

# SHAPING TOMORROW

**A VISUAL STORY OF THE  
EGYPT-EIB PARTNERSHIP**



European  
Investment Bank | Global



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Photo credits: Galal El Missary

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#### **About the photographer**

Galal Rifaat El Missary is an internationally recognised Egyptian photographer who blends cultural depth with powerful storytelling. Galal is known for documenting Egypt's landscapes, heritage and people. His use of natural light, geometric repetition and intimacy set his work apart. His photographs invite viewers to see what is in the frame and to contemplate how they are seeing it. He holds the "Artist FIAP" distinction from the International Federation of Photographic Art. He is a published author and a lecturer at Nile University in Cairo.



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# FOREWORD

**P**rogress is not defined by promises, but by partnerships, by what we build together and by its on-the-ground impact on people's lives through economic development and growth.

Since 1979, Egypt and the European Investment Bank have forged a strategic and evolving partnership, grounded in multilateralism and a shared commitment to sustainable development. Over the past four and a half decades, this partnership has supported more than 130 projects across the public and private sectors, with investments exceeding €15 billion that have translated into impactful work in green transport, renewable energy, agriculture, food security, water and sanitation, civil aviation, SMEs and more.

Today, Egypt is shifting to a new economic model that focuses on moving from a non-tradable economy towards a tradable, competitive one, with a greater focus on macro-fiscal resilience, ongoing structural reforms, promoting industrial and trade development, mobilising foreign direct investment, and especially investing in human capital, i.e. our most valuable resource: people.

This photobook – *Shaping Tomorrow* – reflects these ambitions in human terms beyond charts or economic

jargon. The human dimension of economic development and growth shows the real-life impact of well-designed projects, rooted in cooperation and purpose.

From Cairo's modern metro lines to clean energy powering homes, from climate-resilient agriculture to inclusive job creation, the results of our joint work are visible, meaningful and lasting. And this is what we see in the photographs: hope, potential and the product of our partnership.

As Egypt continues to implement its national development agenda and the Nexus of Water, Food and Energy programme, and as the EIB's regional hub in Cairo expands its role in North Africa and the Middle East, our partnership stands as a model of how to "shape tomorrow" with clarity, ambition and shared resolve.

H.E. Dr. Rania A. Al-Mashat  
Egypt's Minister of Planning, Economic Development and  
International Cooperation

# INTRODUCTION

**T**he photographs in this book capture the European Investment Bank's work as a visual dialogue between what we have built and the people whose lives have changed.

Egypt is one of the oldest countries in the world and has one of the most diverse economies in Africa and the Middle East. The country faces all the challenges of a big, developing nation – from finding work for a youthful population to dealing with the impacts of climate change and the pollution that fuels it.

Egypt and the European Investment Bank are facing these challenges together with investments in small businesses and big infrastructure projects. This partnership is strengthening green energy, improving water and sanitation, and cutting emissions in factories and transport systems.

Since 1979, the European Investment Bank has been helping Egypt to move forwards. We have invested over €15 billion in the country. In 2023, the Cairo office became a regional hub for North Africa and the Near East – part of EIB Global's expanding commitment to sustainable development. Cairo is the first EIB office created outside the European Union, and Egypt is the largest country for our operations in the region.



Gelsomina Vigliotti and Dr. Rania A. Al-Mashat

This collection of photographs reflects where Egypt is going today. The progress can be seen up close. And the impact is real.

Gelsomina Vigliotti  
Vice-President of the European Investment Bank

# CAIRO METRO

**T**he Cairo Metro is one of the city's biggest success stories. Every day, over four million people depend on it to get to work or school or doctors' appointments. By connecting key neighbourhoods, it makes daily travel easier and more reliable. It cuts down on traffic and pollution, helping Cairo breathe easier and move forward with confidence.

Beyond speed and convenience, the metro is about inclusion. The latest lines are as modern as any metro service in the world, with air conditioning, security and lighting, modern ticket booths and separate cars for women.

Cairo's metro system opened in 1987 and was one of the first of its kind in Africa and the Middle East. Several metro lines cover a large part of the city. The European Investment Bank helped to expand many parts of the metro and has been assisting other big transport projects for more than four decades. In 2021, the Bank announced it would invest more than €1 billion in metro and tram projects in Cairo and Alexandria over five years.









