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THE JORDAN TIMES

A Special Edition on the Jordan-EU Investment Conference

Jordan-EU

Jordan-EU conference seeks to turn $15 billion opportunities into investments

- Jordan-EU Investment Conference brings together around 1,000 officials,investors, business leaders
- More than 41 investment opportunities across strategic sectors to be presented
- High-profile gathering supports implementation of Jordan's Economic Modernisation Vision

By Mai Anati



AMMAN — The Jordan-EU Investment Conference opens on Thursday at the Dead Sea, bringing together around 1,000 senior officials, investors, business leaders and representatives of international financial institutions from Jordan, Europe and beyond to explore investment opportunities worth more than $15 billion across key sectors of the Kingdom's economy.

The Jordan-EU Investment Conference aims to attract fresh capital into strategic and productive sectors, strengthen economic cooperation between Jordan and the European Union and support the implementation of the Economic Modernisation Vision, as the Kingdom seeks to reinforce its position as an investment destination amid mounting regional economic and security challenges.

The gathering will showcase more than 40 investment opportunities spanning energy, water, transport, technology, mining, manufacturing and infrastructure, with the government seeking to translate international interest into concrete investment partnerships and financing agreements.

The conference comes as Jordan advances the second phase of its Economic Modernisation Vision for 2026-2029, which encompasses 395 projects across eight growth drivers and is designed to stimulate economic growth, improve public services, attract investment and enhance the competitiveness of the national economy.

According to the third-quarter report issued by the Government Performance and Achievement Monitoring Unit at the Prime Ministry, 34 projects have been completed, while 332 are under implementation.

The conference also follows His Majesty King Abdullah's call, in the Speech from the Throne delivered before the National Assembly on November 2, to accelerate the implementation of major economic projects already underway.

The King stressed the importance of strengthening the national economy and ensuring that economic development translates into tangible improvements in citizens' living standards, opportunities and future prospects.

Investment opportunities across key sectors

More than 41 detailed investment opportunities are listed on the conference's official online platform, reflecting Jordan's efforts to attract investment into projects with the potential to expand productive capacity, improve infrastructure and create employment opportunities.

Among the major projects are a 450-megawatt pumped-storage hydropower facility in Wadi Al Mujib, a national railway network, and a project aimed at reducing water losses in southern and southeastern Amman.

The portfolio also includes electricity storage and renewable energy projects, water network development, inland port infrastructure, mining, pharmaceutical manufacturing, electric vehicle assembly and recycling.

Industrial opportunities in semiconductors, automotive components and advanced pharmaceuticals are also being presented, as Jordan seeks to diversify its industrial base and move towards higher-value production.

Water security, digital technology, artificial intelligence, green hydrogen and transport are among the other areas expected to feature prominently in discussions with European investors and financial institutions.

During a recent meeting with journalists, EU Ambassador to Jordan Pierre-Christophe Chatzisavas said he expected the conference to generate "concrete deals", particularly in digital technology, energy, green energy, green hydrogen and transport, while noting growing interest in water and artificial intelligence.

Jordan seeks to turn stability into investment

Government Communications Minister and Government Spokesperson Mohammad Momani said the conference reflects international and European confidence in Jordan, highlighting the Kingdom's stability, strategic location and investment opportunities across several economic sectors.

Investment Minister Tariq Abu Ghazaleh described the gathering as a "vital" opportunity to strengthen ties between Jordanian and European business communities, explore investment prospects and develop potential partnerships with investors and relevant institutions.

He highlighted Jordan's role in connecting regional markets and facilitating investment and trade flows, saying the Kingdom's political, security and social stability provides an important foundation for its economic role in the region.

Abu Ghazaleh said regional challenges reinforce the need for stronger economic cooperation and integration, adding that Jordan is leveraging its strategic location and stability to expand economic partnerships, particularly with Gulf countries.

Attracting high-quality, long-term investment remains a government priority, he said, particularly given the prevailing regional conditions.

The Ministry of Investment is highlighting Jordan's strategic location, network of free trade agreements, skilled workforce, political and security stability, and available tax and customs incentives as key advantages for international investors.

Figures from the ministry's first-half report show that 327 projects benefited from investment incentives and exemptions, with expected future investments estimated at JD711.2 million.

Registered investments in development zones also reached approximately JD6.9 billion, reflecting continued activity in designated investment areas.

EU partnership shifts towards investment

For the European Union, the conference represents an opportunity to deepen economic cooperation with Jordan and move towards greater investment in strategic development projects.

Chatzisavas described the gathering as a "significant" and "exceptional" event, pointing to the high level of participation by EU member states and the extensive preparations for its sessions and investment showcases.

He stressed the importance of shifting from budget support towards investment support, describing the conference as an important milestone that could take the Jordan-EU strategic partnership to a new level.

The EU hopes to mobilise support for investment opportunities in several sectors, particularly water, energy, digital technologies and telecommunications, he said.

The participation of European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen is also expected to underscore the importance attached to strengthening economic relations and expanding investment cooperation between the two sides.

With more than 1,000 participants expected, the conference programme will include sector-specific discussions and bilateral meetings aimed at connecting investors with project developers and exploring potential financing arrangements.

For Jordan, the gathering provides an opportunity to present a broad pipeline of investment-ready projects and attract European and international partners to sectors central to its economic transformation.

The focus will be on translating the opportunities on display into tangible partnerships, financing commitments and projects that can support economic growth, strengthen infrastructure and generate employment.

EU-Jordan partnership shifts from assistance to investment, with JD15 billion in opportunities on table — ambassador

- Chatzisavas says landmark investment conference marks new chapter in strategic relations, positioning Jordan as a regional hub for trade, energy, water and digital connectivity
- EU ambassador highlights major investment opportunities, including water infrastructure, renewable energy, transport, digital infrastructure and high-value industries

By Raed Omari
Editor-in-Chief

AMMAN — Jordan and the European Union are preparing to embark on a more ambitious phase of their strategic relationship, shifting the focus of cooperation from traditional development assistance towards large-scale public and private investment, economic integration and long-term strategic projects, European Union Ambassador and Head of Delegation to Jordan Pierre-Christophe Chatzisavas has said.

In an interview with The Jordan Times ahead of the Jordan-EU Investment Conference, on November 18-19 at the Dead Sea, Chatzisavas described the gathering as a major milestone in the implementation of the EU-Jordan Strategic and Comprehensive Partnership, stressing that its significance would extend far beyond the two-day event.

He said the conference would provide an opportunity to showcase Jordan's economic potential, attract European investors, strengthen trade relations and position the Kingdom as a regional hub connecting Europe with the Middle East and the Indo-Pacific.

The conference is expected to bring together hundreds of European representatives, including major corporations, small and medium-sized enterprises, financial institutions, international lenders, public-sector representatives and trade officials. Jordan, meanwhile, has prepared a portfolio of investment opportunities worth approximately JD15 billion, equivalent to nearly 20 billion euros, which will be presented to potential European investors.

For Chatzisavas, the gathering represents a practical demonstration of how the EU-Jordan partnership has evolved from a conventional donor-recipient relationship into one based on shared economic interests, strategic investments and mutual opportunities.

"Our relations today are no longer based on the donor-recipient approach, the budget support, the grants, this old model of cooperation between nations," he said.

"Our relations now are focused on what can help us tackle the challenges of the future."

He said the Strategic and Comprehensive Partnership, adopted nearly two years ago, had provided the appropriate framework for transforming bilateral relations and preparing them for emerging economic, demographic and geopolitical challenges.

"Two years after the adoption, we realise that actually we have gone a long way and we have used this vehicle to the full," he said.

According to the ambassador, the partnership's emphasis on mobilising public and private investment has already started producing tangible results, particularly in strategic infrastructure and development projects.

One of the partnership's most important objectives, he said, was to promote investment in Jordan, using European public resources to facilitate private-sector participation and make major development projects financially viable. Rather than relying exclusively on conventional grants and budget support, the EU is increasingly using concessional financing, investment grants and other financial instruments to attract investors and support projects that would otherwise be difficult to implement.

He cited the Aqaba-Amman Water Conveyance Project as a prominent example of this approach, describing it as a strategic undertaking with an estimated value of 5 billion euros to 6 billion euros.

The project, designed to address Jordan's severe water scarcity, demonstrates how international public financing can be used to mobilise resources and make major infrastructure investments affordable.

"The EU and its member states are the largest donors to this operation," Chatzisavas said.

He explained that European support was not limited to providing financial assistance but also involved reducing borrowing costs through concessional loans and facilitating private-sector engagement through investment grants.

"It is about using public money, public resources, to make it affordable for a country like Jordan, to make such projects affordable for a country like Jordan," he said.

The ambassador argued that this approach would enable Jordan and its international partners to undertake projects on a scale proportionate to the country's needs. With population growth increasing pressure on public services and infrastructure, he said, Jordan needed major investments capable of addressing structural challenges rather than relying on incremental interventions.

He added that the new model of cooperation would help the Kingdom implement transformative projects in water, energy, transport, industry and other strategic sectors.

The November 18-19 conference, Chatzisavas stressed, should not be viewed as another routine business forum accompanying a high-level political visit. He described it as a unique initiative, reflecting extensive preparations by the Jordanian government, which has spent months engaging European capitals and presenting the Kingdom's investment opportunities to business communities and financial institutions.

> "Two years after the adoption, we realise that actually we have gone a long way and we have used this vehicle to the full"

The government has assembled an investment portfolio worth JD15 billion, or approximately 20 billion euros, covering projects that could attract European public and private financing.

The ambassador said Jordan had also worked to reassure potential investors about the country's business environment, ongoing economic reforms and the regulatory safeguards available to protect investments. The objective, he explained, is to allow prospective investors to evaluate opportunities, assess profitability, and understand the level of security and transparency offered by the Jordanian market.

Hundreds of European representatives are expected to attend the conference, representing different sectors and areas of expertise. These include major European corporations and small and medium-sized enterprises, European and international banks, public financial institutions and development lenders, representatives of European governments, trade ministers, officials responsible for economic connectivity, and policymakers working on regional transport, energy and commercial corridors.

Chatzisavas said the Jordanian government had carefully screened participation to ensure that European investors would meet appropriate Jordanian counterparts, increasing the prospects of meaningful business discussions and potential agreements.

"This investment conference is a unique event. It's completely different by its nature," he said.

He added that the gathering would provide an opportunity to establish direct relationships between European and Jordanian companies while allowing investors to explore projects that could generate benefits beyond the Kingdom's domestic market.

Beyond attracting investment into the Jordanian market, the conference will highlight the Kingdom's potential to serve as a regional economic and logistical hub, connecting Europe with the Middle East and the wider Indo-Pacific region.

Chatzisavas said European officials attending the conference would examine Jordan's strategic geographical position and its growing importance in regional connectivity networks. He noted that European policymakers responsible for foresight, strategic planning and connectivity were increasingly looking at Jordan as a possible central link in a wider network of trade, transport, energy and digital infrastructure.

"They will try and advance the idea that Jordan can act as a hub in the long corridor that links Europe to the Middle East and to the Indo-Pacific," he said.

He pointed to developments in regional trade and transport as evidence of Jordan's growing importance, particularly the role of Aqaba in facilitating trade with Iraq.

Referring to the regional repercussions of the war involving Iran and the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, the ambassador said Jordan had demonstrated its capacity to provide alternative commercial routes and logistical services.

"Since then, Jordan is acting as one of the main ports of Iraq," he said, explaining that containers, imports, exports and even Iraqi crude oil exports were being channelled through Aqaba.

"Aqaba is the entry point and the exit point for trade relations with Iraq," he added.

The ambassador also highlighted Jordan's growing digital connectivity, particularly the Aqaba digital hub, which is connected to several submarine cables linking Europe with Jordan through Egypt and extending towards Saudi Arabia and India.

He said these developments demonstrated that Jordan's role as a regional hub was no longer merely an aspiration but was increasingly supported by actual infrastructure and commercial activity.


European Union Ambassador and Head of Delegation to Jordan Pierre-Christophe Chatzisavas

Other areas of potential cooperation include electricity interconnections, pipelines, transport corridors and regional logistics networks.

Chatzisavas said the investment conference would therefore discuss not only projects targeting Jordan's domestic market but also opportunities with a wider regional reach. He cited railways, high-value manufacturing, fertiliser production and the transformation of the Kingdom's raw materials and mineral deposits as examples of sectors where Jordan could develop major strategic projects.

"The Aqaba-Amman project demonstrates that Jordan can afford and can go big for strategic development projects at large," he said.

He added that Jordan's institutional strength, geographical location and ability to maintain relations with neighbouring countries made it particularly attractive for investors seeking access to wider regional markets.

While expressing confidence that the investment conference would produce important announcements, signatures and business agreements, Chatzisavas cautioned against measuring its success solely by the number of commitments made during the two-day event. He said the conference should be considered a milestone within a longer process rather than an end in itself.

"The investment conference exemplifies what the Strategic and Comprehensive Partnership is about, but it's only one chapter in a long journey," he said.

According to the ambassador, the event is expected to generate several public-sector agreements and private-sector announcements, alongside business-to-business contacts and negotiations.

However, he emphasised that many private-sector discussions would require additional time before translating into concrete investment decisions.

An investor may need to assess a project, conduct feasibility studies, negotiate financing arrangements and secure the necessary approvals before moving towards implementation.

Consequently, the period following the conference will be equally important, as Jordan and the EU work to ensure that initial commitments produce measurable economic outcomes.

"What is crucial is to record all of them," Chatzisavas said, referring to the agreements, announcements, contracts and negotiations initiated during the conference.

He stressed the importance of establishing a proper follow-up mechanism to monitor implementation, assess progress and measure the conference's economic dividends over the medium and long term.

The ambassador said the EU also wanted to use the conference to reinforce Jordan's international investment profile and demonstrate that the country's modernisation and reform agenda was delivering tangible improvements in transparency, predictability and investor protection.

In this regard, he identified the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) as an important partner. The OECD could help monitor reform commitments, identify obstacles facing investors and provide advice on measures needed to strengthen the business environment.

"We will want to involve the OECD, because it's a very recognised partner of ours, to track and to continue to advise on reforms," he said.

He added that the organisation could also help identify emerging concerns raised by business communities and ensure that the investment environment remained attractive to both Jordanian and European investors.

Beyond the conference's investment announcements, the EU is preparing several practical initiatives intended to strengthen economic cooperation and help Jordanian companies access European markets.

Chatzisavas outlined three important measures that would form part of the follow-up to the conference.

The first is the establishment of a trade facilitator through the European Jordanian Chamber of Commerce, known as EuroCham, during the first quarter of 2027.

The initiative aims to strengthen the chamber's ability to provide business intelligence, market information, statistics and analytical services to its members.

The ambassador said the facility would help businesses identify commercial opportunities, understand emerging trade patterns and determine which economic sectors were experiencing growth. It could also produce analytical reports examining trade relations between Jordan and the EU, helping companies identify areas where commercial cooperation could be expanded.

He pointed to Jordanian fertiliser exports as an example of the growing potential of bilateral trade.

"Over the last couple of years, we have seen the export of Jordanian fertilisers to the EU booming and in fact, contributing in large part to the overall increase of exports of goods from Jordan to the EU," he said.

The second initiative concerns the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), which introduces carbon-related requirements for certain imported products.

Chatzisavas said the EU intended to establish a dedicated help desk to assist Jordanian exporters in understanding and complying with the mechanism's requirements. The facility would be particularly relevant to exporters of raw materials and fertilisers, whose access to European markets could be affected by carbon-related reporting and compliance obligations.

He explained that European regulations require attention to the carbon emissions generated during the industrial transformation of products. The help desk would therefore provide guidance to Jordanian companies, helping them understand the applicable standards and avoid unnecessary obstacles when exporting to Europe.

The ambassador said the objective was to ensure that the new requirements did not become a barrier to the expansion of Jordanian exports.

The third initiative is the proposed Sustainable Investment Facilitation Agreement (SIFA), which the EU intends to negotiate with Jordan.

Chatzisavas described the agreement as an important recognition of the Kingdom's investment environment and its progress towards meeting international standards for facilitating foreign direct investment.

Jordan, he said, was well positioned to become the first Arab country to conclude such an agreement with the EU.

"We want to announce at the start of negotiations next week that we want to conclude the SIFA in record time," he said.

He added that the EU hoped to complete the negotiations within three months. Beyond the substance of the agreement itself, he said, the speed of negotiations would send a strong message to international investors about Jordan's readiness to attract foreign capital.

