq, visited the Federal Republic of Germany for enhancing the bilateral relations and, amongst others, had talks with representatives of the German health care sector, German ministries and non-governmental organisations on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2012. H.E. Dr. Majeed Hamad Amin outlined the tremendous challenges Iraq's health care sector is currently facing due to a decrease in deliverance quality as a result of the international economic sanctions from 1991 to 2003.

During this time, the Iraqi government suffered from a lack of income due to its isolation from the international economy and was therefore not able to provide a country-wide health care sys-

tem that encompassed the total population. However, this dramatic situation has now changed for the better. Since the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime in 2003, the Iraqi health care system has undergone a gradual process of reconstruction and privatisation, especially in the service and medical equipment sector which has improved rapidly. This means huge investment opportunities for foreign companies, H.E. Dr. Majeed Hamad Amin stated in his introductory remarks. Pointing out the excellent reputation of German know-how in Iraq and the longlasting close relationship between both countries, the Minister focused on business opportunities for German companies in the fields of medical equipment, further education of postgraduate physicians, emergency equipment and health care services. The Iragi government has

continued on page 11