Ladies  
السيدات



Ladies only



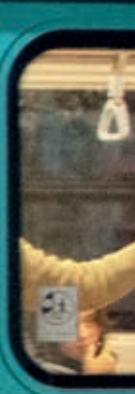


لل سيدات فقط



Ladies only

لل سيدات فقط













“ I never thought I would be able to use the metro like everyone else. But the staff here treat me with such kindness and respect – they help me get on and off the train every time. It’s more than just a ride. It’s a feeling that I belong. ”

Ahmed, a metro passenger with a physical disability



“ Commuting to our training was exhausting and time-consuming, but now the metro makes it easy and fun. We save so much time and energy, which helps us focus on our game. This has made a big difference to our daily routine. ”

Youssef, who was joined by fellow football players Mohamed and Seif. The three 18-year-olds play for the National Bank of Egypt team.







# GULF OF SUEZ WIND FARM

A powerful story is unfolding in the quiet desert town of Ras Ghareb. Rows of wind turbines rise from the sand, turning day and night to the rhythm of the Red Sea breeze. This is the Gulf of Suez Wind Farm. It is the largest wind energy project in Egypt, the Middle East and North Africa.

With a capacity of 252 megawatts, the wind farm is a major step towards clean energy in Egypt. Behind the spinning blades are the people who keep the project going: engineers working under giant turbines, safety officers climbing high towers, and communities adjusting to the changes in their landscape.

With a €50 million loan from the European Investment Bank, this wind farm is helping Egypt move towards a greener future.

Protecting nature is a key part of the story. The winds that turn the turbines also guide migrating birds on their journey across the region.

In Ras Ghareb, the wind farm is a symbol of balance between progress and protection, energy and respect, and people and the planet.

“During the birds’ migration season, we scan the skies to detect migrating birds and temporarily shut down the turbines when needed. Helping nature must always go hand in hand with protecting it.”

Ahmed Mahmoud, a maintenance engineer at the wind farm









“ The energy we produce here has the capacity to power more than 400 000 homes across Egypt. But this isn't just about wind turbines – it's about building a cleaner future for the country. ”

