



Syria and the European Union: Dimensions of Cooperation

October 31st – November 2nd 2008

Conference Venue:

Le Meridien Damascus

P.O.Box 5531 - Damascus SYRIA

Tel : (+963 11) 245 22 00 - 222 92 00 / 373 87 30

Fax : (+963 11) 223 33 03 - 373 86 61

Conference language:

English

Simultaneous translation:

English / Arabic

Programme

(27.10.2008)

**FRIEDRICH
EBERT** 
STIFTUNG

SEBC

Friday, Oct 31st 2008

04.05 pm

Arrival LH 6450 from Vienna at Damascus Airport

Pick up organised by Travel Agency "Julia Domina"

Check-In

Le Meridien Damascus

P.O.Box 5531 - Damascus SYRIA

Tel : (+963 11) 245 22 00 - 222 92 00 / 373 87 30

Fax : (+963 11) 223 33 03 - 373 86 61

05:30 pm

Meeting in the Hotel Lobby, Le Meridien

Departure for Reception at the Talisman Hotel

Transfer via Bus

06:00 pm

Welcome Reception for the participants of the conference

Venue:

Talisman Hotel

116 Tal El-Hijara St.

Damascus

Keynote Speeches on

Culture and Civilisation

Syria and Europe from Historical Perspective to Future Cooperation

Terms of Reference: Role of history, common cultural ground between Syria and Europe, Syria as a bridge between East and West, tourism and communication as an engine for cultural exchange, examples for tolerant co-existence between different religions and sects. present

Dr. Riad Nassan Agha

Minister of Culture

Dr. Andreas Reinicke,

Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Syrian Arab Republic, Damascus

Return to Hotel Le Meridien

Transfer via Bus

09:00 pm

Briefing of German participants

Hotel Lobby

Saturday, November 1st 2008

08:30 am

Arrival of Participants and Registration

Venue:

Le Meridien Hotel

"Zenobia Hall"

9th Floor

09:00 am

Welcoming and Introduction

10:00 am

Hajo Lanz

Head of the Department for the Middle East and North Africa, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Berlin

Dr. Abdullah Al-Dardari

Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic, Damascus

Walter Kolbow

Member of the German Parliament, Deputy Head SPD Parliamentary Group, Berlin

10:00 am

Coffee Break

10:15 am

10:15 am
12:00 am

I. Plenary Session

The Economic Reform Process in Syria Concepts and Strategies of Political Economy

Terms of Reference: Examples for social market economy under discussion; Interdependence between economic and administrative reform; Sequencing of reform steps; Balancing social and economic transformation; Discussing challenges of managing economic transformation; Syria as a regional hub.

Aim of the Session: Identifying ways, strategies and promising sectors for economic reform in Syria and elaborating proposals to fine-tune EU assistance programs.

The discussion to be introduced and chaired by

Dr. Abdullah Al-Dardari

*Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic,
Damascus*

and co-chaired by

Hajo Lanz

*Head of the Department for the Middle East and North Africa, Friedrich-Ebert-
Stiftung, Berlin*

Dr. Adnad Al-Soukhni

Head of Planning Committee

Veronique De Keyser

*Member of the European Parliament, Member of Committee on Foreign
Affairs, Brussels*

Anja Zorob

Institute of Development Research and Development Policy, Bochum

12:00 am
12:15 am

Refreshments

12:15 am
02:00 pm

II. Plenary Session

Business Sector Development Strategies for Sustainable and Pro-Poor Growth

Terms of Reference: Examples for small and medium enterprise development; Creating a supportive and attractive environment for the business sector; Strategies for pro-poor-growth.

Aim of the Session: Fostering a developmental oriented business sector; Identifying strategies to promote the SME sector; Strengthening EU-Syrian business relations.

The discussion to be introduced and chaired by

Dr. Amer Husni Lutfi

Minister of Economy and Trade

Poul Gadegaard

Syrian Enterprise and Business Centre (SEBC)

Dr. Rateb Al Shallah

President, Federation of Syrian Chambers of Commerce

Dr. Ulrich Thießen

German Institute for Economic Research, Berlin

Dr. Gerhard Heimpold

Institute for Economic Research, Halle

02:00 pm
03:30 pm

Lunch

03:30 pm
05:00 pm

III. Plenary Session

Globalisation: Challenges and Opportunities

Terms of Reference: Integration into the world market; protectionism vs. liberalisation; Effects of globalisation in the EU and Middle East and strategies to cope with these effects; Prospects and perceptions on global governance; Discussing the role of multilateral institutions; Influence of the rising powers (as China and India) on domestic markets

Aim of the Session: exchanging perspectives on globalisation and identifying strategies to fuel benefits from globalisation

The discussion to be introduced and chaired by

Emil Lieser

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung

Dr. Samir Al Taki

General Coordinator, Orient Center for International Studies

Mr. Soulayman Haddad

Head of Committee of Arab and Foreign Affairs.

Dr. Boris Ruge

Head, Middle East Department, Federal Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany, Berlin

Leonidas Tezapsidis

Head of Unit Near East, Directorate-General External Relations, European Commission, Brussels

Closing Remarks

Hajo Lanz

Head of the Department for the Middle East and North Africa, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Berlin

05.00 pm

End of Conference

06.30 pm

Meeting in the Hotel Lobby

Transfer to Reception at the German Residence via Bus

07:00 pm

Reception

on the Invitation of the German Ambassador

Dr. Andreas Reinicke

Venue:

German Residence

East Mezzah, Al Madina al-Munawwara St.

Return to Hotel Le Meridien via Bus

Sunday, November 2nd 2008

10.00 am	Check out Hotel
	Meeting in the Hotel Lobby, Le Meridien Transfer to the Old City via Bus
10.30 am – 12.15 pm	Tour of the Old City Return to Hotel Le Meridien
01.30 pm	Meeting in the Hotel Lobby, Le Meridien Transfer to Damascus Airport
02.00 pm	Arrival at Damascus Airport
03.55 pm 08.45 pm	Departure with LH 6449 / OS 842 to Vienna Arrival with LH 3617 in Berlin Tegel