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Contents

Interview with H.E. Olaf Scholz, Federal Chancellor of Germany	1
Editorial	3
Personalities	3
German Lohmann Energy & Infrastructure discusses cooperation on transition to green ports in Egypt	4
Jeddah Security and Development Summit 2022: US president visits Saudi Arabia	6
Saudi Arabia establishes Investment Promotion Authority	6
Recent development on the Neom project: Plans for IPO, USD 80bn in funding and a design for "The Line"	7
H.E. Annalena Baerbock visits Türkiye	8
Tourist arrivals in Türkiye strongly increasing	8
Prime Minister of Pakistan visits Qatar to promote bilateral cooperation	12
Food security in the MENA region	13
Financing issues and legal frameworks in the Near and Middle East region	14
GCC central banks hike interest rates	14
Germany welcomes Sultan of Oman and President of Egypt to Berlin	16
Climate action: Opportunities in the MENA region	22
Introducing a NUMOV member: Wildfang Architekten & Ingenieure	23
News & projects	24
DAMAC Group to invest USD 990m in Germany	26
Fair news	26
Exchange rates	26
Iraq resumes USD 1.5bn Anbar power plant project	27
Jordan-Iraq project represents a step towards an Arab energy market	27
Top 100 CEOs in the Middle East 2022	28
Business page	30
Business enquiries	30
Top 20 banks in the MENA region	31
Top 20 fintech companies in the MENA region	31
Emirati Women's Day 2022: "Inspiring Reality... Sustainable Future"	32
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan discusses future cooperation with Germany	33
H.E. Annalena Baerbock meets Moroccan counterpart	33
Board of NUMOV	34
Imprint	34

"Our perspective on the MENA region is not limited to energy policies"

Interview with H.E. Olaf Scholz,
Federal Chancellor of Germany, by Helene Rang, NUMOV



The MENA region has been experiencing an increase in attention and interest from Germany over the past months. In particular, the Russian war against Ukraine has necessitated Germany to diversify its energy suppliers. How does the government look at the region overall?

The Russian war of aggression against Ukraine has highlighted the importance of peace and stability in our neighbourhood as well as diversification. As you rightly point out, a stronger energy cooperation with different countries in the region will help us reduce dependencies on Russia. It should also contribute to the global transition to renewable energies. However, our perspective on the MENA region is not

limited to energy policies. We aim to enhance our relationships in a number of fields.

High-ranking bilateral meetings have included those with Egypt, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. What potentials for enhanced cooperation do you see with these countries?

In addition to energy cooperation, climate change is an important priority. COP27 takes place in Egypt this year, COP28 in the United Arab Emirates next year. In order to promote the implementation of the Paris climate agreement, we need to move quickly. At the same time, countries in the region are important trade and investment partners. We want to step up our cooperation. In addition, an enhanced

continued on page 10

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