

**Bulletin of the press office – Egyptian Embassy  
Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> of June 2006**

### **Egypt rejects political condition set by the European side**

Before leaving for Luxembourg, Minister Abul- Gheit said Egypt hoped to have neighborhood policy plan signed during the ministerial meeting but issues raised at the political, economic and security levels required further negotiations.

He called for holding the ministerial council annually at this level so that decisions beneficial to both sides could be taken.

The Foreign Minister said that he believes that domestic political reform should emanate from the Egyptian concepts, renewing Egypt's rejection of political conditions set by the European side.

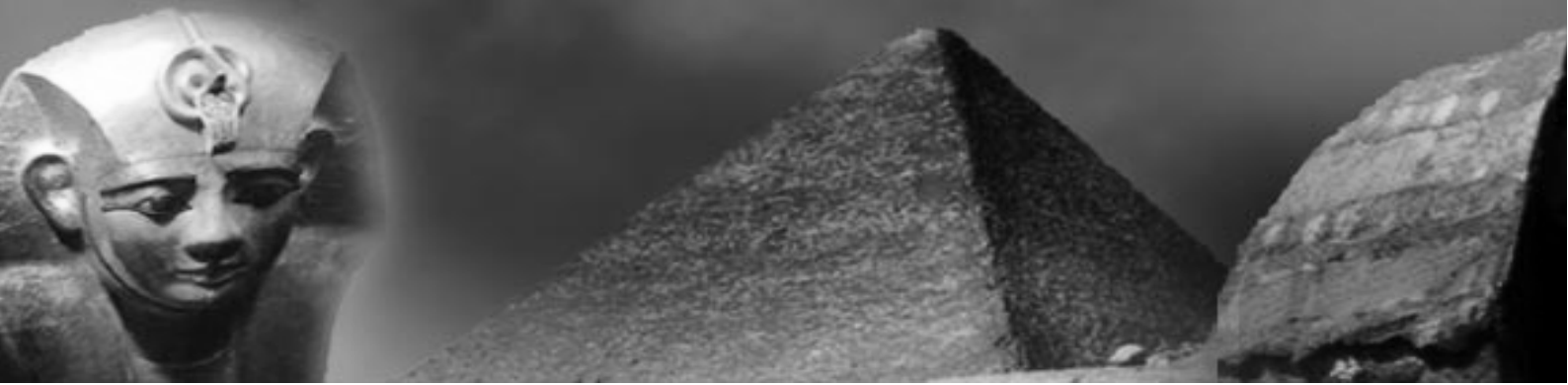
Abul -Gheit said the issue of immigration and the movement of labor and individuals into and out of EU states and getting the right of visit were among obstacles hindering the conclusion of neighborhood policy agreement, calling on the EU to extend facilities in this regard.

He said good neighborhood policy is an EU offer for developing relations with states having association' agreements' with the EU, adding this policy agreement would facilitate entry of Egyptian commodities and services to EU markets as an initial step towards establishing a free trade zone.

Among other issues to be discussed by the ministerial meeting are the commitment of both sides to the implementation of all items of the association agreement signed by them, Egypt's call for rendering Middle East region free of weapons of mass destruction, the need for Israel's accession to nuclear arms non proliferation treaty and the right of all countries to peacefully use nuclear energy.

At the same time, Foreign Minister Ahmed Abul -Gheit met Monday 12/6/2006 with EU Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighborhood Policy Benita Ferrero-Waldner.

The meeting took up Middle East developments and efforts exerted to establish an international aid mechanism for the Palestinians.



Preparations for the meetings of the EU-Egyptian Association Council were also probed during the meeting.

The top diplomat also held talks with EU Middle East peace envoy Marc Otte.

The meeting dwelt on the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories and means of resuming the moribund peace talks between the Palestinians and Israel.

The Foreign Minister also met his Iraqi counterpart Hoshiyar Zibari to discuss the situation in Iraq and the Egyptian and Arab efforts to achieve national reconciliation in the war-torn country.

In addition to this, Foreign Minister Ahmed Abul- Gheit held talks Monday 12/6/2006 with EU foreign policy Chief Javier Solana on recent developments in the Middle East.

