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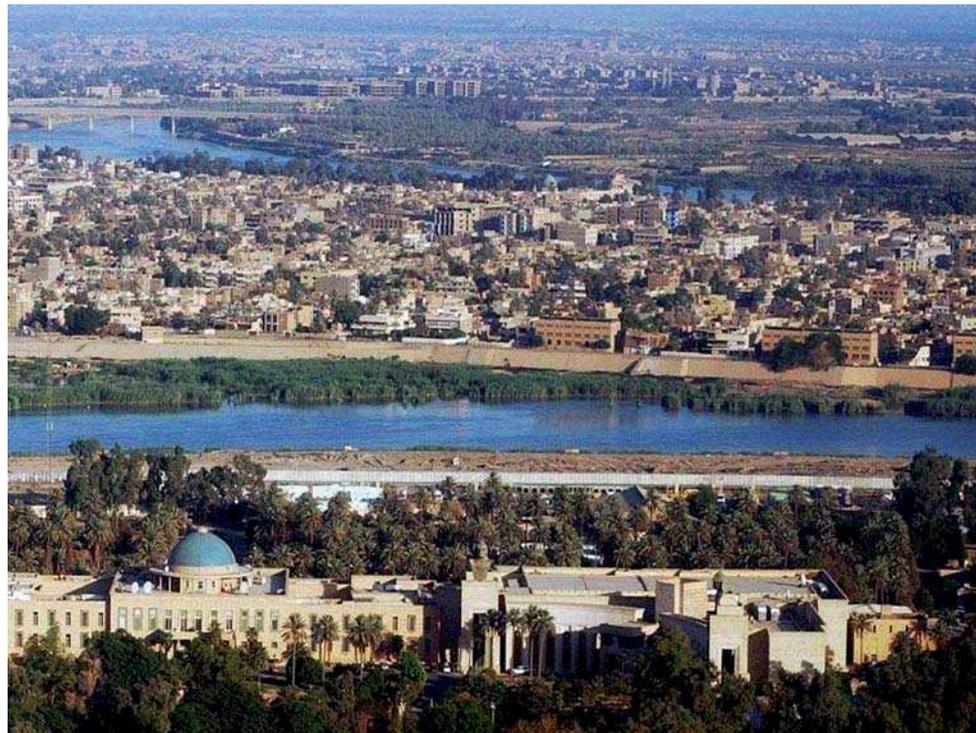
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German Businesses are well advised to keep Iraq in Mind

H.E. Martin Kobler, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Iraq, spoke with Helene Rang, NUMOV



Baghdad / Capital of Iraq

HR: You were appointed UN Special Representative for Iraq one year ago. What is your impression of the country's development within this period?

H.E. Martin Kobler: I was German Ambassador in Iraq from 2006-2007. Coming back five years later I have seen a lot of changes, but also a lot of stagnation. Many things have improved, for example, security, which is important for the framework conditions for the industry and for investors. However, other things have remained as they were. When I left in 2007, the oil and gas law was almost ready to be passed by parliament, but five years later, no further progress has been made. The country is much more consolidated, violence and civil war has subsided, this year the American presence in Iraq was fully withdrawn, the country has gained complete sovereignty and visible progress has been made particularly in terms of security and insti-

tution building. On the other hand, framework conditions for industry, legislation, the oil and gas law, what I term the unfinished constitutional agenda, this is still something we have to work on.

HR: What are the main activities of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), and how do you evaluate the progress in political terms and the humanitarian situation?

H.E. Martin Kobler: The activities of UNAMI are based on UN Security Council resolution 1770, so we are operating within this framework. This means national reconciliation, the political problems of disputed internal boundaries which are very important for industry because most of the untapped oil fields lie within these regions, between the Kurdish and the Arab areas of Iraq. The unfinished constitutional agenda. The constitution, as it is leaves many things unfinished.

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