Ahmed Mahmoud, maintenance engineer at the Gulf of Suez Wind Farm











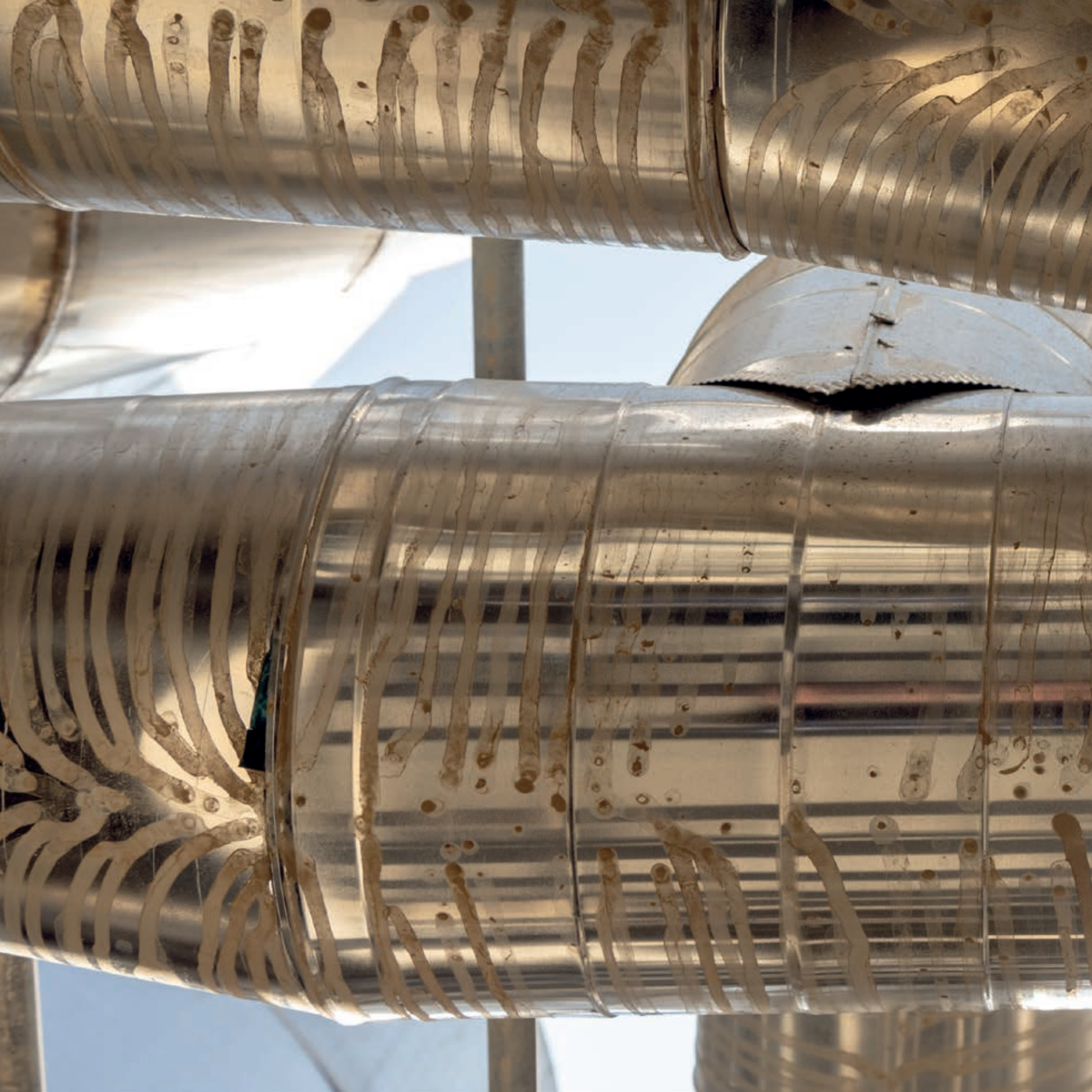
# HUHTAMAKI

**A**t the heart of the country's industrial sector, Huhtamaki Egypt is changing how packaging film materials are made, helping businesses and the planet. The European Investment