

## Industrialists seek German help in renewable energy projects

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AMMAN -- Jordanian industrialists on Tuesday discussed with their counterparts from the German province of Saxony-Anhalt opportunities to carry out joint projects in the Kingdom.

According to Hatem Halawani, president of the Jordan Chamber of Industry (JCI), the industrial sector seeks to implement ventures in the fields of renewable energy, agriculture and food processing.

During a meeting with a 20-member trade delegation, chaired by Wolfgang Boehmer, minister-president of Saxony-Anhalt, Halawani said the private sector in Jordan is interested in carrying out joint renewable energy projects with the province and to exchange technologies in this field.

Industry and Trade Minister Amer Hadidi stressed that the importance of boosting trade and investment cooperation between Jordan and Germany, noting that since 1996 only 18 investment projects, worth \$30 million, were established in Jordan.

Boehmer told The Jordan Times that the visit will help increase German investment in the Kingdom, pointing out possibilities to establish wind energy, solar, thermal and energy conservation projects.

He indicated that the Jordan exports to the province and Germany are expected to increase this year, particularly pharmaceutical products and phosphate.

"Saxony-Anhalt is a leader in the field of renewable energy and hopefully the private sector from both countries will cooperate to implement these projects in Jordan," said Klaus Olbricht, chief of chamber of commerce and industry of Magdeburg, the province capital.

"German businesspeople are interested to carry out projects in Jordan because it is close to Iraq and due to its strategic location in the region", he added.

JCI Director General Zaki Ayoubi highlighted Germany as Jordan's major economic partner in Europe as trade with Germany represents 27 per cent of the overall trade exchange with the European Union.

He told The Jordan Times that a trade and industrial delegation from the Kingdom will visit Saxony-Anhalt during this year to attract more investments to Jordan.

"Jordan and the world face a food crisis nowadays and the province of Saxony-Anhalt is considered the first agricultural region in Germany," Ayoubi noted.

Jordan Investment Board Assistant Executive Director Issa Gammoh briefed the delegation about investment opportunities and legislations in Jordan.

Gammoh said that Jordan focuses on energy technologies, water and railway infrastructure.

Later in the day, Boehmer and the accompanying delegation visited Petra Engineering Industries Company and observed the production process of air-conditioning units as well as the company's research and development centre, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

{Zawya}