"I think this will give you both the substance of the SIFA itself,

but also the fact that you negotiate this within three months will be a very good signal to the investment community that Jordan is open for business," he said.

Together, the three initiatives are intended to address practical challenges faced by businesses, improve access to information, facilitate regulatory compliance and strengthen confidence in the Jordanian investment environment.

Water scarcity remains one of Jordan's most pressing structural challenges and Chatzisavas said the sector would continue to receive substantial European support.

He explained that the EU's engagement in the water sector covered several interconnected areas, including institutional reforms, infrastructure development, water-loss reduction, de-salination and wastewater treatment.

He stressed that major infrastructure projects could only succeed when accompanied by reforms that improved the efficiency and sustainability of the sector.

As an example, he referred to Jordan's efforts to address water theft and losses, commonly described as non-revenue water, arguing that improving the performance of the water system was essential before undertaking additional large-scale investments.

He said the EU had supported these reforms through substantial results-based financing, with loans reaching hundreds of millions of euros.

The Aqaba-Amman National Water Conveyance Project represents the most prominent component of this cooperation. According to Chatzisavas, the EU's contribution to the mega-project is close to 1.5 billion euros, reflecting the scale of European commitment to helping Jordan address its water shortage.

He also referred to the readiness programme, which requires substantial investment to ensure that the infrastructure and institutions are prepared to manage the new water supply system.

The programme is valued at more than JD800 million, with the EU expected to cover a significant share of the financing.

Beyond securing additional water supplies, the ambassador highlighted the importance of wastewater treatment and the reuse of treated water. He said that the EU was currently involved in the construction of seven wastewater treatment plants across Jordan.

However, he warned that the Kingdom would need considerably more capacity in the coming years as demand increases.

"In fact, it's not that much," he said, referring to the seven plants.

"Because, you know, in the future, you will not need only 10, 15 wastewater treatment plants. You will need 30 to 50 wastewater treatment plants."

His remarks underscored the need for a comprehensive approach to water management, encompassing the entire cycle from water production and distribution to treatment and reuse.

He said European cooperation would continue to support Jordan in developing the infrastructure and institutional capacity required to manage its limited water resources more efficiently.

Energy is another strategic sector expected to feature prominently at the investment conference.

Chatzisavas said Jordan had considerable potential to expand renewable energy production, develop storage capacity and strengthen its regional electricity connections.

He noted that the government was examining different ways to accelerate the energy transition, including wind power generation, large-scale battery storage and pumped-storage hydropower.

Among the projects he highlighted was the proposed hydropower storage facility at Wadi Mujib.

The ambassador said the development of storage capacity was particularly important as Jordan seeks to increase its reliance on renewable energy sources. Producing green electricity is only part of the challenge, he explained, as the country also needs effective systems to store energy and ensure a reliable supply when renewable generation fluctuates.

> "The investment conference exemplifies what the strategic and comprehensive partnership is about, but it's only one chapter in a long journey"

He added that Jordan's existing energy infrastructure and regional connections could eventually enable it to become a net energy exporter.

The Kingdom is already playing a role in supporting neighbouring Syria through energy-related cooperation, including the supply of gas and prospects for electricity exports.

Chatzisavas said these developments illustrated Jordan's ability to contribute to regional stability while creating new economic opportunities.

He suggested that the energy sector could become an important driver of joint ventures between Jordanian and European companies.

Importantly, he also acknowledged the growing ambition of Jordanian investors, who increasingly want to participate in international partnerships rather than simply receive foreign capital.

During discussions with Jordanian businesspeople, he said, one investor had made this point clearly.

"He was saying that we also want to invest, not to receive investment. They want to enter joint economic ventures with their European peers when it comes to energy," the ambassador recalled.

This, he suggested, reflected the broader direction of the EU-Jordan relationship: A partnership in which both sides contribute capital, expertise and technology and share the benefits of economic development.

In addition to water and energy, Chatzisavas identified digital connectivity, telecommunications and high-value industry as important areas of potential investment.

He said Jordan's growing digital infrastructure could strengthen its position as a regional connectivity hub, particularly through the submarine cable networks passing through Aqaba and linking the Kingdom with European and Asian markets.

The digital sector offers opportunities not only in telecommunications infrastructure but also in technology-related services and advanced industries.

The ambassador also highlighted the importance of developing high-value manufacturing, pointing to the conference's planned discussion on microprocessors.

He connected this industrial ambition to Jordan's growing interest in advanced technologies and the capabilities demonstrated in the drone industry.

For him, the objective should be to move towards economic activities that generate greater added value, strengthen domestic industrial capabilities and create opportunities for Jordanian companies to participate in international supply chains.

The transformation of raw materials and mineral deposits into higher-value products was another area he identified as having significant potential.

Rather than concentrating solely on exporting raw materials, Jordan could attract investment in processing, manufacturing and the development of new products, including fertilisers.

Such investments, he argued, could generate employment, increase exports and strengthen the country's industrial base.

Concluding his assessment of Jordan's economic prospects, Chatzisavas said the Kingdom's attractiveness to investors was not based exclusively on its geographical position or individual investment opportunities.

Its institutions, political stability, regional relationships and ability to connect with neighbouring countries were equally important assets.

He said Jordan had demonstrated its capacity to project stability in a challenging regional environment and to maintain economic and political connections with neighbouring countries.

These characteristics, combined with ongoing reforms and investment opportunities, could help the Kingdom strengthen its position as a regional centre for business and connectivity.

The ambassador's remarks also reflected the EU's expectation that Jordan would continue improving its business environment and translating its economic modernisation agenda into practical results.

Ultimately, he said, the success of the strategic partnership would be measured not simply by the financial commitments announced at the investment conference but by the projects implemented, businesses established, trade expanded and economic opportunities created.

For Jordan, the challenge will be to convert the extensive portfolio of investment opportunities into tangible projects that contribute to sustainable growth, employment and economic resilience.

For the EU, the conference represents an opportunity to deepen its engagement with a strategic partner through an investment-led model that combines public financing, private capital, technical expertise and institutional cooperation.

Chatzisavas said the long-term objective was to increase trade between Jordan and the EU, strengthen connectivity and expand cooperation across sectors with significant growth potential.

Conference is a beginning, not an end

While the scale of the planned gathering and the investment portfolio are significant, Chatzisavas cautioned against viewing the conference as an end in itself.

He said that both the Jordanian leadership, including His Majesty King Abdullah, and the European side regarded the event as a benchmark in the implementation of the Strategic and Comprehensive Partnership, rather than a standalone achievement.

"The investment conference exemplifies what the strategic and comprehensive partnership is about, but it's only one chapter in a long journey," he said.

The ambassador expects a strong package of announcements, signatures and private-sector contracts during the event, alongside business-to-business meetings and negotiations between Jordanian and European companies.

However, he emphasised that investment decisions, particularly major private-sector projects, require time to mature.

An investment conference, he said, is also about networking and creating opportunities for dialogue, allowing companies to establish contacts, assess potential partners and explore the commercial feasibility of joint projects.

"It will take some time for the private sector to mature, to digest, and to build on the contacts and the conversations they will have at the Dead Sea. Hopefully, this will translate into concrete deals in the coming months," he said.

This makes the follow-up mechanism particularly important, with both sides expected to monitor the implementation of commitments and assess the conference's impact over the medium and longer term.



Photo by Ahmad Khleifat

Editor-in-Chief of The Jordan Times Raed Omari during an interview with European Union Ambassador and Head of Delegation to Jordan Pierre-Christophe Chatzisavas

Jordan launches $6.6 billion National Water Carrier in landmark bid to secure water supplies



- *JD4.68 billion ($6.6 billion) National Water Carrier is designed to desalinateand transport 300 million cubic metresof Red Sea water annually from Aqabato Amman and other governorates*

- *Once operational, the project is expected to cover approximately 40 per cent of Jordan's drinking water requirements*

- *Project brings together 29 donor organisations and internationalfinancinginstitutions,alongsidegovernment contributions, local banks, private-sector investors*

By JT Team

AMMAN — Deputising for His Majesty King Abdullah, HRH Prince Feisal on Wednesday launched the National Water Carrier project in Aqaba, marking a major milestone in Jordan's efforts to address chronic water scarcity through one of the largest strategic infrastructure investments in the Kingdom's history.

Valued at approximately JD4.68 billion ($6.6 billion), the mega project is designed to establish a sustainable source of drinking water by desalinating 300 million cubic metres of Red Sea water annually and transporting it from Aqaba to Amman and other governorates.

The project aims to strengthen national water security, diversify water sources, reduce reliance on depleted groundwater reserves and improve the reliability of supplies amid population growth, climate change and rising demand.

Prime Minister Jafar Hassan described the launch, held under Royal patronage, as a "historic and essential milestone to bolster Jordan's water security and independence for future generations".

In a post on X, Hassan said the project represented the largest strategic undertaking in the Kingdom's history and ranked among the largest water desalination and conveyance projects in the region and the world.

The launch coincides with the Jordan–EU Investment Conference at the Dead Sea and follows the completion of key technical, contractual and financing arrangements with international institutions and investment partners, in cooperation with the Meridiam–SUEZ consortium.

The project comes as Jordan continues to face severe water shortages, with annual per capita water availability remaining far below internationally recognised water poverty thresholds.

In his Speech from the Throne before Parliament on November 2, King Abdullah reaffirmed that water security remains a national priority, calling on the government to accelerate strategic water projects, protect resources and ensure their sustainability for future generations.

The King also stressed the importance of advancing major economic projects to strengthen the national economy and implement the Economic Modernisation Vision, which identifies sustainable resources, infrastructure and public services as key priorities.

A major boost to national water supplies

The National Water Carrier will desalinate approximately 300 million cubic metres of Red Sea water annually and transport it from Aqaba to Amman and other parts of the Kingdom through a pipeline network extending around 450 kilometres, according to official figures.

The project comprises a desalination plant in Aqaba, seawater intake and treatment facilities, pumping stations, transmission pipelines, reservoirs and supporting electrical infrastructure.

It will also incorporate renewable energy systems to meet part of its operational requirements and reduce its dependence on conventional energy sources.

Solar power facilities with an estimated capacity of 300 megawatts are expected to be developed to serve the project, supplying around 30 per cent of its energy needs.

Once operational, the National Water Carrier is expected to cover approximately 40 per cent of Jordan's drinking water requirements.

The additional water supply will be comparable to the combined storage capacity of the Kingdom's dams and equivalent to approximately three times the annual output of the Disi Water Conveyance Project.

Beyond increasing available supplies, the project is expected to improve the reliability of water services, ease pressure on groundwater resources and help meet the growing needs of households, industry, tourism and other economic sectors.

The transportation of desalinated water from the Red Sea to the country's main consumption centres is also expected to reduce the Kingdom's vulnerability to declining groundwater levels and increasingly unpredictable water resources.

Water scarcity remains a major challenge

Despite the anticipated increase in supplies, Jordan will remain among the world's most water-scarce countries, highlighting the scale of the challenge facing the water sector.

Annual per capita water availability currently stands at approximately 60 cubic metres for all uses, according to the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, significantly below the absolute water poverty threshold of 500 cubic metres per person.

The government expects annual per capita availability to increase to around 110 cubic metres once the National Water Carrier becomes operational and its supporting projects are completed.

While this would represent a substantial improvement, it would not lift Jordan out of the category of extreme water scarcity.

The figures underscore the need for a broader approach that combines increasing water production with reducing losses, improving distribution networks, managing consumption and expanding the reuse of treated wastewater.

The government also aims to increase water supply days in governorates from one day to approximately three days per week through the National Water Carrier and associated network improvements.

Water allocated for drinking purposes reached approximately 525 million cubic metres in 2025, compared with 237.4 million cubic metres in 1999, according to ministry figures. Water service coverage currently stands at around 96 per cent of the population.

The figures illustrate how growing demand has placed additional pressure on the country's water infrastructure, making the efficient transmission and distribution of available supplies as important as increasing production.

$6.6 billion investment backed by international partners

The National Water Carrier has an estimated capital cost of approximately JD4.68 billion ($6.6 billion), with its financing structure combining government contributions, international grants, loans and private-sector investment.

Prime Minister Jafar Hassan witnessed the signing of the project's final technical and legal agreement on April 21, following negotiations aimed at improving its financial and technical terms and reducing the water purchase price.

The project is being implemented under a public-private partnership (PPP) model through the National Water Carrier Company, which is owned by the Meridiam–SUEZ consortium.

Under the agreement, the company will be responsible for implementing, operating and maintaining the project before ownership is transferred to the government.

The concession period extends for 30 years, with government data indicating that ownership will transfer 26 years after operations begin.

A total of 29 donor organisations and international financing institutions are involved in the financing arrangements. International grants are estimated at $663 million, with contributions from the United States, the European Union, Germany, the Netherlands, Britain, France, Italy, Japan and the Green Climate Fund.

Private-sector financing arrangements are estimated at up to $2.9 billion, involving international financial institutions and development partners, including the World Bank Group, the European Investment Bank (EIB), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the Islamic Development Bank, the French Development Agency, the Japan International Cooperation Agency, the Green Climate Fund and the OPEC Fund for International Development.

In July, the Ministry of Water and Irrigation said the Public Treasury would contribute $722 million towards the project, while local banks would provide approximately $1.1 billion.

The Social Security Investment Fund will also make an investment contribution as part of the broader financing arrangements.

The combination of public financing, international support and private-sector participation reflects the scale of investment required to develop the infrastructure and secure the long-term operation of the project.

European and international financing commitments

European financing represents a significant component of the National Water Carrier's funding structure, with several European institutions and governments contributing loans, grants and technical support.

European Investment Bank data show that financing and investment grants linked to the project total €427 million, comprising €330 million in financing and €97 million in investment grants from the European Commission.

On February 25, 2026, the EBRD Board of Directors approved a loan of up to $475 million for the project developer. The agreement is scheduled to be signed during the Jordan–EU Investment Conference.

In February, the International Finance Corporation (IFC) also approved financing of up to $375 million for the project. According to the institution's disclosure, the total approved investment amounts to $407 million, including $32 million allocated to risk-management instruments.

Last September, the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) approved a loan of up to $1 billion, alongside political risk insurance of up to $800 million, to support the project's development and implementation.

Climate financing also constitutes a major component of the funding structure.

The Green Climate Fund approved a $295 million contribution, comprising a concessional loan of $220 million and a non-refundable investment grant of $75 million.

On November 17, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Zeina Toukan discussed the Fund's contribution to the National Water Carrier with its Executive Director, Mafalda Duarte, highlighting the importance of mobilising climate financing for strategic projects.

Germany has also committed €127 million towards the project through an agreement signed in June. The contribu-



tion includes a €102 million grant and a €25 million debt-swap agreement.

In November, the Cabinet approved the completion of procedures for an additional €16 million in financing in cooperation with Germany's KfW Development Bank, as part of efforts to complete the project's financial close.

The financing commitments reflect the broad international support mobilised for the project. However, the announced amounts remain subject to different stages of approval, signing and disbursement and should not be interpreted as funds already fully disbursed.

Eleven complementary projects to upgrade water infrastructure

Alongside preparations for the main National Water Carrier project, the Ministry of Water and Irrigation and the Water Authority are working on 11 complementary projects to rehabilitate and upgrade the country's water infrastructure.

The supporting projects are intended to ensure that transmission, storage and distribution networks are ready to receive the additional supplies once desalinated water begins flowing from Aqaba.

They include upgrading pipelines, reservoirs, pumping stations and other facilities, as well as improving network efficiency to ensure that the additional water reaches consumption areas while minimising losses.

The European Investment Bank has identified a project to prepare infrastructure for receiving water from the National Water Carrier, with an estimated total cost of €310 million and proposed bank financing of €200 million.



The supporting investments are considered essential to ensuring that households and businesses benefit from the additional supplies, particularly in areas experiencing recurring interruptions, low water pressure and ageing infrastructure.

Without adequate improvements to the existing network, the increased production capacity could face limitations in reaching consumers efficiently.

The complementary projects therefore form an important part of the broader strategy to translate the National Water Carrier's additional production capacity into more reliable services across the Kingdom.

Reducing water losses remains a priority

Reducing water losses remains a central pillar of Jordan's water security strategy and a necessary complement to the National Water Carrier.

In August, the Ministry of Water and Irrigation reported that the Kingdom's water loss rate had fallen to 41 per cent, a reduction of 10.7 percentage points compared with 2022.

