

IMAGE

ΠΡΕΣΒΕΙΑ ΜΟΥΣΚΑΤ

Ар. Фак. : 08.05.001 - 03.13.018

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ΠΡΟΣ ΕΝΗΜΕΡΩΣΗ:

[2]

Κοιν. Γενικό Διευθυντή,
Υπουργείου Εμπορίου,
Βιομηχανίας και Τουρισμού

Πρέαβη, Ρώμη
(παρ. όπως γίνουν από το Κέντρο)

(a/a (13)

ΠΡΟΣ ΕΝΕΡΓΕΙΑ:

Πρόεδρο
Κυπριακού Εμπορικού
και Βιομηχανικού
Επιμελητηρίου

Πρόεδρο
Επιστημονικού Τεχνικού
Επιμελητηρίου Κύπρου
(παρ. όπως γίνουν από το Κέντρο)

ΓΕΝΙΚΟ ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΤΗ
ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟΥ ΕΞΩΤΕΡΙΚΩΝ

Θέμα: "Διμερές σχέσεις Ομάν - Ιταλίας"

Επισυνάπτεται, για ενημέρωσή σας, συνέντευξη της Ιταλίδας Πρέσβευς στο Ομάν, Paola Amadei, που δημοσιεύθηκε, προχθές (02/06/2013), στην αγγλόφωνη εφημερίδα του Ομάν, "Muscat Daily", με τίτλο: "Italy keen on taking ties with Oman to new heights – Joint Commission to be set up to look into all aspects of bilateral relations", με αφορμή την Ιταλική Εθνική Επέτειο.

MUS a/a 438/13 (1/5)

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Αρ. Φακ. 31.11			
Α/Α 63992		ΑΠ.	
ΗΜΕΡ. ΛΗΨΕΩΣ			
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ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΕΣΤΕΡΝΩΝ
ΕΛΛΗΘΗΝ
ΥΠ
Γ.Υ.
Γ.Δ.
ΠΡΟΣ
ΕΝΕΡΓ.
ΕΝΗΜ.

2. Κέντρο βάρους της συνέντευξης της Ιταλίδας Πρέσβευς είναι η ανάπτυξη των εμπορικών, οικονομικών, τουριστικών και βιομηχανικών σχέσεων της Ιταλίας με τα Ομάν, σε όλους τους τομείς, με, ιδιαίτερη έμφαση, όπως θα παρατηρήσετε, στις μεγάλες ευκαιρίες που υπάρχουν στο Ομάν, και για τον Κυπριακό επιχειρηματικό κόσμο, δραστηριοποίησης των Ιταλικών επιχειρήσεων στους τομείς των υποδομών (κατασκευές), τις τηλεπικοινωνίες, τον τουρισμό και την βιομηχανία τροφίμων.

Ανδρέας Π. Κουζούπης
Επιτετραχμένος α.ι.

АПК

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Italy keen on taking ties with Oman to new heights: H E Paola Amad

Joint commission to be set up to look into all aspects of bilateral relations

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(PART 2)

ME Najmuz Zafar
Muscat

As Italy marks 40 years of diplomatic relations with Oman, its embassy in Muscat is keen on taking the bilateral relations to new heights with renewed political, trade and cultural interests on both sides. On the occasion of *Festa della Repubblica*, the Italian National Day celebrated on June 2, H E Paola Amadel, the Italian Ambassador to Oman spoke to *Muscat Daily* about the growing bilateral relations.

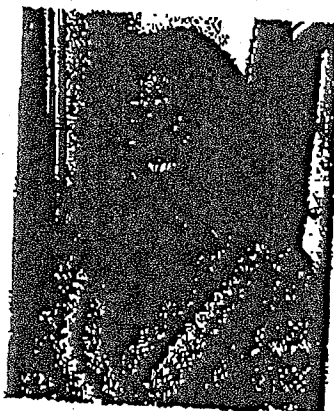
The latest milestone, according to H E Paola, was the visit in November 2012 of the then Italian prime minister Mario Monti and his meeting with His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said.

"Apart from bilateral issues, the meeting focused on the important role Oman plays in the strategically significant region of Middle East and North Africa. The experience and the knowledge Oman has of the area is highly useful to Italy and the European Union," she said.

More so, with Oman playing an essential role in supporting anti-piracy activities in the region, the country has been instrumental in maintaining freedom of transportation, whether of goods or people, H E Paola said.

