

German parallels

“THINGS will not change overnight,” German parliament member Dagmar Wohrl said last week in reference to the Egyptian revolution. “Revolutions start quick then comes a time when it slows down. That could cause frustration; this is what Egypt is going through, but be sure that the best is yet to come,” she said encouragingly addressing a seminar organised by the Egyptian Centre for Economic Studies (ECES) on *Economic Reform and Social Justice in Egypt; Lessons from the German Experience*.

“Revolutions need patience,” Wohrl added, pointing out that 20 years ago, Germany saw people taking to the street demanding freedom, in reference to the tearing down of the Berlin Wall.

“The economy will take years, may be decades, to recover,” she said, adding that what is important is that the people are part of the decision-making process.

She reasserted Germany’s support for Egypt saying that “German investments are here to stay.”

Wohrl said the success of the Egyptian and Tunisian revolutions is not only important for these two countries but for the whole region, especially for the youth who led the revolution. “We should give them something to look forward to; the lack of perspective leads to loss of hope,” she warned.