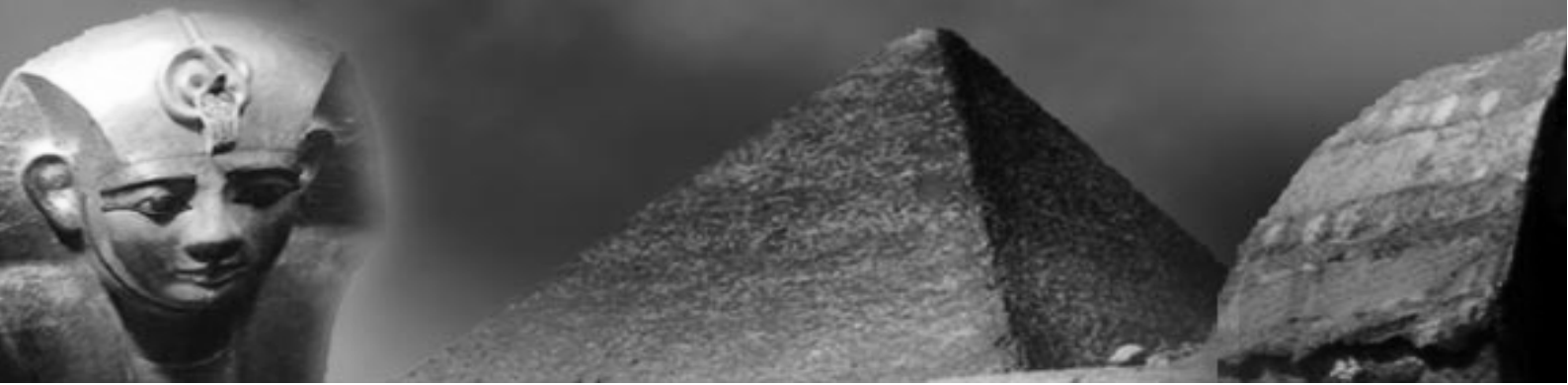
The two sides discussed the Iranian nuclear file and the European offer to Tehran to solve the standoff, said Solana's spokesman Cristina Gallach.

The two officials also discussed the outcome of Solana's visit to Tehran and recent visit of Ali Larijani, Iran's Supreme National Security Council and chief nuclear negotiator, to Egypt.

Developments in the Palestinian territories were also probed during the meeting, Solana's spokesperson said.

She added that the two officials expressed deep concern over the deteriorating situation in the Palestinian territories and the recent Israeli escalations against the Palestinians.

Ties with Israel following the recent visit of Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert to Egypt and his talks with President Hosni Mubarak were also addressed during the meeting, she noted.



### **Judges club thanks Mubarak for his support of independent judiciary**

Judges Club thanked on Monday 12/6/2006 President Hosni Mubarak for his support for the independence of judiciary as he personally intervened to delay a cabinet discussion of a draft law on judicial authority in its current form.

The draft law should have been discussed by the cabinet last Wednesday, but the President ordered it to be first referred to an adhoc ministerial committee.

### **Mrs.Mubarak gets leadership award from 'Davos for Women'**

The Global Summit of Women awarded Monday 12/6/2006 Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak its 2006 Prize for Pioneering Achievement for her earnest efforts in improving the economic and political status of women in Egypt, and protecting childhood.

At a ceremony that closed two days of three brainstorming sessions and activities of the women's Davos, Summit President Irene Natividad said Mrs Mubarak, in her capacity as the chair of the National Council of Women and the Egyptian Red Crescent Society, has been playing a pivotal role to empower women financially and politically.

She said Mrs Mubarak has set herself up as an example of leading women, who left their indelible marks on pressing issues of women.

Mrs Mubarak thanked Natividad, dedicating the prestigious prize to all Egyptian women who greatly contributed to the development process in the country.

The ceremony was attended by ministers and NGO representatives from 88 countries and more than 900 businesswomen from allover the world.

It was preceded by an inspection tour made by Mrs Mubarak of the different pavilions of the summit's WEXPO, which was held on the fringes of the three-day summit so that businesswomen can showcase their products and brief the audience on their promising businesses.