The improvement forms part of the National Water Strategy for 2023–2040, which aims to reduce non-revenue water to 25 per cent by 2040.

Water losses include physical losses caused by leaks and technical failures, as well as commercial losses associated with inaccurate meters, illegal connections, measurement problems and billing irregularities.

The government is pursuing further investment in infrastructure, network management and monitoring systems to improve efficiency and strengthen the performance of the water sector.

During the Jordan–EU Investment Conference, the Kingdom is also presenting a project aimed at reducing water losses in southern and southeastern Amman.

The project covers 17 distribution areas serving approximately 1.4 million people and 235,000 active subscribers.

It involves the rehabilitation, management and operation of a water network extending around 4,083 kilometres under a 24-year public-private partnership arrangement linked to specific performance targets.

The World Bank and other financing partners are also supporting the Jordan Water Sector Efficiency Project, valued at $300 million.

The initiative aims to reduce water losses, improve energy efficiency and strengthen the management and distribution of water networks.

Another major project expected to be signed during the conference involves the expansion and rehabilitation of the Wadi Al-Shallala Wastewater Treatment Plant in northern Jordan.

The project has a total estimated cost of $68.32 million, following EBRD approval of a loan of up to $55 million.

The investment is part of wider efforts to improve wastewater infrastructure and strengthen the reuse of treated water, helping to preserve freshwater resources for drinking and other essential uses.

A long-term test for Jordan's water security

The launch of the National Water Carrier marks a significant step in Jordan's efforts to address one of its most pressing structural challenges.

By introducing a large-scale desalinated water source, the project is expected to reduce dependence on groundwater, increase the volume of available drinking water and improve the resilience of national supplies.

However, its long-term impact will depend on more than the successful completion of the desalination plant and transmission pipeline.

The timely implementation of complementary infrastructure, effective management of the distribution network, reduction of water losses and sustainable financing of operations will all be critical to ensuring that the additional supplies translate into tangible improvements for consumers.

With water scarcity expected to remain a defining challenge for Jordan, the National Water Carrier represents a major investment in the country's future. Its success will ultimately be measured not only by the volume of water it produces, but also by the efficiency, reliability and sustainability with which that water reaches households, businesses and economic sectors across the Kingdom.





Why Europe Should Invest in Jordan

A strategic partnership for shared prosperity and a more stable Middle East

By Tareq Abu Ghazaleh, Minister of Investment of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and Dubravka Šuica, European Commissioner for the Mediterranean

Sustainable investment requires more than capital. It requires trusted partners, predictable political and economic conditions and a long-term vision. Jordan offers these foundations – and an opportunity for Europe to turn its longstanding partnership with the Kingdom into a new generation of regional investment that strengthens our shared prosperity and security.

Jordan's skilled workforce and trade relationships make it a natural base for businesses seeking regional and international markets. Its location can help European companies diversify supply chains and connect with emerging economic corridors. In the first half of 2026, Jordan's industrial exports reached USD 6.2 billion, up 8.9% year on year. Its industrial products reached 150 global markets in 2025, supported by an extensive network of free trade agreements.

European companies are already part of this story. An EU mapping study provided a snapshot of the contribution of 80 European companies operating in Jordan: approximately €2.5 billion in annual turnover, close to €230 million in corporate taxes and 22,000 direct and indirect jobs created. This presence provides a foundation for deeper economic ties, creating jobs and opening new opportunities for Jordanian and European businesses alike.

Building on these advantages requires commercially viable projects, reliable infrastructure, a predictable business environment, and access to finance. Jordan's Economic Modernisation Vision aims to attract investment that expands productive capacity and creates quality jobs. The economy grew by 3% year on year in the second quarter of 2026. The dinar's peg to the US dollar, maintained since 1995, provides a monetary anchor, while Fitch reaffirmed Jordan's BB- sovereign rating with a Stable Outlook in May 2026. Foreign GCC-owned company registrations increased by 23% in the first half of 2026, compared with 7% growth in total registrations.

The EU–Jordan Strategic and Comprehensive Partnership, launched in January 2025, provides an ambitious framework to translate political trust into economic opportunity. Its €3 billion package for 2025–2027 combines €640 million in grants, €1 billion in concessional macro-financial assistance and around €1.4 billion in additional investments to be mobilised. These funds will act as wind on the sails of growing businesses, creating jobs and leading to real returns.

European cooperation can help make this happen. Through investment grants, guarantees and partnerships with development finance institutions, the EU can help reduce investment risks, improve project viability, and mobilise fresh financing. This also means more opportunities for European businesses and the Jordanian economy.

Our shared priorities include renewable energy and water infrastructure, digital technologies, logistics and high-value manufacturing – sectors where Jordan's strengths meet European expertise, and where investment can reinforce regional connectivity. This is even more important as Europe is diversifying its supply chain, making businesses more resilient to shocks while strengthening Jordan's role as an anchor of regional stability.

The Jordan-EU Investment Conference on 19 November at the Dead Sea is an opportunity to further turn this ambition into tangible projects. The European contribution to Jordan's National Conveyance Project, a major step towards strengthening the Kingdom's long-term water security, will be presented at the Conference, demonstrating the scale of what we can achieve together. The Aqaba Digital Hub, supported by the EU, is another example of how our partnership delivers concrete benefits. The Hub is expanding data-centre capacity and digital infrastructure, alongside plans for an academy to develop ICT and cybersecurity skills. The Conference will provide opportunities to build on these projects and forge new investment partnerships.

By bringing European investors together with Jordanian businesses and project promoters, we can lay the groundwork for ambitious investments across more sectors, creating lasting economic value for both sides. Jordan can be more than a stable destination for investment: it can be Europe's trusted gateway to the wider Middle East. Investing in this partnership is an investment in our shared prosperity and security.



Tareq Abu Ghazaleh



Dubravka Šuica







Jordan to present 41 investment opportunities at Jordan-EU conference — Abu Ghazaleh

- Conference highlights Jordan's position as a safe investment gateway to the region
- Kingdom's strategic importance grows amid global supply chain challenges
- Investor confidence rises 21%, registered companies increase 7%

By Hana Namrouqa

AMMAN (JT) — Jordan will present 41 investment opportunities across key economic sectors at the Jordan-EU Investment Conference on November 19, as the Kingdom seeks to attract further foreign investment and strengthen its position as a regional investment hub, Minister of Investment Tareq Abu Ghazaleh said.

Speaking to Al Arabiya Business ahead of the conference, Abu Ghazaleh said the event reflects Jordan's position as a safe and attractive gateway for investment in the region, despite ongoing regional and global challenges.

'Investment is a development tool ... Not only a financial tool'

The investment opportunities to be presented at the conference cover several sectors, including water, technology, energy, transport and logistics, offering potential investors prospects in areas considered central to the Kingdom's economic development.

Abu Ghazaleh said Jordan's foreign direct investment (FDI) increased by 25 per cent in 2025 compared with the previous year, while investor confidence rose by 21 per cent. The number of registered companies also increased by 7 per cent over the past nine months.

He highlighted the government's continued efforts to improve the investment environment, including amendments to the Investment Environment Bylaw aimed at strengthening incentives, attracting foreign investors and supporting job creation.

The minister also pointed to Jordan's growing strategic importance amid disruptions and challenges affecting global supply chains, noting that the Kingdom's exports increased by 6 per cent.

The conference comes as Jordan seeks to build on improving investment indicators and promote a broader portfolio of opportunities to international investors.

During an interview with The Jordan Times in April, Abu Ghazaleh said the Kingdom was entering a new phase in its investment journey, with economic indicators improving and investor confidence gaining ground.

He described 2025 as a turning point in which reform, digitalisation and strategic planning had begun translating into tangible results.

"For years, Jordan's investment narrative has been built around potential; its location, stability and access to markets. Today, that narrative is increasingly supported by performance: rising inflows, expanding activity and a more responsive investment environment," he said.

"The main element that we are trying to enhance is the overall investment environment to accommodate more growth and to create more job opportunities," Abu Ghazaleh said, describing investment as a central pillar of economic policy.

Confidence reflected in investment indicators

Foreign direct investment inflows into the Kingdom reached approximately $2.024 billion in 2025, while the Amman Stock Exchange recorded a 50 per cent increase in market value. The Central Bank of Jordan's foreign reserves also reached $28 billion.

"These are indicators for an output," Abu Ghazaleh said, emphasising that the focus should extend beyond the figures themselves to the policies and systems generating them.

In 2025, a total of 628 companies benefitted from investment incentives, marking a 14.4 per cent increase compared with the previous year. The Ministry of Investment also completed 7,568 incentive and facilitation transactions, covering services ranging from licensing and expansion to operational adjustments.

Abu Ghazaleh said investment should not be measured solely by the entry of new investors, but also by the willingness of existing businesses to expand and reinvest.

The ministry's investment strategy is structured around what he describes as the "three O's": openness, operations and opportunities.

"The first O is openness… the second is operations… and the third one is opportunities," he said.

Openness reflects Jordan's integration into international markets. With 49 bilateral investment agreements and a network of free trade agreements, the Kingdom offers investors access to markets beyond its domestic economy.

"Jordan… plays a major role in being the gateway," Abu Ghazaleh said, pointing to opportunities associated with regional development and reconstruction.



Photo by Ahmad Khlaifat

Minister of Investment Tareq Abu Ghazaleh

The second pillar, operations, focuses on improving the practical conditions for doing business, including reducing costs and streamlining procedures.

"We looked at the details of profitability for any investor," he said, highlighting targeted incentives in sectors where energy and logistics costs have a significant impact on business operations.

Development zones are also central to this approach, offering investors ready infrastructure and sector-specific incentives.

Licensing procedures in development zones have been shortened from 15 days to seven working days, reflecting efforts to reduce administrative delays.

"Investors look at how fast they can move," Abu Ghazaleh said.

Investment supports development across governorates

Investment activity is also expanding beyond the Kingdom's traditional economic centres.

In 2025, 70 new establishments were registered in development zones across Jordan, with investments approaching JD195 million and expected to generate more than 4,000 jobs.

Across all development zones, the number of investors reached 1,624, with total investments approaching JD5.984 billion and employment exceeding 130,000 jobs.

"Investment is a development tool," Abu Ghazaleh said. "Not only a financial tool."

The third pillar, opportunities, involves developing and promoting investment projects across a wider range of sectors and geographical areas.

The ministry has developed a portfolio of around 100 investment opportunities covering energy, logistics, healthcare, tourism and information technology.

"We are in close contact with the private sector to identify the opportunity, the needs and to help them," he said.

Digitalisation and international outreach

Digital transformation is another component of the government's efforts to improve the investment environment and facilitate business operations.

"We are in a digital transformation era," Abu Ghazaleh said, referring to the use of data to support decision-making and enable investors to complete procedures remotely.

The ministry has relaunched its Invest.jo platform, which provides information on investment incentives and regulations. Other tools, including an investment calculator and artificial intelligence-powered services, are intended to improve transparency and make investment-related information more accessible.

"Transparency… is very important," he said.

"We knocked their doors. We do not wait for them [investors] to come," he said.

The ministry engaged with 224 companies globally and implemented 12 international promotional campaigns during 2025 as part of efforts to strengthen Jordan's position in international investment markets.

"When you are looking at unemployment, you cannot take absolute figures. You have to see trends," he said, pointing to improvements since the launch of the Economic Modernisation Vision.

Unemployment currently stands at around 16 per cent, with the government seeking to accelerate improvements through expanded investment and economic activity.

"We have to accelerate that trend," he said, linking job creation to efforts to facilitate investment and support business expansion.

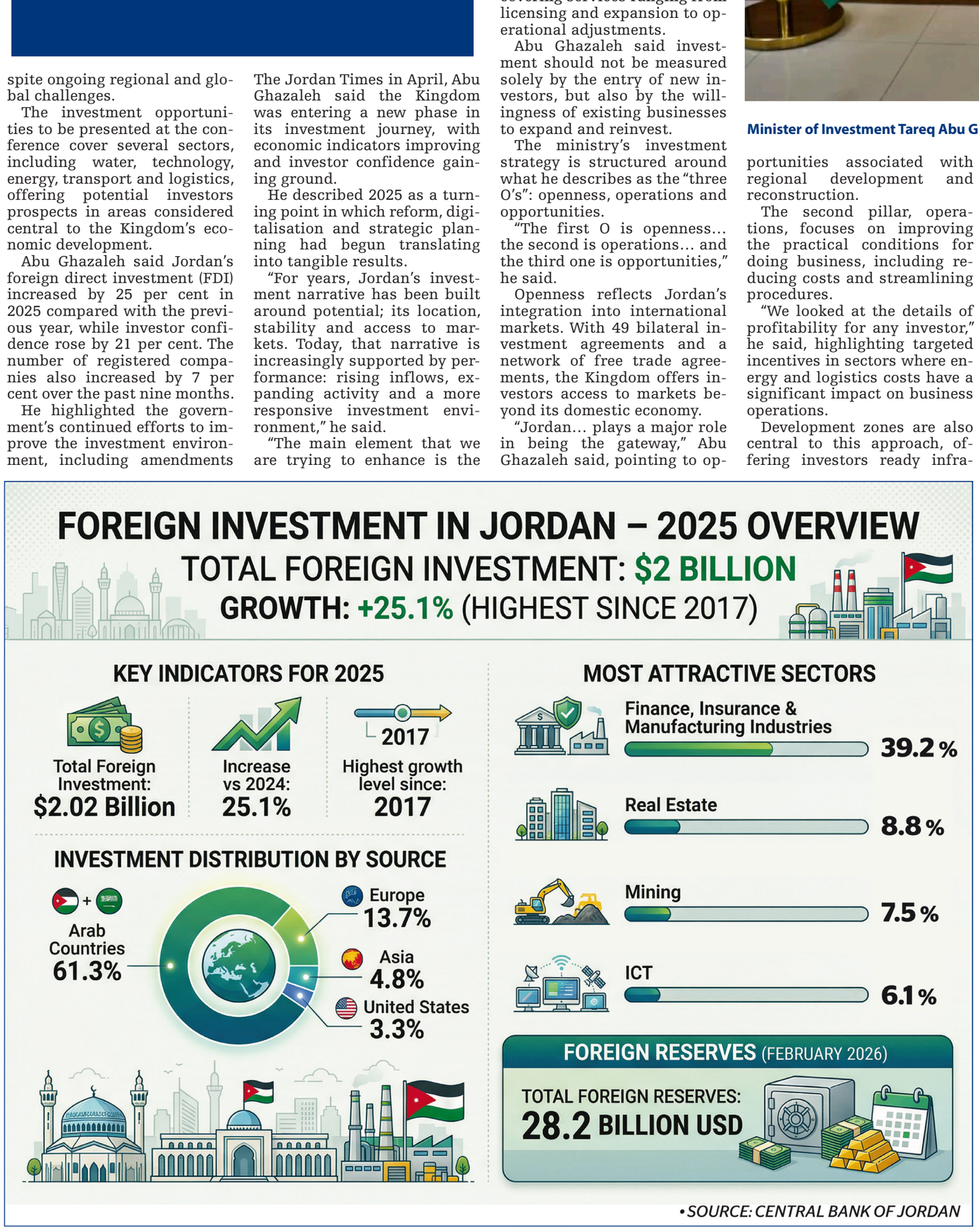
Jordan aims to achieve economic growth approaching 4 per cent within the next three to four years, a target expected to support broader employment gains.

Stability underpins Jordan's investment appeal

Abu Ghazaleh said Jordan's stability and ability to navigate regional challenges remain among its main advantages in attracting foreign investment.

"Jordan has been always in a turbulent region," he said, noting that the Kingdom had been able "to manoeuvre successfully" despite regional uncertainty.

He added that consistent economic policies and the implementation of reforms had helped reinforce investor confidence.



From commitments to investment: A conversation with the EU ambassador

By Raed Omari

I was honoured to be among a group of journalists who met with EU Ambassador to Jordan Pierre-Christophe Chatzisavas in September for a candid discussion on the upcoming Jordan-EU Investment Conference.

Our conversation covered a range of issues, including European support for Jordan, as well as the opportunities and challenges facing the Kingdom's economy and tourism sector.What came through clearly was a sense of urgency.

For Chatzisavas, this represents the "critical mass" needed to make the conference meaningful.

