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Emir of Qatar visits Germany to foster closer ties



H.E. Chancellor Angela Merkel welcomes H.H. Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani as Germany and Qatar look to forge closer links

The Emir of Qatar, H.H. Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, paid an official visit to Germany from 17th to 20th September 2014 to reaffirm bilateral ties. Upon his arrival he was welcomed by H.E. Chancellor Angela Merkel.

During his three-day visit, the Emir also met with the German Minister for Foreign Affairs, H.E. Frank-Walter Steinmeier, and the Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy, H.E. Sigmar Gabriel.

Talks between H.H. Tamim Al Thani and H.E. Chancellor Angela Merkel mainly focused on the development of cooperation between Qatar and Germany. They discussed what could be done by their respective governments to advance the process, taking into consideration economic and political trends in the Middle East. H.E. Chancellor Merkel confirmed that the talks had been "fruitful and constructive". She praised Qatar's focus

on long-term development and its reputation as a "strategic investor".

Qatar is one the most important economic hotspots in the Middle East, and will continue to be in the future. Its economy is rapidly expanding. In the context of the World Cup 2022 and the National Vision 2030, major infrastructure development projects have been set in motion. Many of those are currently underway, and attract foreign direct investments from all over the world.

Qatar is also seeing positive increases across all industry sectors. Given the positive developments now and in previous decades, German companies have a considerable interest in Qatar and have been strengthening their foothold there for years. Exports from Germany to Qatar rose by 7.4% from EUR 1.17bn in 2012 to EUR 1.3bn in 2013. Exports from Qatar, worth EUR 762m in 2013, saw an increase by 5.3%. Currently, Ger-

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