

BREAKING NEWS

ISSUE 18 04 NOVEMBER 2009

General Motors (GM) Last Minute U-turn to Prevent sale of its European Business

The decision taken by GM to prevent the sale of Opel and Vauxhall to Canadian car parts supplier Magna came as a surprise to both Germany and Britain. Angela Merkel, Germany's Chancellor, had been lobbying for Magna to buy Opel as it was the best way to preserve German jobs. Lord Mandelson, UK Minister of Business Innovation, has asked for an urgent meeting to discuss GM's plans and the future for British plants and workers. British Unions were delighted with the news since the Magna deal threatened thousands of jobs in Vauxhall's UK plants. Britain insists that Germany keeps the original \$4bn allocated for the rescue of Opel. GM's decision to scrap the sale comes from their anxiety that Vauxhall and Opel would be able to compete against its former parent GM in the high growth markets. **UK Times**

Egypt PM Begins Consultations for Limited Cabinet Reshuffle

Following the resignation of Transport Minister Mohammed Mansour late last month after a tragic train crash south of Cairo in which 18 people were killed, reports are coming out that limited ministerial and governmental re-shuffles are imminent. Anticipated is that this will affect the ministries of education, higher education, economic development and transport. Sources reveal that President Mubarak has asked PM Nazif to conduct the reshuffle, reportedly this will also involve a shake-up between sitting governors whereby some governors might be promoted to ministerial posts. **Almasry Alyoum Newspapers**

IN DEPTH: 2010 UK ELECTIONS

Do you agree?

If the Tories won the 2010 UK elections, they will bring substantial improvement to the current economic climate.

There is no denying that Labour will leave a considerable legacy should the Tories under the leadership of David Cameron win the 2010 UK elections. The latest economic figures indicate just how considerable; in Q3 of 2009 the UK economy has contracted a further 0.4%, sharply contrasting with the expected 0.2% growth. The news caused the Sterling to fall by 1.7% against the Dollar and 1.9% against the Euro. The polls nowadays reveal that the general public believes David Cameron is better able to handle the economic recession than Gordon Brown. However, simply stating that Labour has not performed up to standard and therefore we must revert to the Conservative Party is missing the point. Realistically Labour has been the UK's scapegoat for the world's economic turmoil. Yes policies need to be changed and reforms implemented but reports claim that the tightening policy of the Conservatives could further damage the economy if implemented as early as next year. The policy of the Conservatives will involve slashing public spending and shrinking the budget deficit. They oppose the projected expansion of the Bank of England's Quantitative Easing Scheme by another £25bn despite the fact that bolder stimulus packages seemed to have been a successful tool to help other economies such as the U.S. out of the recession. If Brown's claims hold up that the UK will be out of the recession by the year end, most experts believe tightening should not occur before 2012. Does the voter know this?

LATEST NEWS FROM EGYPT

- ◆ British Airways has resumed its direct Sharm El Sheikh route as of 27 October. It leaves from London Gatwick three times a week.
- ◆ EGX 30 Index fell by 3.4%, losing 231 points yesterday due to worries over global economic recovery and the possible early removal of government stimulus.



LATEST NEWS FROM THE UK

- ◆ Britain's Services Sector grew at its fastest rate in over 2 years this October, reading a services activity of 56.9 reported by the Chartered Institute for Purchasing & Supply's Purchasing Managers' Index.
- ◆ MPs are to be banned from claiming mortgage interest on expenses after an "appropriate" transitional period, under the recommendations of Commons watchdog Sir Christopher Kelly.
- ◆ UK Chancellor Darling warns that RBS may need more money after its £33.5bn bail-out package to help the bank return to stability. The treasury will inject a further £25.5bn into the bank.



CHAMBER NEWS

Issue 18, 04 November 2009

- The EBCC touched on a great opportunity for Scottish & Egyptian cooperation in the area of IT. Therefore an outward IT trade mission to Egypt is under planning.
- The EBCC is looking toward the 20 January 2010 Conference taking place in Cairo. This conference will discuss the development of further education and vocational training in support of business development in Egypt. The focus of this conference will be on the development of colleges under the UK flag in the medical and IT sectors as well as the automobile industry.
- The Chamber has decided to postpone the Edinburgh Conference on the Investment Climate and Business Opportunities for Scotland & Egypt from November 12 2009 to February 2010.

Event Calendar	Date
Conference: 'Opportunity Egypt'	November 11 2009
Conference on Further Education. Cairo, Egypt.	January 20 2010
AGM & Board Meeting	January 21 2010
Investment Conference Edinburgh. Scotland	February 2010



Will the development of the Egyptian Further Education & Vocational Training sector be culturally accepted as a viable alternative for University Education?

EVENT INVITATIONS

“Opportunity Egypt” A Trade & Investment Conference

On 11 November 2009 the EBCC, in cooperation with the Middle East Association, is organising a conference on major trade and investment opportunities in Egypt with an aim to bring together UK and Egyptian firms to stimulate the development of sustainable public-private partnerships. This conference will be an opportunity for UK and Egyptian firms to discuss the planning and funding of projects in the areas of construction & contracting, finance & insurance, and education & training.