The significance of that number goes beyond attendance. Jordan has invested considerable effort in presenting itself to European investors, and the conference provides an opportunity to move the conversation from diplomatic commitments and investment presentations to actual projects, financing and partnerships.

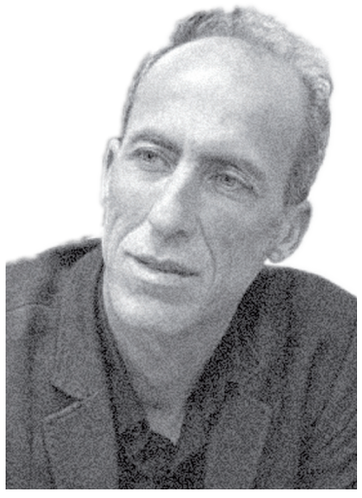
From promises to projects

The government has been promoting an investment portfolio worth around $15 billion across a range of sectors. Some projects are already considered investment-ready, particularly in energy and digital technology, while others remain under development.

The ambassador expects "concrete deals" to emerge from the conference, particularly in digital technology, energy, green energy, green hydrogen and transport. Water and artificial intelligence are also attracting interest.

This is where the real test lies.

Investment conferences can generate impressive headlines, ambitious announcements and carefully prepared presentations. But their ultimate value is measured by what happens



afterwards. A signed agreement is important. A project that reaches financial close, begins construction and ultimately creates jobs and economic value is far more important.

Chatzisavas appeared conscious of this distinction. He stressed that the conference should not be considered "the end of the road" and called for a serious mechanism to follow up on commitments and monitor what is actually delivered. That may be one of the most important messages to emerge from the meeting.

The water question

Among the projects discussed was the National Water Carrier, one of Jordan's most strategically important infrastructure projects.

For a country facing chronic water scarcity, the significance of this project goes well beyond its investment value. Water security is fundamental to Jordan's economic and social stability. The project therefore represents not only an infrastructure investment, but a strategic necessity.

The ambassador also outlined the EU's intention to announce a new support package alongside the investment conference, including grants and loans and potentially mechanisms for blending public and private financing.

The broader EU package under the Strategic and Comprehensive Partnership Agreement amounts to €3 billion and includes grants, loans and investments. Of particular note is the €1 billion in macro-financial assistance, divided into two €500 million tranches.

According to the ambassador, one payment was made at the beginning of the year, with a further €150 million disbursed on September 10. The first €500 million tranche has been approved and is being implemented, while work continues on the memorandum of understanding for the second.

The figures are significant, but the more important question is what they will ultimately achieve on the ground.

Tourism

Our conversation also turned to tourism, particularly religious and archaeological tourism.

The EU is implementing a €10 million project supporting the preservation of Machaerus and Abila as part of a broader programme covering tourism sites, products and policies.

The programme also includes cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism and support for civil society organisations, with European and Jordanian officials exchanging expertise on everything from attracting tourists and developing tourism packages to aviation, regulation and destination management.

But perhaps the most interesting observation from the ambassador concerned how Jordan markets itself abroad.

Too many international tourism packages, he noted, sell Jordan as part of a broader regional itinerary rather than as a destination in its own right.

That is an important point.

Jordan has something many destinations spend enormous sums trying to create: a remarkably concentrated combination of history, religion, archaeology, nature and culture within a relatively small geographic area.

From Petra and Wadi Rum to the Baptism Site, Mukawer (Machaerus), Jerash, Umm Qais and the Dead Sea, Jordan has a story to tell. The challenge is not simply having the attractions; it is packaging, marketing and delivering the experience in a way that persuades visitors to choose Jordan because of Jordan.

As Chatzisavas put it, "The effort Jordan needs to make, particularly towards Europeans, is to market Jordan as it is: an independent destination in its own right."

The ambassador also spoke about a recent musical event at Machaerus, which attracted around 3,000 people against an initial target of 2,000.

What interested me was his explanation of why such an event matters. It was not simply about putting on a concert. It was about creating an identity for the site and giving people a reason to associate it with something beyond its historical significance.

"It is a way of building the identity of the site. A way of marketing the site," he said. That philosophy could arguably be applied more broadly to Jordan's tourism strategy.

Preserving a site is essential. Promoting it is equally important. But ultimately, Jordan needs to create compelling experiences around its heritage and destinations and make them accessible to international visitors.

The Baptism Site, for example, still requires improvements in accessibility and visitor-flow management. The government has established a joint committee to explore ways of developing the country's tourism brand and improving the visitor experience.

The Jordan-EU Investment Conference comes at a complicated moment. Regional instability inevitably creates uncertainty for investors, while Jordan continues to confront familiar pressures: limited resources, high public expectations and the need to generate sustainable economic growth.

Yet the meeting with the ambassador left me with the impression that the conference is being viewed not simply as another diplomatic gathering, but as an opportunity to test whether Jordan and its European partners can convert a strong political relationship into measurable economic outcomes.

Around 1000 officials, investors and business leaders in a conference room is encouraging. Billions of euros in announced support are significant. A portfolio of $15 billion in investment opportunities is substantial.

But none of these figures, by themselves, constitute success. Success will be measured by the projects that move forward, the investments that arrive, the jobs that are created, the infrastructure that is completed and the tourists who choose Jordan — not merely as one stop on a regional itinerary, but as a destination in its own right.

Jordan has something many destinations spend enormous sums trying to create: a remarkably concentrated combination of history, religion, archaeology, nature and culture within a relatively small geographic area

Jordan enjoys a special and longstanding relationship with the European Union and maintains exceptionally close ties with Europe. It also has a special relationship with NATO, alongside strong bilateral ties with individual European countries.

The conference is therefore expected to serve as a culmination of this distinguished and longstanding Jordan-Europe relationship.

But, as the ambassador himself acknowledged, the high-profile conference is not the end of the journey.

In many ways, it is where the real work begins.

Raed Omari is Editor-in-Chief of The Jordan Times

Jordan and the European Union: A firm partnership creating future opportunities

By Hasan Dajah

In a world characterized by rapid economic shifts and intertwined regional crises, the importance of nations capable of transforming their international relations into sustainable development opportunities becomes clear. From this perspective, the Jordan-EU Investment Conference-scheduled for November 19 at the Dead Sea, under the patronage of His Majesty King Abdullah and with the participation of European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen-serves as a significant milestone. It represents a strategic effort to leverage established partnerships to advance national interests, while enhancing the Jordanian economy's capacity for growth, competitiveness, and the creation of new opportunities.

The conference carries a strategic significance that transcends a mere meeting between investors and policymakers; it reflects Jordan's ability to utilize its political and diplomatic capital to build a more resilient economic future. The wise Hashemite leadership views the Kingdom's foreign relations as an extension of its national project-a pathway to broaden the options available to both the economy and society. Within this vision, politics and development converge, and international engagement becomes a tool for attracting knowledge, technology, and capital—thereby strengthening the independence of national decision-making and providing it with a more robust and sustainable economic foundation.

The relationship between Jordan and the European Union derives its importance from its deep-rooted nature and diverse scope, as well as the EU's role as a strategic partner in supporting the Kingdom's stability and its ongoing development journey. This relationship was further strengthened by the launch of a comprehensive strategic partnership in January 2025, supported by a European financial and investment package totaling three billion euros for the 2025–2027 period. The European Union plays a pivotal role by providing funding and expertise, catalyzing investments, supporting economic reforms and modernization, and bolstering the capabilities of the private sector. Furthermore, European cooperation facilitates technology transfer, skills development, and the transition toward a green and digital economy. This fosters a balanced partnership in which Jordanian priorities align with the European commitment to sustainable development, job creation, enhanced economic integration, and regional security and stability.

From a strategic perspective, the value of the conference lies in its capacity to translate political trust into long-term, mutually beneficial economic interests. Jordan requires investments that boost productivity, expand exports, and generate high-quality employment opportunities; meanwhile, European companies are seeking reliable partners and environments that allow them to diversify their operations and access new markets. Consequently, the Kingdom can solidify its position as a hub for economic integration, services, and knowledge—provided that its geographical advantage is coupled with efficient infrastructure, capable institutions, and a competitive human capital base.

The Economic Modernization Vision provides the national framework for channeling these opportunities toward sectors with the greatest impact. Strategic priority should be given to projects that address Jordan's fundamental needs-foremost among them water, energy, and transport-alongside advanced industries, the digital economy, and value-added services. Every investment that contributes to lowering production costs, enhancing resource security, or introducing new technology bolsters a nation's capacity to confront crises and strengthens the competitiveness of its institutions. In this sense, investment becomes an integral component in building comprehensive national resilience.

Within this context, tourism holds a significant place in the scope for Jordanian-European cooperation, given the Kingdom's rich cultural, natural, religious, and medical tourism offerings. Sites such as Petra, Wadi Rum, the Baptism Site (Al-Maghtas), and the Dead Sea serve as foundations for developing holistic tourism experiences, the benefits of which extend to local communities. A European partnership could support this endeavor by improving air connectivity, developing facilities and services, expanding joint marketing efforts, and investing in eco-tourism, medical tourism, and cultural tourism—all of which encourage visitors to extend their stays and increase their spending.

Developing the tourism sector requires integrating it into a broader economic ecosystem—one that connects hotels and tourist sites with farmers, artisans, transport companies, and small-scale enterprises. Such expansion must go hand in hand with the preservation of heritage and natural resources, as well as the efficient use of water and energy. This highlights the importance of investing in the governorates, granting local residents a direct role in production, management, and the resulting benefits, thereby ensuring that local development becomes a tangible outcome of international partnership. Ultimately, the true value of any investment is measured by its impact on the lives of citizens and the stability of their communities.

The Jordanian people remain the focal point of this vision and the primary driver of its success. Consequently, deepening the European partnership requires linking investment with university education, vocational training, and scientific research, while establishing joint programs that facilitate the transfer of knowledge to national institutions. Universities can play an active role by developing practical solutions, incubating startups, and equipping talent with the skills required for new



ventures. As the participation of youth and women in these opportunities grows, the base for economic expansion broadens, strengthening society's ability to benefit from this economic transformation.

Translating these ambitions into concrete results requires a clear executive management approach. This begins with the preparation of well-studied projects, the identification of partners, securing funding, establishing timelines, streamlining procedures, and ensuring a stable regulatory environment. It is also essential to adopt a joint Jordanian-European monitoring mechanism to track implemented investments, job creation, export volumes, and technology transfer, while addressing any obstacles as they arise. Furthermore, engaging the local private sector helps deepen productive linkages and provides small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) with the opportunity to integrate into the supply chains associated with large-scale projects.

Risk planning is also crucial for the sustainability of these partnerships; it entails diversifying funding sources, distributing investments across various sectors and geographic regions, developing insurance and guarantee instruments, and preparing for market volatility and regional disruptions. Strategic thinking anticipates challenges, devises practical alternatives, and maintains a balance between attracting investment and safeguarding national resources and interests. This provides the Jordanian-European partnership with a more resilient foundation, capable of ensuring long-term sustainability and mutual benefit.

The Jordanian-European Investment Conference serves as an opportunity to realize the Hashemite leadership's vision for an economy that is more productive, open, and confident in the future. Its true success will be measured by the transformation of this robust partnership into operational projects, the development of professional capabilities, and the creation of opportunities that reach across the governorates, benefiting families and young people alike. In this spirit, Jordan can leverage its international standing, the wisdom of its leadership, and the energy of its people to build a development model that strengthens its economic security and cements its role as an active partner in fostering stability and prosperity.

Hasan Dajah is professor of strategic studies, Al-Hussein Bin Talal University

Jordan's water security: From managing scarcity to building an investment-driven future

By Hana Namrouqa

For Jordan, water security is increasingly becoming a story of ambition, progress and renewed confidence. After decades of confronting one of the world's most challenging water realities, the Kingdom is now advancing a strategic vision that puts long-term solutions, major infrastructure investment and international partnerships at the centre of its water future.

In a file where we have grown accustomed to reporting more on challenges than solutions, the National Water Carrier now stands as a long-awaited moment of reassurance, and an important example of how strategic investment can begin to reshape the Kingdom's future.

As Jordan hosts the Jordan–EU Investment Conference 2026, water security is emerging as a fundamental pillar of economic resilience, investment confidence and sustainable development.

Jordan's path towards water security is no longer a concept under discussion, but a national undertaking supported by a defined implementation framework, substantial domestic and international financing and a broad network of strategic partners.

This is precisely where the National Water Carrier becomes particularly relevant to the wider objectives of the Jordan–EU partnership.

The conference provides an important platform for translating political and economic cooperation into tangible investment opportunities. With water security among its central investment priorities, the conference brings renewed attention to the importance of mobilising European capital, international expertise and innovative financing mechanisms to support Jordan's long-term water needs.

What is changing with the advancement of the National Water Carrier is the nature of the Kingdom's relationship with



water itself. For decades, the approach was largely based on adapting to scarcity and managing limited resources. Today, that approach is shifting towards building genuine capacity for stability and securing a more sustainable supply.

The Kingdom is moving closer to the long-term solution to water scarcity that I have written about repeatedly in my reporting on the water file.

The National Water Carrier reflects a determined transformation in policy thinking, where water security is no longer dependent on uncertain regional solutions, but is treated as a national priority that cannot be postponed. The experience of the proposed and ultimately abandoned Red Sea–Dead Sea project demonstrated how political and technical complexities can delay even the most urgent strategic initiatives.

Moving forward with a national alternative was not an easy choice, but it was a necessary one.

The project ranks among the region's most ambitious desalination and water conveyance initiatives. It is designed to desalinate approximately 300 million cubic metres of seawater annually and transport it from Aqaba to Amman and other areas through a pipeline extending approximately 450 kilometres, across challenging terrain and significant elevation differences.

Once operational, it is expected to provide around 40 per cent of Jordan's drinking water needs, with water deliveries targeted to begin in 2030.

In one of the world's most water-scarce countries, this represents much more than an increase in supply. It is a structural intervention addressing the longstanding imbalance between growing demand and limited available resources.

Reaching this stage after years of planning, negotiations and development reflects the importance of sustained Royal attention. The personal follow-up by His Majesty King Abdullah has been a defining factor, with a clear insistence on advancing the project and maintaining it as a national priority despite the instability of the regional environment.

> As the Kingdom welcomes its European partners at the Jordan–EU Investment Conference, water security offers a particularly compelling example of how international cooperation can serve a clear national priority

The financial dimension is equally significant. With a total estimated cost of approximately $6.6 billion, including financing expenses, the National Water Carrier represents a major opportunity for Jordan to mobilise water sector since 2016 has included approximately €415 million in grants, alongside €2.6 billion in additional financing from financial institutions and development partners. This cooperation has supported water supply networks, wastewater treatment, reuse and sector reforms, with the National Water Carrier forming a major part of the wider water-security agenda.

The EU's broader €3 billion support package for Jordan for 2025–2027, alongside investment mobilisation and risk-sharing instruments, provides another important framework for strengthening cooperation.

The significance of the Jordan–EU Investment Conference therefore extends beyond the announcement of individual projects or financing figures. It presents an opportunity to deepen partnerships, attract specialised expertise and advance investment in the wider water sector.

And the opportunities extend well beyond desalination.

Reducing non-revenue water, modernising distribution networks, expanding wastewater treatment and reuse, improving energy efficiency and developing additional storage infrastructure are all essential components of a sustainable water strategy.

Jordan is already reusing more than 90 per cent of its treated wastewater for agricultural irrigation. Meanwhile, a proposed $900 million package of wastewater treatment projects highlights the scale of investment still required to improve efficiency and strengthen the sector.

These priorities are particularly important because water security cannot be achieved through increasing supply alone. It also requires reducing losses, improving operational performance, managing energy costs and ensuring that every additional cubic metre of water is used as efficiently as possible.

The conference's focus on attracting private-sector participation and European investment is therefore highly relevant. Bringing together public institutions, international financiers, technology providers and private investors can help transform these priorities into financially viable projects with measurable long-term benefits.

Ultimately, the success of such partnerships should not be measured solely by the value of investment opportunities presented or the financing commitments announced. It should be measured by the extent to which these commitments translate into operational infrastructure, improved services and tangible benefits for citizens.

For Jordan, the National Water Carrier represents the largest expression of this changing approach. It demonstrates the importance of moving from managing scarcity towards building the infrastructure and institutional capacity needed to secure the country's future.

As the Kingdom welcomes its European partners at the Jordan–EU Investment Conference, water security offers a particularly compelling example of how international cooperation can serve a clear national priority.