Bank has provided a €3.6 million loan to help the company become cleaner and more efficient.

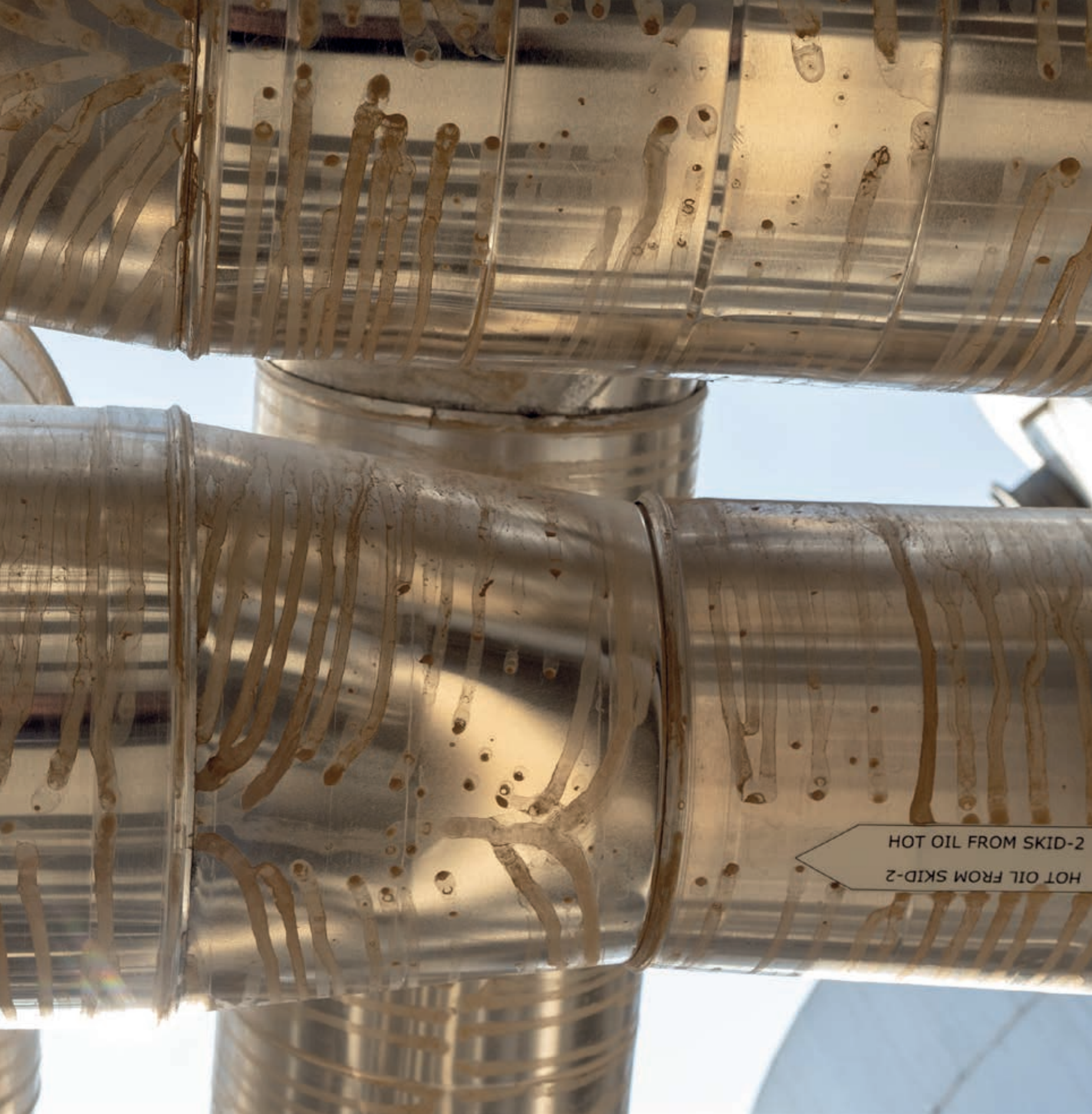
With a smart production system, Huhtamaki can recycle 95% of the solvent used to manufacture packaging film. This reduces waste, cuts pollution and saves valuable resources.