The other issues discussed were how to deepen economic and trade

relations, including participation of Italian companies in Oman's development and increased investment in economic, defence, cultural and scientific spheres. "The latest agreement to be signed between both countries was on the exemption of visa for diplomatic and special passports on October 10, 2012.



H E Paola Amadel, Italian Ambassador to Oman (*Muscat Daily*)

which came into effect on May 7."

Bilateral trade has increased rapidly over the past few years, with many Italian companies setting up base in the sultanate. Italian exports to Oman grew by 41.2 per cent in 2012 over 2011, reaching €465mn (RO230mn). "This is excluding the goods coming into Oman through various other borders like UAE. And if ex-

ports through transits are taken into account, another €450mn (RO225mn) worth of trade could be added, taking the total to €915mn (RO455mn)."

Machinery forms the bulk of the export to Oman, representing 25 per cent of the total. "Italy is known for its technological innovations and state-of-the-art machinery. Italian cars, for instance Maserati, Ferrari, Lamborghini, Fiat, Iveco and Astra, are all loved by the people in the country," she said.

Exports from Oman have also grown substantially, valued at about €100mn in 2012. "With Oman developing its industrial sector, there is huge interest to export more to Italy. Fisheries is another sector with the most promising export outlook," H E Paola said. However, currently the main exports from Oman are restricted to basic chemicals, plastic items and non-ferrous metals.

A majority of Italian firms, which have set up base in Oman, deal in infrastructure and industrial development. Telecommunication, tourism, arts and culture and food industry are some other sectors represented by Italian companies. FATA EPC, one of the largest Italian companies present in Oman, is involved in construction of the US\$387mn world-class light gauge sheet rolling facility in Sohar.

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The Oman Aluminium Rolling Company (OARC) will be a state-of-the-art factory capable of producing 160,000 tonnes of flat rolled products for various applications. Initial production and provisional handing over of the facility is expected by the fourth quarter of 2013.

Setting up of an Oman-Italy joint commission in Muscat is another major step, which will take trade and bilateral relations to a new level. "The date for setting up the commission is under discussion. The commission will look into all kinds of matters from political, to economic and culture to the full range of bilateral issues."

H E Paola added that her objective is to deepen and expand bilateral cooperation. "There are several areas of common interest, like the SME sector where Oman could get support from deeply entrenched Italian SMEs. Fashion, food, design, architecture, communication and printing, technology, renewable energy, water and waste treatment are some of the areas where Italy could lead by example." To promote 'Made in Italy' products, the Italian Solo Exhibition will be organised in Muscat from October 28 to 31 at InterContinental Muscat. It is being organised by Omanexpo and Easy Consulting. In the infrastructure and industrial sector, Tricolore International, in cooperation with Al Nimr Expo, will promote the Italian pavilion at infra Oman 2013, which will be held in Muscat in September-end.

An Omani business meeting, 'Oman: Green Light for Business', was organised in Rome this April. "It was an event dedicated to Oman and was successful as

businesses and institutions met to discuss the way forward for investing in Oman," she said. The meeting was organised by Confindustria Assafrika & Mediterraneo with the Italian Embassy in Muscat, Oman's Embassy in Rome, in collaboration with ICE (Italian Trade Agency) and with contribution by FATA.

Italy and Oman have a long and successful collaboration in the field of archaeology, restoration and conservation of cultural heritage. Cultural cooperation also got a boost recently with the ceramic exhibition 'Italy in Muscat' held in April this year.

Additionally, there has been constant cooperation in the field of arts, science and academics with active participation of Italian universities like University of Pisa and Bologna. "The opening of the Royal Opera House Muscat (ROHM) has further opened up avenues for strengthening cooperation in the field of performing arts, as high quality and professionalism is synonymous with Italian Opera and conservatories."

H E Paola said that she was excited about their collaboration with ROHM. A grand exhibition is being planned in September. "This is going to be something very special. The maximum I can reveal is that it will be dedicated to the great Italian composer Giuseppe Verdi."

With Italy providing many options to visitors and tourists from Oman as well as many business opportunities, visas for tourism and business has witnessed constant growth. "In the last decade, (2002-2012), there has been 400 per cent increase in tourism and business outflow from Oman with visas issued rising from 1,100 in 2002 to 4,300 in 2012," H E Paola concluded.

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