The lesson from years of following Jordan's water file is straightforward: water security cannot depend on factors beyond the country's control. It requires national determination, sustained investment, credible partnerships and solutions that can be implemented and maintained over the long term.

The National Water Carrier is more than a major infrastructure project. It is a statement of strategic direction and an investment in the foundations of Jordan's economic and social resilience.

After years of reporting on this file, what stands out is not only the scale of what has been set in motion, but the clarity of direction: a move away from simply managing scarcity towards actively securing Jordan's water future.

And that is perhaps the most important message Jordan can take to its European investment partners.

Hana Namrouqa is Deputy Editor-in-Chief of The Jordan Times

Jordan and Europe: A partnership investing in the future

By Yusuf Mansur

The Jordan–EU Investment Conference opens an important door for Jordan's economy. The country's close relationship with Europe offers greater scope for projects and partnerships that bring together finance, technology, expertise and access to markets. Held under the patronage of His Majesty King Abdullah, with the participation of European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, the conference gives this effort strong political backing and brings investors and financial institutions together around specific opportunities.

The government has announced more than forty investment opportunities with a combined value exceeding US$15 billion, targeting participation by more than seven hundred leaders, investors and decision-makers. This figure represents the value of the opportunities on offer, rather than agreements already concluded. It nevertheless conveys the scale of the work being prepared and the areas in which Jordan can attract partners to develop, finance and implement projects.

For an economy of Jordan's size, bringing even some of these projects into operation could make a meaningful difference to production, employment and services. A new factory buys from suppliers, employs workers and needs transport, maintenance, financial and engineering services. A company introducing advanced technology gives its employees experience they may later take to other businesses or use to establish ventures of their own. In this way, the benefits of investment spread through the economy and extend beyond a project's initial financing.

The conference forms part of the Strategic and Comprehensive Partnership launched between Jordan and the European Union in January 2025, backed by a financial and investment package of approximately 3 billion euros for 2025–2027. The package includes 640 million euros in grants, around 1.4 billion euros in additional investment through European financial instruments, and 1 billion euros in concessional loans under macro-financial assistance. Each instrument serves a different purpose, broadening the options available to support reforms, develop projects and attract financing.

> Local companies know the market and have relationships and expertise that can make them partners in production, supply or service delivery

The opportunities focus on technology, energy, high-value industries, logistics, infrastructure and water security.

There is a clear economic rationale for this selection. A factory seeking to expand needs water, energy and reliable transport; a digital business needs dependable connectivity and skilled people; and an exporter needs a quality product it can deliver on time. Investment across these sectors can therefore reinforce itself while improving operating conditions for existing businesses.

In technology, the conference presents opportunities in software, artificial intelligence, cloud computing, data centres and semiconductors, including design, assembly, testing and packaging. These fields offer Jordanian engineers and programmers opportunities to work with international companies from their own country and gain expertise in specialised activities whose products and services can be exported. We can then export products rather than people—our most valuable asset.

These opportunities become more valuable when investment is linked to training. A company that works with a university or training institution and gives students and graduates practical experience helps connect education with employment. Such partnerships deserve a place in the arrangements emerging from the conference, making skills development part of each project from the outset.

Among the prominent projects to be showcased are the Aqaba Digital Hub and the Aqaba–Amman Water Desalination and Conveyance Project. Both have implications beyond their immediate sectors. Digital infrastructure serves a wide range of businesses and activities, while a reliable water supply allows households and enterprises to plan with greater confidence. A factory or hotel cannot confidently expand if securing water remains a concern.

Water projects also create opportunities for Jordanian companies in engineering, operations, maintenance, treatment and reuse. Partnerships with European firms can provide technologies and expertise that can be applied locally and potentially offered later in markets facing similar needs. This is one way that meeting a domestic need can help build a specialised economic activity.

In energy, the opportunities include renewable generation, storage, grid development, green hydrogen and green ammonia. Investment in storage and networks can improve the use of renewable electricity, while export-oriented projects offer scope for long-term relationships with European buyers and partners. These projects need sound cost assessments, financing plans and purchase



agreements. The conference brings together parties capable of working jointly to put those arrangements in place.

In industry, the areas on offer include pharmaceuticals, chemicals, food processing, electronics and textiles. European partnerships provide an important opportunity to develop products, improve quality and reach more customers. The impact may begin with a supply agreement for an existing Jordanian factory, followed by expanded production lines and new hiring. An ongoing relationship with an international buyer gives a factory greater confidence to plan and expand investment.

Transport and logistics projects support this expansion. The programme covers ports, airports, railways, regional connectivity and infrastructure partnerships. Improvements in transport times, reliability and costs strengthen the competitiveness of Jordanian products. Developing these services also expands Jordan's role in serving neighbouring markets and increases the economic value of its location.

The inclusion of sector-specific sessions and direct meetings between businesses, government agencies and financial institutions is particularly useful. These meetings address the details investors need before making decisions: Target markets, financing, licences, the role of local partners and the allocation of responsibilities. As those details become clearer, projects move closer to implementation.

Jordan's private sector has an essential role to play. Local companies know the market and have relationships and expertise that can make them partners in production, supply or service delivery. Their involvement from the early stages helps extend the benefits to small and medium-sized enterprises and bring investment to more governorates.

The conference's importance lies in placing specific opportunities before partners with finance, technology and access to markets. Jordan brings its own strengths to this partnership: Skilled people, established businesses and projects the country needs. After the meetings comes the work of following through on understandings, developing them and facilitating implementation. When an opportunity becomes a producing factory, an exported service, or an operating project employing Jordanians, the partnership with Europe becomes part of people's lives and the economy's future.

The author is a former Jordanian minister of State for Economic Affairs

GIZ steps up support for Jordan's water, jobs and public sector reforms, says country director

- Petersen says German development cooperation is focusing on investment,
- vocational training, improved services, while supporting voluntary, dignified return of Syrian refugees

By Raed Omari

AMMAN — Germany's development cooperation with Jordan is focusing on addressing some of the Kingdom's most pressing challenges, particularly water scarcity, unemployment, public sector reform and refugee-related issues, while seeking to strengthen investment opportunities and economic growth, the country director of the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) in Jordan, Lorenz Petersen, has said.

In an interview with The Jordan Times, Petersen said GIZ's work in Jordan is structured around four main areas: Water, employment, public sector reform and refugees, all of which are aligned with the Kingdom's Economic Modernisation Vision and public sector reform agenda.

He stressed that Germany considers Jordan's role as a major refugee-hosting country deserving of sustained international support, noting that development cooperation must address the needs of both refugees and host communities.

"Jordan, as a host for so many refugees, deserves support to actually deal with all these challenges," Petersen said.

On water, he said GIZ is working to improve access to water, reduce energy consumption, enhance water-use efficiency and support projects involving de-salination and groundwater resources.

Given Jordan's severe water scarcity and the energy-intensive nature of its water supply system, Petersen said improving efficiency across the sector remains a major priority.

He cited the results of German-funded projects implemented by GIZ, which he said have contributed to saving around 1.3 million cubic metres of water annually, reducing non-revenue water losses by 16 per cent and cutting electricity consumption associated with water pumping by 70 per cent.

He also highlighted efforts to introduce water charging mechanisms, saying that applying appropriate prices can encourage more responsible consumption and conservation.



Lorenz Petersen

He noted that GIZ works closely with companies, chambers of commerce and other institutions to establish stronger connections between training providers and employers.

The agency also places particular emphasis on women's economic participation, seeking to ensure that women have equal opportunities to enter the labour market.

Petersen said GIZ is also supporting initiatives that prepare Jordanians for employment opportunities abroad, making labour mobility an increasingly important element of its work.

Germany's longstanding expertise in technical and vocational education and training, he added, provides an important foundation for cooperation with Jordanian institutions.

The programmes cover a wide range of sectors, including mechatronics, automotive services, food production and other fields where graduates can establish their own businesses or find employment.

According to Petersen, 62 per cent of vocational training graduates supported through the programmes found employment within six months of graduation.

He acknowledged that the figure also demonstrates the need to further improve the relevance of training programmes and strengthen cooperation with companies.

"We strongly focus on establishing the relationship between the provider of an education and the actual companies that recruit these people," he said.

Overall, he said, GIZ programmes have directly contributed to the employment of around 4,500 people, including 1,500 women, while approximately 2,300 businesses have benefited from measures designed to improve their competitiveness.

'Jordan, as a very stable country, with stable institutions, markets opening up and an educated population, can be a good place to invest for German companies'

Jobs and vocational training

Employment is another central pillar of GIZ's cooperation with Jordan, with particular emphasis on linking education and vocational training to the actual needs of the labour market.

Petersen said preparing people for employment requires more than providing educational qualifications; training programmes must equip graduates with skills that companies are actively seeking.

"Education means preparing people for jobs that actually exist, so there's a link to a real labour market where there is a demand," he said.

Attracting German investment

Petersen said strengthening private sector development and attracting foreign investment are also important components of Germany's cooperation with Jordan.

In this regard, GIZ has been involved in preparations for the EU-Jordan Investment Conference scheduled to take place at the Dead Sea in November.

As part of these efforts, the agency is arranging a visit by a delegation of 20 German companies to familiarise them with investment opportunities in the Kingdom, and connect them with relevant Jordanian authorities and institutions.

The delegation's programme will cover areas including digital skills, green investment and green hydrogen, among other sectors.

Petersen said Jordan has considerable potential to attract German investors, pointing to its relatively stable political and institutional environment, educated workforce and established economic sectors.

He identified healthcare, pharmaceuticals, education and services as areas offering significant opportunities for further investment.

"Jordan, as a very stable country, with stable institutions, markets opening up and an educated population, can be a good place to invest for German companies," he said.

He also pointed to emerging economic opportunities linked to the opening of the Syrian market, noting that Jordan's strategic position and the role of Aqaba Port could support increased trade and investment.

Petersen said the delegation would help German businesses better understand the Kingdom's investment environment, potential partnerships and prospects.

While no concrete private-sector investment agreements had been finalised at the time of the interview, he expressed hope that the conference would lead to new partnerships and agreements, including potential cooperation in green hydrogen.

He added that Germany and European partners were also seeking to mobilise resources for investment in Jordan.

Digitalisation and better public services

Turning to public sector reform, Petersen said GIZ is supporting the Jordanian government's efforts to improve the quality and accessibility of services provided to citizens and businesses.

A major component of this cooperation is digital transformation, including support for the government's Sanad digital platform and efforts to simplify administrative procedures.

'We strongly focus on establishing the relationship between the provider of an education and the actual companies that recruit these people'

He said reducing bureaucracy and lowering barriers for businesses are equally important to creating a more attractive environment for local and international investors.

Petersen particularly praised Jordan's government service centres, which he said demonstrate how digitalisation and more efficient administration can improve the relationship between citizens and government.

Based on a German-designed model, 16 centres have been established across the Kingdom, providing citizens with access to a range of public services, including passport-related transactions and permits.

The centres serve more than 120,000 Jordanians every month, while GIZ has helped train around 350 government employees to manage and operate them.

Petersen said he was impressed by their efficiency, accessibility and extended opening hours, including services available during evenings and weekends.

"I was amazed to actually visit these service centres in how efficient they are, how good they are by applying digital means and also by being very effectively run," he said.

He described effective public service delivery as an essential factor in building citizens' confidence in government.

"For me, as a citizen, it's important that government delivers. I judge my government in Germany. Does it deliver on the services that I need from it? I pay tax, I want something back," he said.

He added that Jordan's experience in establishing and operating these centres provides a positive example of how public institutions can respond to citizens' needs.

Supporting refugees and voluntary return

The Syrian refugee situation remains another major area of German-Jordanian development cooperation, Petersen said, noting that around 80 per cent of Syrian refugees in Jordan live in host communities rather than camps.

GIZ works with refugees and Jordanians through initiatives such as cash-for-work programmes, which provide income opportunities while supporting local communities and development activities.

He said 81 per cent of the people participating in the programmes reported that their earnings enabled them to cover at least their rent and food expenses.

With the political situation in Syria having changed, Petersen said German cooperation is also increasingly focusing on facilitating voluntary and dignified refugee return.

He stressed, however, that return must be based on individual circumstances and decisions, rather than pressure.

"Not everybody can leave now. Families are fragile. The situation is also not always easy," he said.

GIZ is therefore working with its colleagues in Syria to assess labour market needs and identify the skills and professional profiles required by companies there.

The aim is to help refugees in Jordan acquire or improve skills that could be useful if they decide to return and rebuild their lives in Syria.

Petersen said GIZ's presence across the region, including in Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and its reopened office in Damascus, allows it to coordinate support and respond to changing circumstances.

He said the organisation works closely with United Nations agencies and other development partners to ensure that available resources are used effectively.

Petersen also praised the Jordanian government's emphasis on voluntary and dignified return, saying this approach is consistent with Germany's position.

He emphasised that refugee support should focus on providing opportunities and assistance rather than pushing people to leave.

Waste management and sustainability

Beyond its four main areas of work, GIZ is also involved in initiatives addressing waste management and promoting more sustainable production and consumption practices.

Petersen said around 44,000 people have participated in cash-for-work programmes related to waste management, while more than 2,000 producers have signed agreements to take greater responsibility for the environmental impact of their products.

He said preventing waste at its source is among the most effective ways to address the problem, including through changes in packaging design, production processes and marketing practices.

Around 400 tonnes of recyclable materials have also been collected through supported initiatives.

While acknowledging that recycling in Jordan still has considerable room for improvement, he said the involvement of producers and businesses was an important step towards developing a more sustainable waste management system.

Sustaining international support

Asked about the sustainability of international assistance amid changing regional and global priorities, Petersen said maintaining Germany's support for Jordan was already a significant achievement.

He said development cooperation must remain flexible enough to respond to the evolving situation in the region, particularly developments in Syria, and their implications for refugees and host communities.

He also stressed the importance of demonstrating measurable results to maintain public and political support for international development funding.

"We have to make a stronger effort, even stronger effort, to make sure that the results are seen, the impact is shown, so that also, for example, German taxpayers understand that their money is being spent well and for a good purpose," he said.

Petersen said GIZ seeks to maximise the impact of available resources through cooperation with international organisations, other donors and Jordanian institutions.

A partnership built on trust

Reflecting on GIZ's 50-year history, Petersen said the organisation's approach to development cooperation remains rooted in partnership, expertise and mutual trust.

He described GIZ as a not-for-profit organisation that seeks to promote technical cooperation rather than simply provide technical assistance.

The distinction, he explained, lies in working closely with local partners and institutions to develop solutions that respond to actual needs and can deliver lasting results.

"Our ambition is to earn the trust from both sides by being the best experts that we can be, by applying higher standards of integrity regarding resources, but by also making it personal," he said.

For Petersen, successful development cooperation depends not only on institutional agreements and funding, but also on meaningful relationships with the people and communities involved.

"This kind of cooperation can only work if we are really in touch not only with the organisations, but also with their people, with the people that we work with, and with the stakeholders that we want to create a positive impact for," he said.

He described GIZ's work in Jordan as a privilege, expressing confidence that the partnership would continue to play an important role in addressing the Kingdom's development priorities and emerging regional challenges.

Aqaba Digital Hub supports growth of Jordan's digital economy



Photo courtesy of Royal Court

HRH Crown Prince Hussein in October 2025 while inaugurating the Aqaba Digital Hub



By Merza Noghai

AMMAN — Inaugurated by HRH Crown Prince Hussein in October 2025, the Aqaba Digital Hub (ADH), Jordan's first fully-integrated digital project, is one of the largest data centres and digital infrastructure facilities in the region.

The hub includes the largest data centre in the Kingdom, with an area of approximately 17,000 square metres, and an operational capacity of up to 12 megawatts, and is ready to host artificial intelligence technologies.

The project, established through Jordanian expertise, hosts the Kingdom's first marine cable landing station with an open access policy, reinforcing Jordan's role as an independent digital gateway directly connected to international networks.

ADH includes three submarine cables that strengthen Jordan's position as a key point of connection between Asia, Africa, and Europe, in addition to two other cables currently in the process of being connected to the hub.

The hub includes Jordan's first neutral data exchange centre, and the fastest growing in the region.

It enables the hosting of public and private cloud services, as well as an integrated security system that includes a security operations centre and a secure access platform, making the Kingdom a regional destination for hosting sensitive systems utilised by government agencies and the financial sector.