The project is part of Egypt's Environmental Pollution Abatement Programme, a state initiative helping industries reduce pollution and protect the environment. The programme has offered €300 million in financing – including €74 million from the European Investment Bank – to help companies invest in cleaner technologies, improve energy efficiency and cut industrial waste.

Today, the company's films are used by major food companies and in almost every Egyptian home to wrap up food. As well as helping to keep food fresh, this investment tells a story of cleaner industry and a better future.



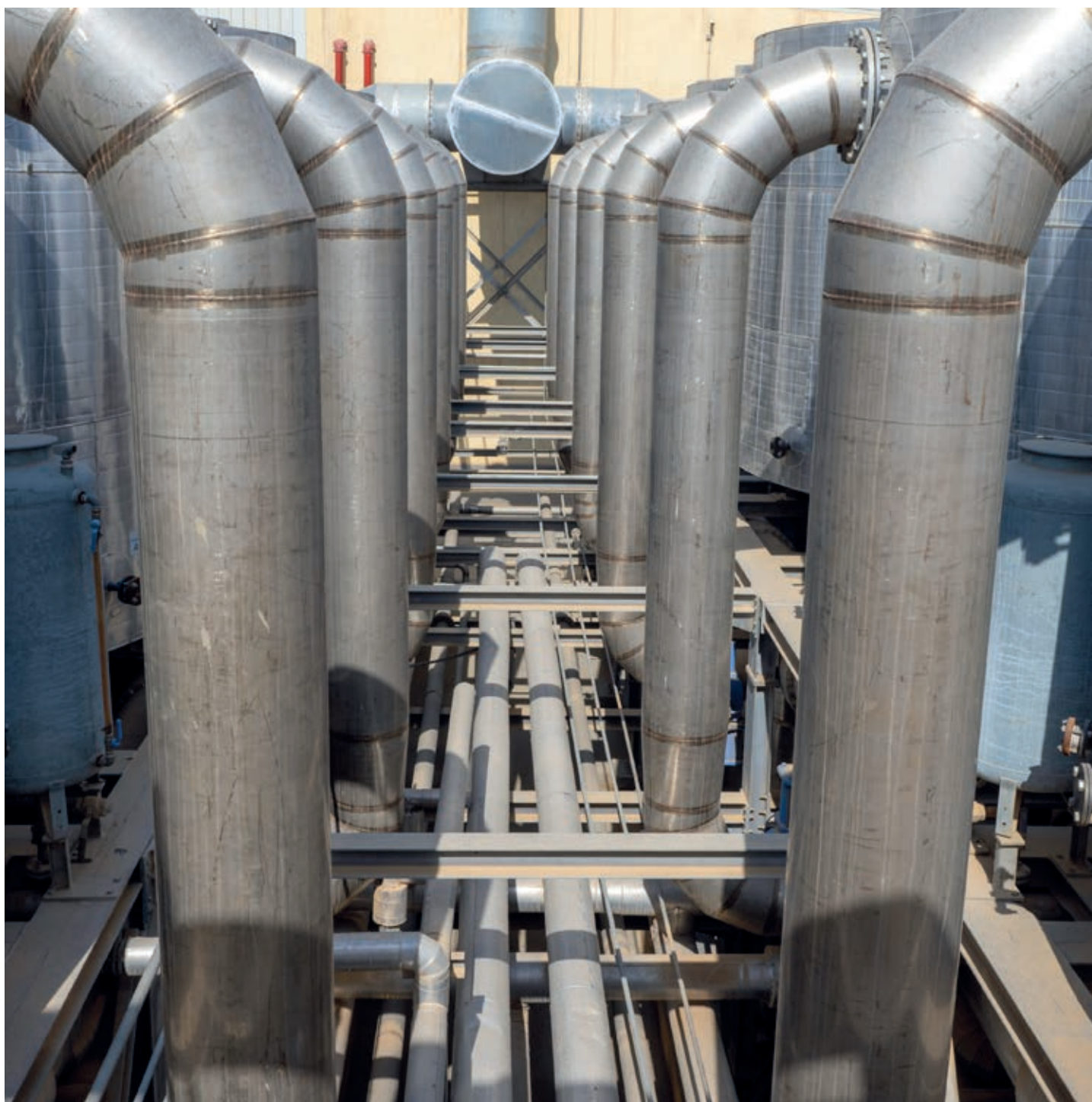




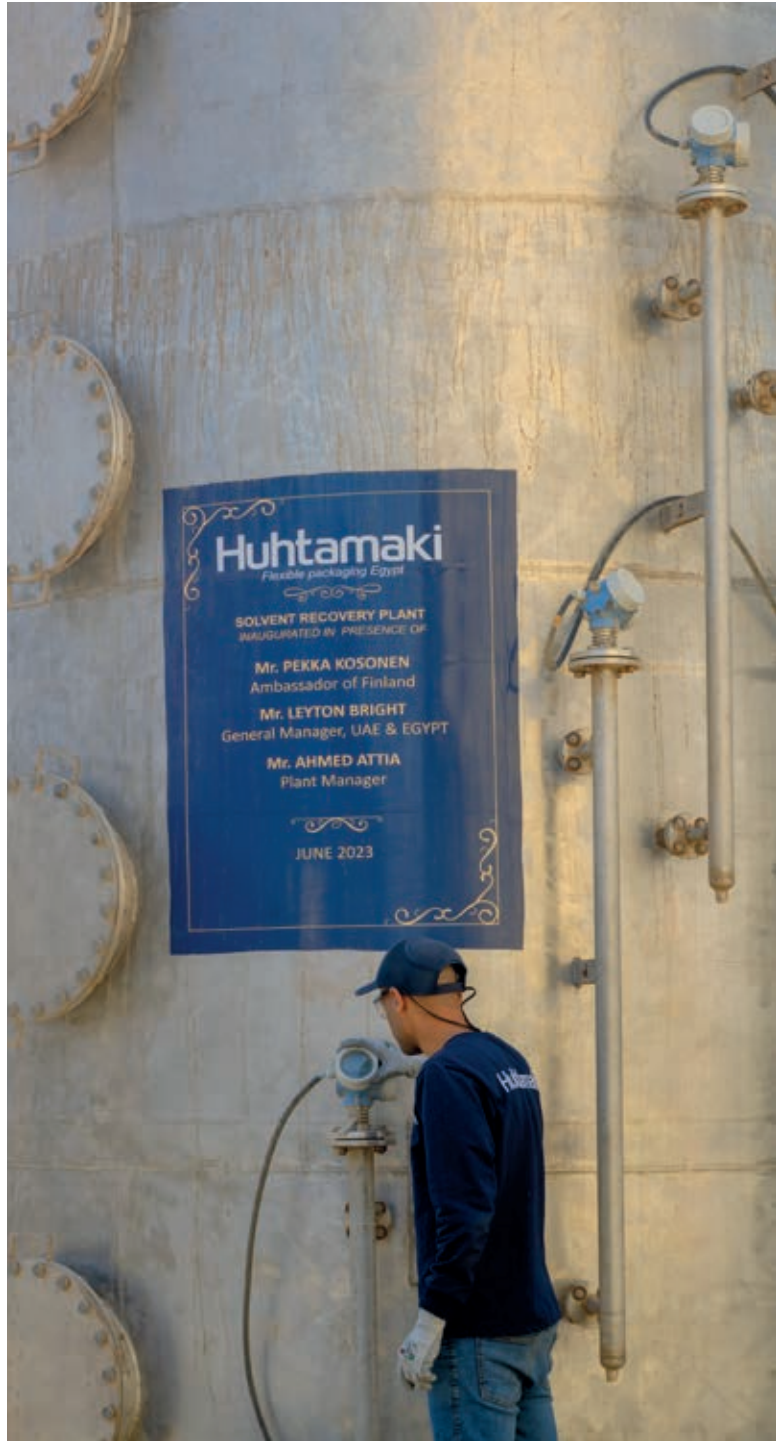
HOT OIL FROM SKID-2  
HOT OIL FROM SKID-2













