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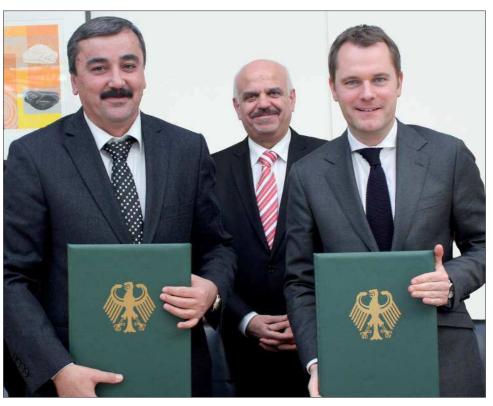
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Stronger Ties between Iraq and Germany in the Health Care Sector

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 5th 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

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