City Data Centre

ADH's Tier III-certified City Data Centre has been a cornerstone of digital infrastructure in Aqaba's City Centre. Offering carrier-neutral colocation, hosting, and managed services, it is supported by multiple local fibre networks and designed for business continuity, disaster recovery and scalable digital growth.

With 24/7 on-site technical expertise, the facility provides international colocation and cross-connection options, ensuring low-latency, high-speed connectivity. It is home to AqabaIX, Jordan's first Internet Exchange, serving as a vital Internet gateway to global Tier I carriers, enabling seamless peering, optimised traffic flow, and robust digital solutions for businesses across Jordan and the MENA region.

Mega Data Centre

The Mega Data Center at ADH is Jordan's largest and most advanced carrier-neutral facility, designed to support the region's increasing demand for secure, scalable, and high-performance digital infrastructure.

Strategically located in Aqaba, this Tier III-certified data centre is a key enabler of regional and international connectivity, providing businesses with a resilient, AI-ready environment to power their digital transformation.

With direct access to subsea cable systems, fibre-optic networks, and Jordan's only Internet Exchange, AqabaIX, the Mega Data Centre ensures low-latency, high-speed connectivity across the Middle East, Africa, and Europe.

As the backbone of ADH, it offers unmatched reliability, energy-efficient operations, and future-proof scalability, making it the ideal choice for enterprises, cloud providers, and financial institutions looking for a robust and secure digital infrastructure.

Aqaba Digital Hub Training Academy

The Training Academy at ADH is a centre for digital skills development, designed to equip students, professionals, and organisations with the expertise needed to thrive in today's technology-driven world.

Offering hands-on courses in cloud computing, cybersecurity, data management, and networking, the academy provides industry-recognised training and certifications tailored to real-world demands.

ASEZA's JD26-billion investment portfolio drives economic growth

By Merza Noghai

AMMAN — Established under a Royal Decree by His Majesty King Abdullah on April 20, 2000, the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority (ASEZA) was launched in 2001 and has ever since transformed into a global logistics hub and a destination for tourism, trade, investment and entertainment.

HRH Crown Prince Hussein visited ASEZA on June 12, 2025, where he stressed the importance of enhancing the investment environment, and tourism and development landscape in Aqaba.

His Royal Highness highlighted the need for ASEZA to continue working to improve the services it provides to the city's residents and investors.

ASEZA, covering a total area of 375 square kilometres, is a global hub, with three continents converging and forming a global hub for investors and tourists alike. It lies on the Gulf of Aqaba, which flows into the Red Sea, extending to the borders of Palestine, Saudi Arabia and connecting Egypt's territorial waters.

It forms a strategic outlet for regional and international markets, maximising business opportunities in all sectors and providing an advanced standard of living.

ASEZA also plays a leading role at the administrative and governmental level in Jordan and applies the principle of good governance based on transparency and effectiveness in the decision-making process.



ASEZA was established as per a plan to transform Aqaba into a special economic zone and a global commercial centre.

Aqaba's port now hosts 32 active and multipurpose berths to serve ble of handling 2 million tourists annually.

Since announcing the establishment of ASEZA, Aqaba witnessed an increase in industrial zones from two to five, while the logistics centres (free zones) increased from five to 10, which further foster diverse investments.

According to 2024 statistics, the total investment volume in ASEZA stood at approximately JD26 billion, consisting mainly of agreed-upon and existing projects, which are mainly tourism and infrastructure projects.

Also, the Aqaba Container Terminal (ACT) is the logistical and economic backbone of ASEZA, serving as the preferred gateway to the region for many active markets around the world. It is the premier transit hub in the Middle East, strategically positioned to serve Iraq, Syria, Saudi Arabia, West Bank and Lebanon.

ACT's world-class services are powered by advanced terminal technology, equipment, and facilities, and provide customers with a complete package to facilitate their cargo operations.

ACT has a reputation for efficiency and proficiency and is dedicated to providing speed, safety, security, and transparency across its service.

In September 2026, ACT set a new record for the third consecutive month, handling 107,803 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) the Kingdom and the countries of the region, and has also an advanced customs centres to facilitate inspection, handling and clearance operations

The coastal city is also home to the King Hussein International Airport, which works according to "Open Skies Policy" and capa-

Photo courtesy of ASEZA

An aerial view of the Aqaba Container Terminal

across 53 vessels.

September marked the third consecutive month in which the terminal surpassed the 100,000-TEU threshold, following the record volumes handled in July and August, reflecting ACT's sustained operational momentum.

ACT also maintained its transit cargo activity during the month, handling 14,712 TEUs of transit cargo, further underscoring the terminal's role in facilitating the movement of goods between Jordan and regional markets.

Truck activity at the terminal gates remained strong in September, reaching 45,901 visits.

The continued high level of activity across both landside and marine operations reflects ACT's capacity to manage sustained cargo volumes while maintaining efficient and reliable services for its customers and supply chain partners.

Meanwhile, the Aqaba Development Corporation (ADC) was established in 2004 by an initiative of the government and ASEZA, with the clear objective of unlocking the full economic potential of the zone and accelerating its growth into a leading regional hub for investment and business.

ADC owns the Port of Aqaba and its airport, along with strategic land and vital infrastructure, and is authorized to develop, manage, and operate these assets.

Arab Potash builds on record growth to strengthen Jordan's role in global fertiliser markets

By Ilham Darwazeh

AMMAN — The Arab Potash Company (APC) is strengthening Jordan's position as a strategic supplier of essential agricultural inputs, building on record production and profitability to expand its international presence and advance an ambitious industrial investment programme.

Established in 1956, APC is the sole producer of potash in the Arab world and ranks as the world's eighth-largest producer by production volume. Operating on the eastern shore of the Dead Sea, the company has developed into one of Jordan's most important mining and industrial enterprises, supplying a mineral essential to agricultural productivity and global food security.

In 2025, APC recorded consolidated revenues of JD726 million, compared with JD651 million in 2024, while consolidated net profits reached around JD173 million after tax and mining royalties. Operating profits stood at JD188 million.

Potash production reached around 2.9 million tonnes, marking a historic record and an increase of more than 21 per cent.

The momentum continued in 2026 despite regional instability and disruptions to international shipping routes following the Strait of Hormuz conflict.

During the first nine months of 2026, APC recorded net profits of JD169 million, representing a 34 per cent increase compared with JD127 million in the corresponding period of 2025. Net sales revenues rose by 16 per cent to JD563 million, while operating profits from potash operations increased by 66 per cent to JD175 million.

Production reached 2.19 million tonnes, compared with 2.15 million tonnes in the same period of 2025, while sales volumes increased by 3 per cent to a record 2.25 million tonnes.

The company attributed its performance to improved operational efficiency, a marketing strategy targeting higher-margin markets and flexible shipping arrangements that enabled it to maintain deliveries and meet international commitments despite logistical disruptions.



APC photo

In this undated photo, a potash harvester of the Arab Potash Company is seen operating at the Dead Sea

A strategic mineral for global food security

Potash is one of the three primary nutrients required for plant growth, alongside nitrogen and phosphorus. It supports crop development, improves water-use efficiency and strengthens plants' resilience to environmental stress, making it essential to agricultural productivity.

According to APC, more than 90 per cent of its production is exported to over 30 countries, serving agricultural markets across Europe, Asia, Africa, the Middle East and South America.

Its international reach provides Jordan with an important source of foreign currency while strengthening the Kingdom's position in global agricultural supply chains. Jordanian fertiliser exports to the European Union have also recorded significant growth, with previous Jordan Times reporting highlighting a threefold increase over four years.

For European partners, Jordan's established potash production base offers opportunities to diversify sourcing, strengthen supply security and develop industrial cooperation.

Moving towards higher-value industries

APC's strategy extends beyond mineral extraction towards developing an integrated industrial ecosystem based on Jordan's natural resources.

Through its subsidiaries and affiliated companies, the group has expanded into complementary industries, including specialisedfertilisers and chemicals.

The Arab Fertilisers and Chemicals Industries Company (KEMAPCO) produces potassium nitrate, a high-value fertiliser used in specialised crop nutrition. The Jordan Bromine Company manufactures bromine and derivatives for industrial applications, while Numeira Mixed Salts and Mud Company develops products derived from Dead Sea minerals.



According to previous Jordan Times reporting, APC has implemented major projects worth more than $3 billion to expand production and exports. Since 2020, strategic projects valued at approximately JD700 million have also been completed.

Looking ahead, the company's strategic vision through 2034 aims to increase annual potash production capacity to 3.7 million tonnes, supported by an investment programme estimated at approximately $3.4 billion. The Southern Expansion Project is among the key initiatives intended to support this target.

Jordan's phosphate industry builds on record growth to strengthen regional fertiliser supply chains

By Ilham Darwazeh

AMMAN — Jordan's phosphate industry is seeking to turn record production and profitability into a broader industrial and export advantage, as disruptions to global trade following the 2026 Strait of Hormuz conflict highlight the strategic importance of diversified fertiliser supply chains.

At the centre of this expansion is the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC), which recorded unprecedented production and financial results in 2025 while advancing investments in phosphate processing, fertiliser manufacturing and regional industrial partnerships.

The developments come amid growing concerns over the availability and cost of essential fertiliser inputs, particularly sulphur and ammonia, reinforcing the importance of Jordan's mineral resources and its potential to serve regional and international markets.

Record production and profitability

JPMC closed 2025 with net profits after tax of JD601.3 million, up 31.3 per cent compared with 2024, while group net sales reached JD1.448 billion, an annual increase of 19.3 per cent, according to preliminary financial results.

Phosphate production reached approximately 12.14 million tonnes, the highest level in the company's history and 5 per cent above 2024. Sales exceeded 11.5 million tonnes, reflecting sustained international demand.

Production of phosphoric acid and its sales exceeded 2.5 million tonnes of solution, while phosphate fertiliser production surpassed one million tonnes, primarily diammonium phosphate (DAP). The company also produced more than 300,000 tonnes of specialisedfertilisers, including monoammonium phosphate (MAP), NPK and MPS.

The financial contribution extends beyond the company's operations. Between 2018 and 2025, JPMC generated approximately JD2.7 billion in cumulative net profits and contributed JD885 million to the state treasury through income taxes and mining fees, according to company figures.



Hormuz disruption highlights supply-chain resilience

The conflict around the Strait of Hormuz in 2026 exposed vulnerabilities in international fertiliser supply chains, particularly the dependence of phosphate processing on sulphur and ammonia.

Sulphur is essential for producing sulphuric acid, which is subsequently used to manufacture phosphoric acid, a key input in phosphate fertilisers. Disruptions to shipping and supplies therefore placed additional pressure on production costs and industrial operations.

JPMC maintained substantial activity during the first nine months of 2026, recording net profits of JD315.1 million and sales revenue of JD1.101 billion, up 7.9 per cent from JD1.020 billion in the corresponding period of 2025.

However, input costs increased considerably. Sulphur prices rose by 165.7 per cent and ammonia costs by 58.4 per cent compared with the same period of 2025. Interruptions to natural gas supplies also required alternative arrangements to maintain production and meet international commitments.

The experience has reinforced the importance of diversified sourcing, strategic inventories and investment in domestic processing capabilities.

Moving towards higher-value industries

Beyond mining and exporting raw phosphate, JPMC is pursuing an investment strategy focused on expanding downstream production and capturing greater value from the mineral.

Among its major projects is the second Indian-Jordanian Chemicals Company investment, which includes a phosphoric acid production unit with an annual capacity of 300,000 tonnes and a sulphuric acid unit with a capacity of 900,000 tonnes.



JPMC photo

Production sites of the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company in Al Shediyeh

The company is also advancing a joint project with the Arab Potash Company to develop phosphoric acid and specialisedfertiliser production, strengthening integration between two of Jordan's major mineral industries.

Further investments include expanding the Indo-Jordan Chemicals Company complex in Aqaba, increasing processing capacity and developing infrastructure for storing and handling industrial inputs.

International partnerships are another component of the expansion strategy. Cooperation with Oman's OQ aims to develop phosphoric acid production in Jordan and fertiliser manufacturing in Salalah, creating opportunities for regional industrial integration and access to additional markets.

Diversifying phosphate applications

While agriculture remains the principal market for phosphate products, their industrial applications extend to food processing, detergents, chemicals and animal feed.

JPMC is developing an animal feed additives plant in Aqaba using locally produced phosphoric acid, with production expected to begin in January 2027. The project aims to increase domestic value addition and create additional export opportunities.

The expansion of specialised products, including MAP and compound fertilisers, also supports the company's ambition to move beyond conventional phosphate exports towards higher-value manufacturing.

Jordan advances national railway ambitions with launch of $2.5 billion Aqaba project



Landmark railway investment marks major step towards an integrated national transport network, strengthening export competitiveness, regional connectivity and investment opportunities

By Ilham Darwazeh

AMMAN — Jordan has taken a major step towards developing a national railway network with the launch of the $2.5 billion Aqaba–Shidiya–Maan railway project, an ambitious infrastructure undertaking aimed at transforming freight transport, strengthening export competitiveness and positioning the Kingdom as a regional logistics hub.

His Majesty King Abdullah and Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council, on October 5 witnessed the laying of the foundation stone for the project, which marks the first phase of Jordan's planned national railway network.

The initiative forms part of the Economic Modernisation Vision's flagship projects and reflects Jordan's efforts to modernise its transport infrastructure, improve the efficiency of goods movement and establish stronger links between production centres, ports and regional markets.

Estimated at $2.5 billion, the project will comprise two main routes connecting Aqaba Industrial Port with phosphate production facilities in Shidiya and potash production facilities in Ghor Al Safi, alongside a 43-kilometre link between Shidiya and Maan.

The planned network will extend over 403 kilometres, including 360 kilometres dedicated to the phosphate and potash routes. Once operational, it is expected to transport approximately 16 million tonnes of phosphate and potash annually.

Speaking at the ceremony, Prime Minister Jafar Hassan described the project as a strategic undertaking for Jordan and the wider region, highlighting its expected economic and development impact, particularly on the Kingdom's southern governorates.

He said the railway would eventually enable Aqaba to connect with Syria, Turkey and the Mediterranean, opening new opportunities for regional trade and transport connectivity.

Beyond its immediate role in facilitating the transportation of mining products, the railway is expected to significantly reduce logistics costs and strengthen the competitiveness of Jordanian exports. Government estimates indicate that it could generate annual savings of approximately $40 million in phosphate and potash transportation costs while creating around 5,000 jobs in the southern region.

The project also envisages the development of Maan as a major logistics and distribution hub, providing facilities for receiving, consolidating, storing, handling and redistributing goods.

Linked to the planned Maan–Aqaba dry port, the hub will integrate rail and road transport, with trains handling bulk freight and trucks distributing goods to domestic and international markets. Maan is also expected to serve as a distribution point for eight regional markets.

From investment agreement to implementation

The railway project has progressed through several important milestones, reflecting the growing momentum behind Jordan's efforts to establish a modern freight railway system.

In September 2024, Jordan and the UAE signed four agreements to initiate the $2.3 billion Aqaba railway project, covering the development of a 360-kilometre network connecting the Port of Aqaba with phosphate and potash mining sites in Shidiya and Ghor Al Safi.

The agreements formed part of the broader $5.5 billion Jordanian-Emirati investment package signed in late 2023 in the presence of His Majesty King Abdullah and UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

The partnership subsequently advanced towards implementation, with Jordan and the UAE signing strategic agreements on April 15, 2026, to establish a joint company responsible for developing and operating the railway.

The venture brings together Jordanian institutions, including Jordan Phosphate Mines Company, Arab Potash Company, the Government Investments Management Company and the Social Security Investment Fund, alongside Abu Dhabi-based L'IMAD Holding Company.

Under the arrangement, the Jordanian and Emirati sides each hold a 50 per cent stake in the joint venture, combining national investment participation with Emirati financial and technical expertise.

In October 2026, the foundation-stone ceremony marked another major milestone, formally advancing the project towards its implementation phase.

The Jordan Times reported that the initiative is intended to strengthen the Port of Aqaba's competitiveness, improve the efficiency of mining exports and establish the foundations for a wider national railway network.

The project's significance also lies in its ability to mobilise investment in complementary infrastructure, including railway tracks, tunnels, bridges, cargo-handling facilities and logistics services.

Company Chairman Mohammad Thneibat said the undertaking reflected long-term confidence in Jordan's economic and investment prospects, as well as the strength of the strategic partnership between Jordan and the UAE.