“ Thanks to the new plant, we’re now able to reuse the solvent that used to escape into the air. It has helped us save raw materials, reduce costs and lower our impact on the environment. ”

Mohamed, a plant engineer







# EUROMENA FUNDS

**E**uroMena Funds is a private equity firm that has been helping companies in the Middle East and Africa to grow since 2005. The firm develops close relationships with clients and works hard to understand their local markets. EuroMena has invested over €350 million in businesses to create jobs and lift the economy. The International Eye Hospital and ITWorx are two of the firm's many success stories.

In Egypt, EuroMena's work goes beyond numbers. It is about people sitting around a table, sharing ideas, stories, and sometimes just a coffee. The firm creates trust before building portfolios. The European Investment Bank has stood beside EuroMena, contributing €43 million to the first three funds.

## International Eye Hospital in Heliopolis

In a quiet room in the International Eye Hospital, a patient smiles through tears, finally able to see clearly after years of blurred vision. Stories like these unfold every day at this skilled ophthalmology centre in Cairo. The hospital, backed by EuroMena Funds, has expanded its facilities, trained more doctors and introduced advanced treatments that help thousands of patients each year. Behind every upgraded machine is a story: a child seeing the classroom

board for the first time, an elderly person reading again without difficulty, a mother regaining her independence because she can see clearly again.

## ITWorx

In a fast-moving world shaped by data, speed and innovation, one Egyptian company is leading the region's digital transformation, with artificial intelligence at its core. Founded in 1994, ITWorx began as a company offering online digital services. Supported by EuroMena Funds, it is now a global leader in AI and cloud services. It works with Fortune 100 companies, governments and businesses across the region.

Behind the technology is a bigger story of Egyptian firms creating solutions to power the future. With platforms like the Enterprise AI Accelerator and WorkWise AI, ITWorx is helping organisations to automate operations, gain insight and reimagine how they work.









“ We see our role as partners, not just investors. We focus on relationships, long-term value and changing lives. ”

Hend Zayed, director of EuroMena Funds, while on a visit to ITWorx's offices in Cairo.