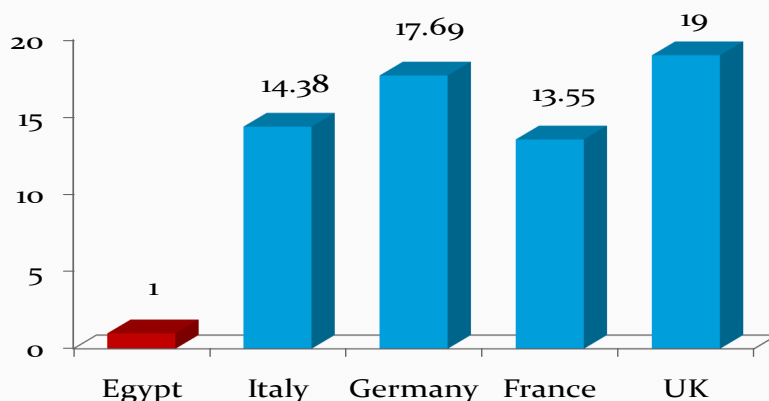
To attend, please complete the registration form in the Conference Flyer: [“Opportunity Egypt Flyer”](#)

SOHO
SQUARE
SHARM EL SHEIKH
an exclusive purpose built venue located in front of Savoy Sharm El Sheikh Hotel.
You can dine out in many restaurants that offer cosmopolitan cuisine. Stylish bars and a swanky night club create some fantastic nights out.
www.soho-sharm.com

EGYPT'S COMPETITIVE POSITION - LABOUR COST

Skilled Labour at Competitive Price

Labour cost in Europe is almost 16 times higher



Source: IFC

CILANTRO
Appetite For Life
Italian Style Café based in Egypt
London-Jeddah-Amman

Sama El Qahera
المدينة الساحرة في قلب القاهرة
Magical city in the heart of Cairo.
First we build, then we sell
[www.samaelqahera.com/002\(0\)219723](http://www.samaelqahera.com/002(0)219723)

EGYPTIAN NEEDLE

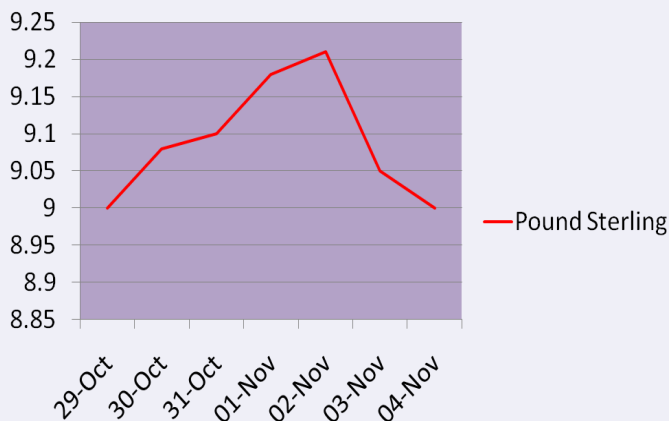
SHAME

The Egyptian Needle currently located on Victoria Embankment in London is one of two identical obelisks, the other being located in New York's Central Park. It is commonly known as Cleopatra's needle despite the fact that it was built long before her reign, it received its name for two reasons, the boat in which the obelisk came to London was named Cleopatra and the obelisk had been moved by the Romans to Alexandria, the royal city of Cleopatra, in 12 BC. It is said to have been built around 1460 BC by Pharaoh Thutmosis III. The obelisk was gifted to Britain in 1817 by Muhammad Ali but Britain only managed to afford the move to its capital in 1877. It began its journey to London but disaster struck on October 14th. The specially designed container ship capsized in a storm off the coast of France, in the Bay of Biscay, the tow boat cut the towrope and left the Cleopatra adrift at sea for days. A rescue action ensued and the container ship was brought to Ferrol in Spain for repairs. Eventually the obelisk arrived in Britain in January 1878. It now stands at Victoria Embankment, Two sphinxes lie on either side of the obelisk, Victorian versions of the original. One of the pedestals has been damaged by a bomb during a WWI air raid. Currently its location is cause of controversy. It stands at the Thames bank overgrown with trees and abandoned. Not the honour you expect for such a historically important artefact. The traffic on the road next to the obelisk has severe damaging effects on the preservation of the hieroglyphics on the Needle. The obelisk has probably suffered more in its 130 years stay in polluted London than its 3000 years in Egypt. There has been so much criticism on its current location that talks have begun to move the obelisk to a friendlier and more respectful environment within the city. Similar to the location of its twin in New York's Central Park, the needle might be moved to London's Hyde Park by the US Navy using 4 hot air balloons to carry the Needle's 176 tons. This could take place to celebrate the 2012 Olympics that are taking place in London.

EXCHANGE RATES

04/11/09	Egyptian Pound
GBP	9.00
USD	5.50
EUR	8.10

Egyptian Pound vs Sterling over a week



Source: Central Bank of Egypt

The current location of Cleopatra's Needle is highly objectionable, extremely difficult to see from the road or riverbank and in a very polluted area of London.