He highlighted the project's role in improving transport sector performance, reducing operating costs and creating new investment opportunities that could support economic growth and employment.

Company Deputy Chairman and Etihad Rail Chief Executive Officer Shadi Malak described the railway as more than a transport link, calling it a new economic artery connecting Jordan's natural resources and production centres to international markets through Aqaba Industrial Port.

He said the initiative would strengthen export capacity, attract investment, generate employment opportunities and reinforce Aqaba's position as a gateway for regional trade.

A new logistics corridor centred on Maan

An important dimension of the railway investment is its potential to transform Maan into a major inland logistics and distribution centre.

The planned Maan–Aqaba dry port is intended to complement the railway by integrating rail freight with road transportation, cargo handling, storage and distribution services.

The development is expected to create opportunities for private-sector participation in logistics operations, warehousing, customs services, freight forwarding and supporting industrial activities.

The proposed facility would also strengthen connections between Aqaba's maritime infrastructure and Jordan's inland markets, allowing goods to be consolidated and redistributed more efficiently.

For southern Jordan, the development could stimulate new economic activity beyond traditional mining, supporting employment in transport, construction, logistics and related services.

The broader investment portfolio presented by the government also includes the proposed Al Madouna Logistics Centre and Dry Port, southeast of Amman, which is designed to provide warehousing, inventory management, distribution, customs and value-added logistics services.

Another proposed project is a logistics and commercial centre in Mafraq Development Zone, covering approximately 5.5 square kilometres and targeting warehousing, distribution and commercial services.

Together, these initiatives reflect a broader government approach to developing an interconnected network of logistics facilities that can serve domestic industries and regional trade.

Building a national railway network

While the Aqaba–Shidiya–Maan project represents the first major phase of the current railway investment programme, Jordan's longer-term ambition extends towards establishing a national network connecting industrial centres, ports and border crossings.

The planned network is intended to support freight movement across the Kingdom and eventually connect Jordan with neighbouring countries, providing additional routes for regional trade.

The government's wider railway ambitions include potential extensions towards the northern and southern borders, particularly the Jaber crossing with Syria and Mudawwara towards Saudi Arabia.

Such connections could strengthen Jordan's position within regional transport corridors, linking the Gulf with the Levant, Turkey and Mediterranean markets.

Prime Minister Hassan has highlighted the potential for the railway to eventually connect Aqaba with Syria, Turkey and the Mediterranean, opening new prospects for regional trade and transport connectivity.

These longer-term ambitions would, however, require additional investment, feasibility studies, cross-border agreements and coordination between neighbouring countries.

The importance of regional connectivity has also gained prominence as Jordan seeks to strengthen its position in international trade and logistics networks, including discussions surrounding wider economic corridors linking Asia, the Middle East and Europe.

For Jordan, developing railway infrastructure could provide an alternative to road-based freight transportation, reduce logistics costs and improve the reliability of supply chains serving regional markets.

Transport investment opportunities at Jordan–EU conference

The railway project is among the major transport and infrastructure opportunities being presented at the Jordan–EU Investment Conference, scheduled for November 19 at the King Hussein bin Talal Convention Centre at the Dead Sea.

According to The Jordan Times' November 15 report, Jordan will showcase investment opportunities in railway networks, dry ports, logistics centres and public transport projects, seeking to attract European and international investment to upgrade transport infrastructure and strengthen regional trade links.

The Ministry of Investment's transport portfolio includes the National Railway Network, Aqaba–Maan Dry Port and Development Zone, Al Madouna Logistics Centre and Dry Port, Mafraq Development Zone logistics centre, Jaber Border Crossing expansion and a proposed light rail connection between Amman and Queen Alia International Airport.

The proposed 37-kilometre light rail project would connect Al Mahatta in Amman with Queen Alia International Airport through five stations, offering an additional passenger transport option and supporting integration with the wider public transport network.

The Jaber Border Crossing rehabilitation and expansion project is intended to increase capacity for freight and passenger traffic and modernise facilities and supporting services through a public-private partnership.

The conference therefore presents a broader investment opportunity extending beyond railway construction to the development of an integrated transport and logistics ecosystem.

European companies could contribute expertise in railway engineering, signalling systems, rolling stock, infrastructure maintenance, digital freight management, cargo-handling technology and logistics operations.

Investment opportunities also extend to the development and operation of dry ports, warehousing facilities, cold-chain infrastructure and multimodal transport services.

The projects are expected to generate direct and indirect employment across construction, transport, warehousing, operations, maintenance and supporting industries, while stimulating commercial and industrial activity in several governorates.

For Jordan, attracting European investors and technology providers could help strengthen the technical and operational capacity required to deliver these projects, while encouraging knowledge transfer and private-sector participation.

A strategic investment in Jordan's economic competitiveness

The railway initiative represents an important building block in Jordan's longer-term ambition to establish an integrated national railway system linking industrial centres, logistics facilities and seaports.

By shifting a substantial share of bulk freight from roads to rail, Jordan aims to build a more efficient and cost-effective transport network, strengthen its position in regional supply chains and unlock new economic opportunities across the Kingdom.

The project's success will depend not only on completing the railway infrastructure but also on developing complementary logistics facilities, ensuring efficient operations and securing sufficient freight volumes to support its long-term commercial viability.

Regional connectivity will also be essential to expanding the network's economic contribution, particularly as Jordan seeks to strengthen its role as a transit and distribution centre linking neighbouring markets.

As the Aqaba–Shidiya–Maan railway advances, the project offers an opportunity to transform the Kingdom's transport infrastructure, strengthen its export base and attract new investment into logistics and industrial development.

For Jordan, the railway is more than a major infrastructure undertaking. It is a strategic investment in the country's capacity to connect production with markets, improve economic competitiveness and become a more influential regional trade and logistics hub.



Jordan-Europe Investment Conference showcases renewable energy projects

450MW Mujib pumped-storage plant, green hydrogen and ammonia infrastructure in Aqaba, solar and battery project and wind farm among key investment opportunities



Photo courtesy of Shams Maan

An aerial view of the Shams Maan solar plant in the Maan Governorate, some 220km south of Amman



By Ahmad Khatatneh

AMMAN — Jordan is presenting investment opportunities in renewable energy generation and green hydrogen to European investors at the Jordan-Europe Investment Conference 2026.

The investment portfolio includes a 450MW pumped-storage hydropower plant near Mujib Dam, a green hydrogen and green ammonia infrastructure project in Aqaba, a 200MW solar photovoltaic plant integrated with battery storage and a proposed 100MW wind farm, aimed at expanding clean energy capacity and enhancing energy security.

The Ministry of Investment said that the opportunities are structured under public-private partnership and build-own-operate (BOO) models, providing international investors with opportunities to participate in developing and operating major energy infrastructure projects.

The Mujib pumped-storage hydropower project is among the key opportunities being presented. With a planned capacity of 450MW and storage duration of seven hours, the facility will operate under a build-own-operate-transfer model.

Located near the existing Mujib Dam, the project is designed to store surplus electricity generated from renewable sources and release it during periods of high demand, particularly during evening peak hours.

The closed-loop system will circulate water between two reservoirs through pressure pipelines and two reversible pump-turbine units, each with a capacity of 225MW.

The project is expected to improve grid stability, facilitate the integration of renewable energy and reduce reliance on imported fuels.

Jordan is also seeking investment in green hydrogen and green ammonia infrastructure, aiming to position Aqaba as a regional production and export hub.

The proposed investment opportunity centres on developing shared infrastructure linking renewable energy generation sites, and green hydrogen producers with ammonia production and export facilities.

It also includes electricity and hydrogen transmission networks, water de-salination and conveyance systems, ammonia storage and transport pipelines and port export facilities.

In May 2026, the government signed a $1 billion investment agreement with Jordan Green Ammonia Company to develop a facility in Aqaba with an annual production capacity of approximately 100,000 tonnes.

The project will use green hydrogen produced through electrolysis powered by a dedicated 550MW solar energy system and battery storage, operating independently of the national electricity grid.

The Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority subsequently signed a land lease agreement with the company in June, with the project advancing through front-end engineering design and environmental impact assessment stages. Financial close is expected in 2027, with commercial operations scheduled to begin in 2030.

In September 2026, the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources signed a Memorandum of Understanding with China's Getting International Energy Holdings to conduct technical studies for a green hydrogen and derivatives project near Aqaba Port.

The studies will assess the feasibility of an integrated value chain covering renewable energy generation, water de-salination, hydrogen and green ammonia production, energy storage, electricity transmission and port logistics.

Another opportunity combines a 200MW solar photovoltaic plant with a 100MW battery energy storage system capable of storing electricity for four hours.

The project will be developed under a BOO model, with the National Electric Power Company serving as the main electricity off-taker.

Its integrated energy management system will coordinate solar generation, battery charging and discharging and electricity supply according to grid requirements.

The portfolio also includes a proposed 100MW wind farm. The project will be connected to the national electricity grid and developed under a BOO model.

The investment opportunities build on progress in Jordan's energy transition, with renewable energy accounting for approximately 26.3 per cent of the Kingdom's total electricity generation by the end of 2025, according to the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources.

Under the second Executive Programme of the Economic Modernisation Vision for 2026–2029, the government is pursuing projects to expand renewable energy generation, develop energy storage capacity and establish a green hydrogen industry.

In the green hydrogen sector, the programme includes implementing Memoranda of Understanding and agreements with companies for the development of 11 green hydrogen production projects, alongside a study to develop shared infrastructure for these projects.

Progress has also been recorded in expanding solar energy applications. The Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Fund completed the northern phase of a national programme targeting 104 municipalities and 188 buildings, with a combined solar capacity of approximately 3.4MW, before launching the southern phase covering 18 municipalities in September.

The programme is expected to generate annual savings of around JD550,000 on electricity bills and reduce carbon emissions by approximately 3,838 tonnes. It also includes training more than 550 municipal employees in operating and maintaining the systems.

Orange Jordan: A 26-year commitment to building Jordan's digital future



AMMAN (JT) — Twenty-six years ago, Orange took a high-conviction position in Jordan's future, entering the market when mobile phones were still a novelty and the internet a luxury for the few. Today, we are the largest European investor in the Kingdom, and our conviction continues to grow year after year.

This year alone stands as a testament to what long-term commitment can achieve, highlighted by being honoured by HRH Crown Prince Hussein during the Crown Prince Foundation's 10th anniversary celebration, as well as Orange Jordan becoming the first telecommunications operator globally to receive the 6-star Recognised for Excellence certificate from the European Foundation for Quality Management.

As Jordan and Europe meet this week at the Jordan-EU Investment Conference 2026, our journey tells an important story about what European capital can achieve here when it commits for the long term.

Jordan-EU: A partnership rooted in trust

Jordan and Europe are natural partners. Sitting at the crossroads of three continents, the Kingdom offers stability, a young and highly educated workforce, and trade agreements that open doors to Europe, the Gulf, the United States, and beyond. Meanwhile, Europe brings capital, technology, high standards and access to the world's largest single market.

Yet, the partnership runs deeper than complementary assets. It rests on shared values: The rule of law, openness, and the conviction that growth must be inclusive and sustainable. This is what makes long-term commitments possible, and long-term commitment is exactly what infrastructure sectors such as telecommunications demand.

Our own commitment has not wavered since that first investment. Every single year, we continue to invest heavily in the Kingdom's digital infrastructure. That investment is anything but abstract. It is the mobile network that carries millions of calls and data sessions every day; the fiber that connects homes, schools, hospitals, and businesses to high-speed internet; the 5G that is laying the groundwork for Industry 4.0, smart cities, and new services; and the data centers and cloud capacity on which Jordanian companies and public institutions rely.

Jordan's investment ecosystem

Telecommunications is a capital-intensive business built on long horizons. You do not lay fiber for next quarter's results; you lay it for the next generation. Our decision to keep investing, year after year, through regional crises and global shocks, is the clearest vote of confidencewe can offer Jordan as an investment destination: it rewards patience and commitment.

That environment has also grown notably stronger. The Investment Environment Law, the Economic Modernisation Vision, and the government's digital transformation agenda have given investors a clearer framework and a stronger sense of direction. Combined with meaningful ICT incentives, including supporting digital talents, digital services exports, and investment in development zones, the Kingdom has built compelling advantages for investors.

There is, of course, always room to go further towards an even more predictable, investment-friendly framework, because every dinar invested in the network is a dinar that powersJordan's digital economy.

Orange Jordan's plans for the future

Jordan has rightly placed ICT at the heart of its economic modernization, and our plans are aligned with that ambition.

We will keep expanding fiber and 5G coverage so that high-quality connectivity reaches every governorate, not just the major cities. We will scale up our cloud, cybersecurity, and data-center services, because digital sovereignty and trust are becoming as important as connectivity itself, underpinned by our ambitions under Orange Group's "Trust the Future" strategy.

We will also continue to develop solutions that help enterprises and the public sector, from logistics, health and education to tourism, energy and manufacturing, digitize their operations and be able to cope with all digital transformation needs and the coming AI demands.

In parallel, we will keep widening access to digital financial services through mobile money, bringing more Jordanians, especially women, youth, and those in remote areas, into the formal financial system, guided by our commitment to the people, community, and planet.

Opportunities for European companies

As the Kingdom accelerates to become a central digital hub, demand is expected to grow for enterprise solutions, cybersecurity, fintech, and smart-city technologies. European companies are well positioned to capture this growth in the Kingdom, leveraging it as a stable launchpad into wider regional markets.

At Orange Jordan, we see our role as a bridge in that journey, having spent nearly three decades building the Kingdom's digital foundation, driven by the global group's expertise and a local spirit, and we are committed to turning European capital and standards into lasting local impact.

CSR at the heart of Orange Jordan's strategy

Few know better than a network operator that infrastructure only creates value when people can use it. That is why social responsibility is central to how Orange operates in Jordan.

Through our Orange Digital Centers, we impacted the lives of 25000 participants, offering them free training in coding, digital skills and entrepreneurship, and support start-ups as they grow. In the coming period, we will step up our efforts in three directions: Digital inclusion, so that youth, women, persons with disabilities, and underserved communities have the skills and access to take full part in the digital economy; innovation and entrepreneurship, by helping Jordanian start-ups reach regional and European markets; and environmental responsibility, by making our networks more energy-efficient and expanding our use of renewable energy, in line with the Orange Group's net-zero commitment.

Orange's story in Jordan shows what the Jordan-EU partnership can achieve when it is anchored in long-term commitment: jobs, skills, infrastructure and a digital economy that serves citizens and businesses alike.

On Thursday, I hope many more European investors will leave the Dead Sea with the conviction we arrived with 26 years ago and still hold today: Jordan is not a market to test, but a partner to build with.

EuroCham Jordan calls for structured follow-up to turn EU-Jordan investment pledges into projects

By Ilham Darwazeh

AMMAN — The EU-Jordan Investment Conference should mark the beginning of a long-term investment partnership rather than remain a one-off event, with its success measured by projects implemented, capital deployed and sustainable jobs created, according to EuroCham Jordan Chairman Mohammad Smadi.

Speaking to The Jordan Times, Smadi said Jordan's presentation of more than 40 investment opportunities valued at over $15 billion demonstrates the scale of potential cooperation between Jordan and the European Union. However, he stressed that the real outcome should be measured by how many opportunities translate into operational projects and lasting business partnerships.

"The EU-Jordan Investment Conference should be viewed as the beginning of a long-term investment process, not the conclusion of one," Smadi said.

He emphasised the need for a continuous framework connecting Jordanian and European businesses, supported by governments, financial institutions and business associations.

In this regard, EuroCham Jordan can serve as a bridge between the two business communities by facilitating direct partnerships, identifying opportunities for joint ventures, encouraging technology transfer and maintaining engagement with investors beyond the conference.

"The ambition should be to establish a relationship in which European companies see Jordan not simply as an investment destination, but as a long-term industrial and commercial partner and a gateway to regional markets," he said.

Structured follow-up to ensure implementation

Smadi identified a structured follow-up mechanism as essential to ensuring that investment announcements translate into tangible economic outcomes.

He called for clear responsibilities, measurable milestones and regular reporting, with each major investment opportunity assigned a designated point of contact, an implementation roadmap and a process for addressing challenges related to financing, regulations and approvals.

'The EU-Jordan Investment Conference should be viewed as the beginning of a long-term investment process...'

He also proposed establishing a joint follow-up framework involving the Ministry of Investment, European institutions, financial partners and private-sector representatives, supported by periodic reviews of implementation progress.