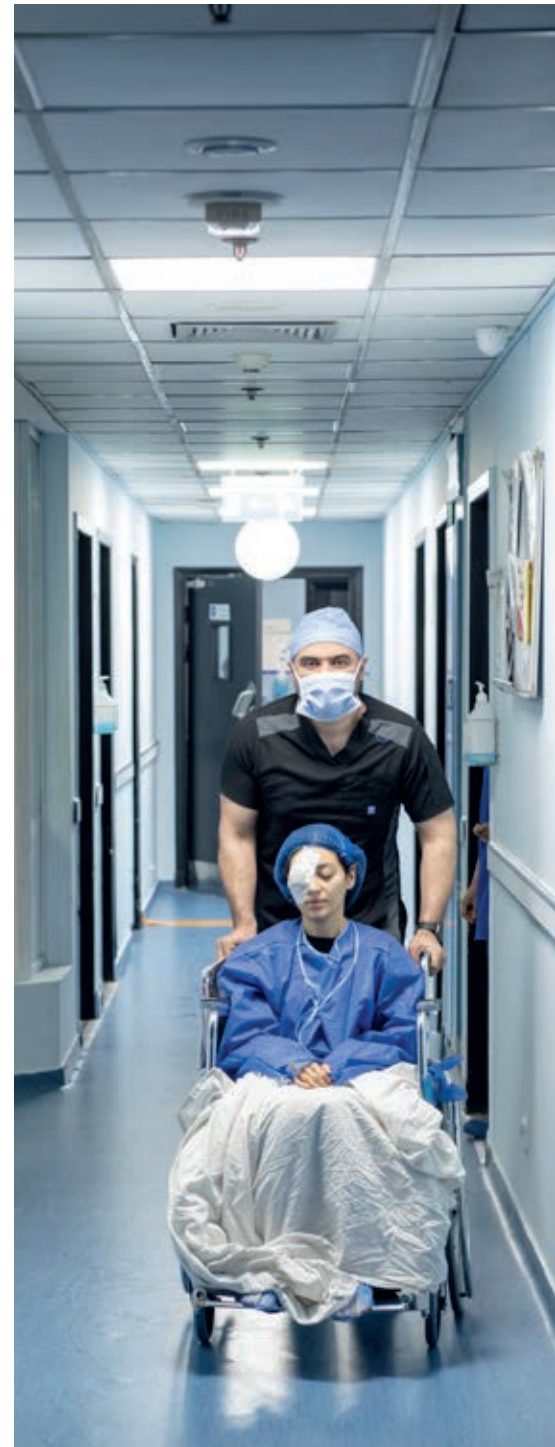






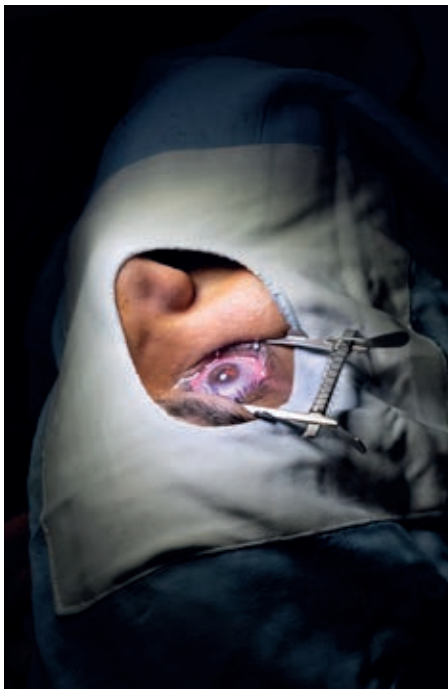








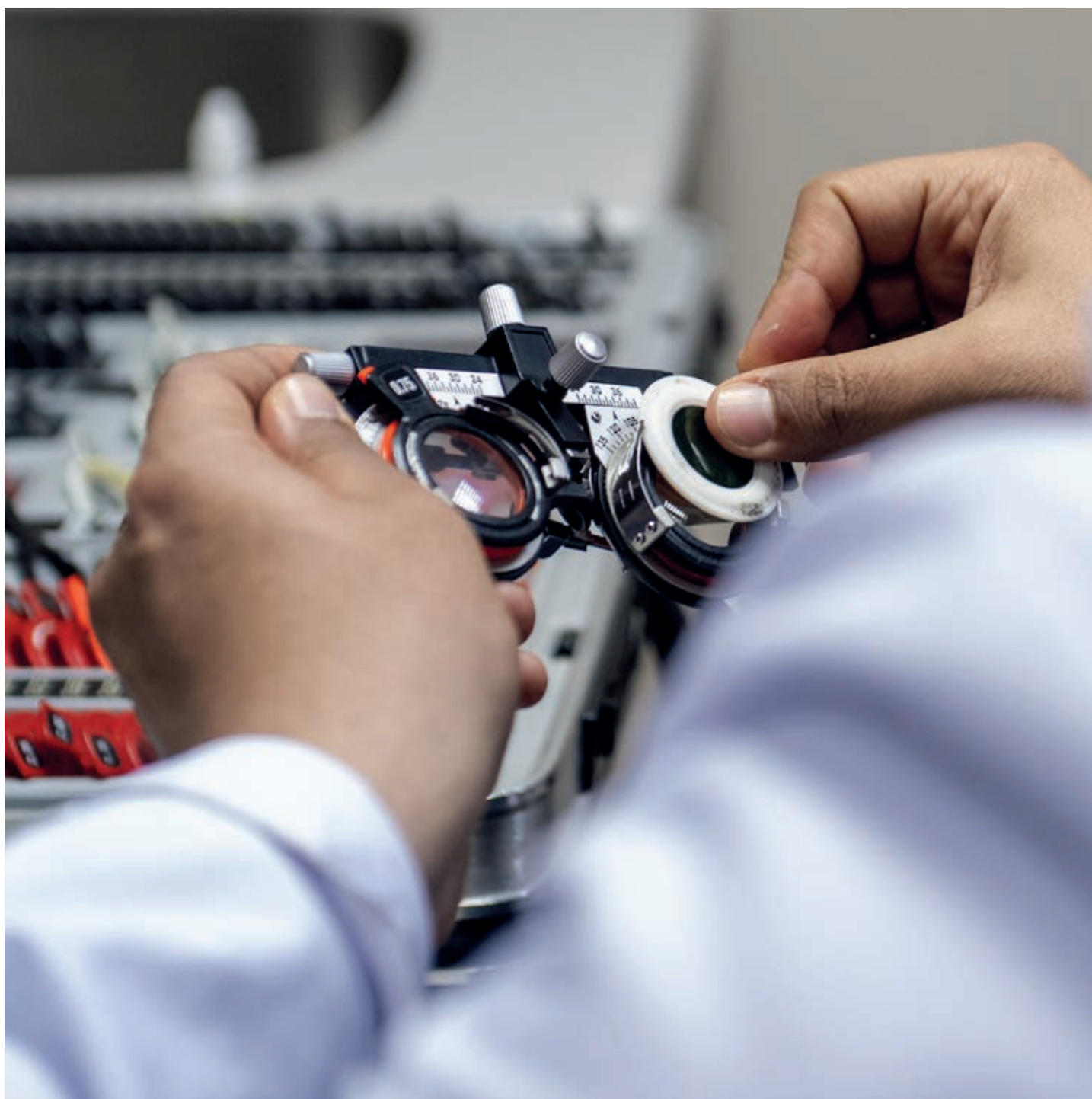




“ This support has helped us reach more people in need. Every day, we witness how better eye care transforms lives. ”

Dr. Mostafa Nabih, a senior eye specialist and board member





# FLEX FILMS

**A**t Flex Films Egypt, waste is not the end of the story. It is the beginning of something new. With support from the European Investment Bank and a €6.7 million investment under the Environmental Pollution Abatement Programme, the company is transforming how plastic is used, reused and respected.

By turning used plastic bottles into high-quality, food-safe materials, Flex is cutting pollution, boosting energy efficiency and setting a new standard for the region.

Flex Films is part of a global group leading the way in flexible packaging solutions. Its wide product range includes packaging films, laminates, pouches, inks and adhesives – serving industries with innovation from raw materials production to finished packaging.

In a world full of waste, Flex is proof that change is possible.

















“ We give plastic bottles a second life through recycling. We’re proud to be the only factory in the region producing recycled materials that are safe for food packaging. ”

Neeraj Tiwari, the chief financial officer







# FAYOUM WASTEWATER TREATMENT

In the rural villages of Fayoum, access to good sanitation has long been limited, but that's starting to change. With €172 million from the European Investment Bank, the Fayoum Wastewater Treatment Project is bringing reliable treatment services to 47 communities. This includes eight treatment facilities, nine plant expansions and ten upgrade projects. This will improve the daily lives of thousands of families.

The project will help protect Lake Qarun, improve public health, and support cleaner, more sustainable living across the region.

“People will now have access to a proper sewage and wastewater system. One resident told me: ‘It means so much to know that our homes will be cleaner, the environment will be healthier, and our children can grow up in safer conditions.’”

Mona Khalifa, a social officer at the plant

































“ For this village, it is more than just infrastructure. It is a promise of a better life. ”

Mona Khalifa, a social officer at the plant



















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