Such a framework would help maintain investor engagement, identify obstacles at an early stage and ensure that commitments receive the necessary institutional support.

From EuroCham Jordan's perspective, the organisation can contribute by maintaining direct communication with European investors, facilitating connections with Jordanian companies and bringing practical investment barriers to the attention of relevant authorities.

Measuring investment beyond announcements

Smadi stressed that measuring the conference's success should go beyond the total value of announced investments, calling for greater emphasis on actual economic outcomes.

Key indicators should include capital actually invested, projects reaching implementation, jobs created, technology transferred and business opportunities generated for Jordanian small and medium-sized enterprises and local suppliers.

He said strengthening these connections would help ensure that European investment contributes to the wider economy through local partnerships, industrial development and employment opportunities.

"An investment announcement is a commitment to work towards an outcome, not the outcome itself," he said.

Smadi added that the conference should be assessed over the years following its November 2026 launch, based on the number of projects becoming operational, companies expanding, exports increasing and sustainable employment opportunities being created for Jordanians.

For Jordan and its European partners, this approach would help transform the conference from a platform for presenting investment opportunities into a sustained mechanism for economic cooperation, private-sector growth and long-term job creation.



Amman Stock Exchange sets records, strengthens regional investment links

By Ilham Darwazeh

AMMAN — The Amman Stock Exchange (ASE) is consolidating its position as an increasingly attractive investment destination, following a record-breaking 2025 and sustained growth in market activity and corporate profitability throughout 2026.

The exchange's performance reflects growing investor confidence in Jordan's economy, stronger financial results among listed companies and continued efforts to modernise the Kingdom's capital market, opening new opportunities for regional and international investors.

A major milestone came in 2025, when the ASE General Index surged by 45.1 per cent to reach 3,611.6 points, compared with 2,488.8 points at the end of 2024, marking its highest level since 2007. According to Bloomberg rankings published by the ASE, the exchange recorded the strongest index growth among Arab markets and ranked 13th globally.

Market capitalisation increased by 50.1 per cent to approximately JD26.5 billion, while trading value rose by 80.6 per cent to JD2.165 billion, compared with JD1.199 billion in 2024. The ASE Total Return Index advanced by 58.5 per cent, while the ASE20 Index rose by 47.2 per cent.

The rally extended across several sectors, with electrical industries recording the strongest increase in share prices at 119 per cent, followed by mining and extraction industries at 77.3 per cent, transportation at 51.8 per cent and banking at 45.7 per cent. Shares of 106 listed companies increased during the year.



Record corporate earnings strengthen market fundamentals

Beyond market valuations, the financial performance of listed companies provided another important indicator of the exchange's progress.

According to the ASE, combined net profits after tax attributable to shareholders of listed companies reached JD2.348 billion in 2025, increasing by 12.9 per cent from JD2.081 billion in 2024. This represented the second-highest historical annual net profit recorded by ASE-listed companies.

Pre-tax profits also increased by 9.6 per cent to JD3.269 billion. Industrial companies led sectoral profitability growth, with an 18.4 per cent increase, followed by services at 11.4 per cent and financial companies at 10.1 per cent.

The positive momentum continued into 2026, despite regional instability and disruptions to international trade following the Strait of Hormuz conflict.

During the first nine months of 2026, listed companies reported combined net profits of JD1.776 billion, up 4.8 per cent compared with JD1.695 billion during the corresponding period of 2025.

The ASE General Index advanced by 14 per cent from the beginning of the year to reach 4,117.3 points by the end of September. Market capitalisation increased by 9.1 per cent to JD28.9 billion, while total trading value rose by 55.8 per cent year-on-year. Average daily trading value reached JD13.4 million, compared with JD8.8 million during the corresponding period of 2025.

The services sector recorded particularly strong profit growth of 66 per cent, while financial companies posted a 4.7 per cent increase. Industrial companies, however, recorded a 9.6 per cent decline.

Connecting Jordan with regional capital markets

A significant development in 2026 was the launch of the electronic trading link between the ASE and the Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange (ADX) through the Tabadul platform on June 1.

The initiative represents an important step towards integrating Arab financial markets, allowing investors to access investment opportunities and trade securities across participating exchanges through local brokerage firms and interconnected electronic infrastructure.

Launched by ADX in 2022, Tabadul is an exchange-to-exchange digital platform whose network includes the Muscat Stock Exchange, Bahrain Bourse, Astana International Exchange, Kazakhstan Stock Exchange and Armenia Securities Exchange, alongside the ASE.

The agreement, initially signed in December 2024, strengthens Jordan's financial connectivity with the UAE, broadens investor access to regional equities and supports cross-border investment flows.

Abu Dhabi's experience provides an important regional benchmark. ADX reported that its market capitalisation exceeded AED3.1 trillion in 2025, while annual trading value reached approximately AED385 billion, reflecting the scale and international reach of the UAE's capital market.

For Jordan, the partnership offers an opportunity to increase the international visibility of listed companies, broaden investor participation and attract regional capital.

A stronger platform for European investment

The ASE's achievements complement Jordan's Economic Modernisation Vision, particularly its objectives of strengthening the financial sector, improving the investment environment and expanding private-sector participation.

The exchange continues to focus on transparency, corporate disclosure and market infrastructure. Its electronic disclosure system, operating through the XBRL standard, supports timely reporting and provides investors with access to listed companies' financial information.

A major milestone came in 2025, when the ASE General Index surged by 45.1 per cent to reach 3,611.6 points

By September 2026, 99 per cent of 154 listed companies had submitted their reviewed interim financial statements within the regulatory deadline.

For European investors attending the EU-Jordan Investment Conference, the ASE offers exposure to Jordanian businesses across banking, mining, manufacturing, real estate, energy and services.

With market capitalisation approaching JD29 billion, rising corporate earnings and stronger regional connectivity, the exchange is seeking to translate its recent performance into sustainable investment growth.

Jordan poised to attract major investment as EU partnership opens up new financing opportunities

- Water, energy and high-value industries key to Jordan's investment appeal
- Jordan's economic stability and regional position provide a strong foundation for private capital

By Hana Namrouqa

AMMAN — With the Jordan-EU Investment Conference set to take place on November 19, attention is focused on translating the partnership into concrete investment projects and mobilising private capital for Jordan's priority sectors. The conference provides an important opportunity to advance bankable projects, secure financing and bring major development initiatives closer to implementation. The World Bank Group, which has mobilised $1.4 billion in private capital for Jordan since 2022, is poised to play a key role in supporting this investment drive.

In this interview with The Jordan Times, Thomas Jacobs, IFC division director for the Levant, Iraq and Yemen, discusses the IFC's role in complementing European financing, preparing investment-ready projects, and bringing development finance institutions and private investors together. He highlights Jordan's potential to attract investment in strategic sectors, particularly water security and energy infrastructure, high-value manufacturing and regional connectivity, while examining how international partnerships and innovative financing can advance major projects, accelerate economic growth and create more and better jobs.



Thomas Jacobs

Below is the full interview.

1. The World Bank Group mobilised a record $112 billion in private capital in fiscal year 2026, highlighting a growing emphasis on using development finance to unlock private investment. What does this shift mean for Jordan, and how does the World Bank Group see its role in mobilising private capital for the Kingdom**?**

For Jordan, it means that much more private investment is within reach, provided we can bring forward projects that are investment-ready.

For years, our shareholders and clients have been clear: The World Bank Group needed to do more, move faster and mobilise substantially more private capital alongside its own financing. The challenge was not a global shortage of capital. Banks and institutional investors manage roughly $280 trillion, yet developing economies receive only a small share of global investment. The key constraint was enabling capital to reach viable opportunities with acceptable risk-adjusted returns.

Meeting that mandate required more than new financial instruments; it required us to change how the institution operates. The results are now visible. In addition to mobilising this record amount of private capital, more than three times the 2022 level, we issued more than $25 billion in guarantees, surpassing our 2030 guarantee target four years ahead of schedule.

Across the Levant, IFC has supported pharmaceuticals, financial inclusion, climate and infrastructure, trade, food security, and small and medium-sized businesses. In Jordan, the World Bank Group has mobilised $1.4 billion in private capital since 2022. But our ambition is greater. We aim to exceed this figure by helping prepare projects that investors can finance, investing our own capital for the long term, and using guarantees and our syndication platforms to bring other investors on board.

More than the numbers, what matters is the jobs this creates, particularly for women, whose labour force participation in Jordan remains among the lowest in the world. Creating more and better jobs is central to our strategy, both here in Jordan and across the globe.

2. Jordan is currently pursuing a number of major investment partnerships and projects in areas including water, energy, transport, logistics, digital infrastructure and manufacturing. How does the World Bank Group assess the current investment pipeline in Jordan and which sectors do you see offering the greatest potential for private sector investment**?**

Jordan has diverse opportunities, anchored in the Economic Modernisation Vision. We see the strongest near-term potential in water and energy security, export-oriented high-value manufacturing, and financing for small and medium-sized enterprises. These are key sectors in supporting our jobs strategy.

Water and energy are where national needs and investor interest meet most clearly. The Aqaba-Amman de-salination project shows that large-scale water infrastructure can attract private and development finance.

In energy, the next step is to invest in grid flexibility and storage so that Jordan can make fuller use of its renewable capacity. Meanwhile, in manufacturing, Jordanian companies in pharmaceuticals and other export sectors have shown that they can compete regionally and globally. What they need is long-term financing to continue doing so, expand their capacity and reach new markets.

For smaller firms, access to finance remains one of the main constraints on growth and recruitment, and working through Jordanian banks is one of the fastest ways to reach them. This includes improving access to finance for women-owned enterprises.

Transport, logistics and digital infrastructure also offer considerable potential, but most of these projects need further preparation before they are ready for investors.

Across all these sectors, investors look for the same things: Well-prepared projects, transparent procurement, predictable regulation, and clarity on tariffs and risk allocation. The government has made real progress through its public-private partnership (PPP) framework and reform agenda. The key now is to build on this momentum quickly and turn the pipeline into investment.

Working as one World Bank Group, we can help Jordan turn its reform momentum and sector ambitions into bankable investments by supporting policy and regulatory reforms, preparing projects and public-private partnerships, anchoring investments, mobilising private capital, and using guarantees and blended finance where appropriate to mitigate risk, create more and better jobs, and deliver sustainable growth.

3. Jordan is developing several large-scale infrastructure projects, including the Aqaba-Amman Water Desalination and Conveyance Project and major railway and logistics projects. What role could the World Bank Group play in helping Jordan attract private capital for projects of this scale, particularly through blended finance, guarantees, or partnerships with other development and private sector institutions**?**

Projects of this scale need multiple institutions and instruments working together, with each doing what it does best.

The Aqaba-Amman Water Desalination and Conveyance Project is a great example. The project is expected to produce 300 million cubic metres of potable water annually and could meet about 40 per cent of Jordan's municipal water needs by 2040. IFC is working alongside other development finance institutions to finance this project, investing its own capital, and bringing in other lenders and concessional financing, which supports financial sustainability. MIGA's guarantees complement the financing structure by mitigating key risks, and giving investors and lenders greater confidence to participate.

This de-salination project is just one part of the World Bank Group's holistic partnership with Jordan, supporting the Kingdom's efforts to create jobs through private sector-led growth, strengthen resilience and develop more sustainable water, energy and urban infrastructure.

Another example is the Jordan Water Sector Efficiency Project, which aims to reduce water losses, improve water distribution and strengthen drought management. This work creates a stronger foundation for IFC's efforts to attract private capital into infrastructure.

Rail and logistics projects have different risks and revenue models, but the same success factors apply: Early preparation, clear allocation of risk and a financing structure that combines public, development and private capital. We and our colleagues across the World Bank Group stand ready to support the government as these projects are prepared.

4. The Jordan-EU Investment Conference, scheduled for November 19, is expected to focus on translating the EU-Jordan partnership into concrete investment projects. What role can IFC play in complementing European financing and helping turn investment opportunities presented at the conference into bankable projects and actual investments**?**

Our role is to work with European and other partners to help turn the opportunities presented at the conference from ideas into investments. IFC complements European financing in three ways.

First, preparation. We need to work together to ensure that investment ideas are ready for investors. IFC can work with the government and project sponsors to assess feasibility and bankability, identify the necessary regulatory steps, and structure transactions, including PPPs where that is the right model.

Second, financing and risk-sharing. IFC can invest alongside European development finance institutions and commercial banks, combining its own capital with European guarantee and blended finance resources. The goal is to structure bankable transactions that can attract private capital.

Third, mobilisation. Through our syndication platforms and investor relationships, we can mobilise commercial lenders and institutional investors from Europe, the Gulf and beyond to participate in transactions, maximising impact and private sector participation.

As part of IFC's contribution to the conference, we are supporting the government in organising focused discussions on mining and high-value industries, two specific sectors that can create quality jobs. This is in addition to our work with the government to improve the policy and regulatory environment and identify concrete investment opportunities.

From an investment perspective, success will depend on follow-through: A list of priority projects, clear government ownership with support from partners and agreed next steps for project preparation and financing. We will be ready to take this work forward with the government and our European partners, drawing on more than half-a-century of IFC experience in Jordan and our global track record.

5. IFC has identified infrastructure, water security, digital transformation and access to finance for businesses among its priorities in the Levant, Iraq and Yemen. How do you see Jordan's position within this broader regional investment landscape and what opportunities could emerge from stronger regional economic integration**?**

Jordan is well placed to serve as an anchor and a connector across the region.

It has maintained macroeconomic stability in a difficult regional environment. Real GDP grew by 2.8 per cent in 2025 and is forecast to grow by 2.7 per cent in 2026. In 2024, Jordan received its first sovereign credit rating upgrades in more than two decades from two global rating agencies, with these upgrades sustained in 2025 and 2026, with stable outlooks. Combined with the Economic Modernisation Vision, its PPP framework and its location as a trade and logistics gateway, this gives investors a solid basis for long-term commitments.

As for IFC, Jordan has one of the largest IFC portfolios in the Middle East, with $919.7 million committed across 31 projects to date. Our work with private companies is complemented by a recent World Bank operation: The $700 million Growth and Competitiveness Development Policy Financing II, which focuses on reforms to strengthen the business environment, attract investment and improve access to finance. Together, we aim to create more jobs and accelerate the country's green and digital transition.

Deeper regional integration could widen these opportunities even further, as it helps overcome the limitations of a small domestic market. For example, cross-border power links could open up larger markets for renewable energy and improve security of supply, while experience with large-scale de-salination could benefit other water-stressed economies.

Closer ties with Gulf markets could give Jordanian technology firms access to more customers and capital, leveraging its young, educated and bilingual workforce, which is well suited to developing Arabic-language and AI applications.

Improved integration could also attract investment in logistics, tourism, digital services and export-oriented manufacturing, while helping smaller Jordanian firms expand across borders.

These opportunities closely match IFC's regional priorities.

6. Looking ahead over the next three to five years, what would you identify as the most promising areas for investment and private capital mobilisation in Jordan, and what would need to happen for Jordan to realise this potential**?**

Over the next three to five years, we see the greatest potential for private investment in water and energy infrastructure, as well as high-value manufacturing, particularly pharmaceuticals and downstream mining. Healthcare, tourism, agribusiness and financial services that support small businesses also offer significant opportunities. Together, these sectors accounted for more than half of the record private capital mobilised by the World Bank Group last year.

Beyond their investment potential, these sectors share another important characteristic: Their ability to create jobs, including for women and young people. This is particularly critical as 1.2 billion young people across developing countries are expected to reach working age over the next 10 to 15 years. For Jordan, creating opportunities for its growing workforce is already a national priority, reflected in its Economic Modernisation Vision and its ambition to create more than one million jobs for young women and men.

Achieving that ambition will require sustained private investment, building on the progress Jordan has already made in improving its business environment. IFC has been a partner in these efforts, helping translate reforms and investment opportunities into tangible results. From structuring pioneering airport and wind power projects to supporting the country's first green bond and anchoring bonds that are helping expand its pharmaceutical industry, our work has focused on mobilising private capital, developing strategic sectors, and creating more and better jobs.

These achievements provide a strong foundation for the next wave of investment, but realising its full potential will require continued efforts to prepare commercially viable projects, maintain a predictable business environment, and bring public and private partners together to mobilise capital at scale.

IFC remains committed to building on this progress and helping Jordan turn investment opportunities into sustainable growth and lasting economic opportunities for its people.