

# EU-UAE RELATIONS



## European Union (EU27)

- Area: 4.2 million km<sup>2</sup>
- Population: 447 million (M)
- GDP: 14.5 trillion euros (€)



## United Arab Emirates (UAE)

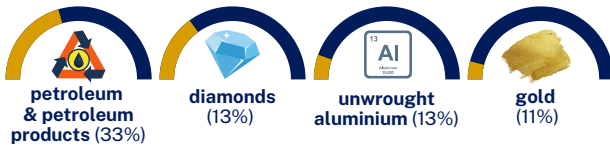
- Area: 83,600 km<sup>2</sup>
- Population: 9.9 M
- GDP: US\$ 359 billion (€353 B)

UAE's Embassy in Brussels also acts as a representation to the EU.

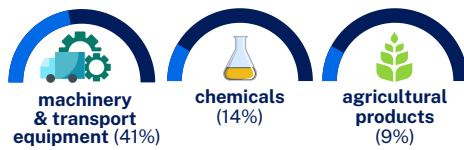
The EU opened a Delegation in Abu Dhabi in 2013.

Over 10 years, UAE-EU trade in goods increased by 11%, totalling €39 B in 2021.

### UAE exports to the EU (24%)



### EU exports to the UAE (76%)



The UAE is a key commercial hub, hosting one of the world's largest and busiest ports – Jebel Ali.



As a major exporter of diamonds and unwrought aluminium, the UAE accounted for 12% and 8% of EU's total imports in 2021, respectively.



(European Commission, 2022)

UAE ranked 17th among the EU's agri-food trade partners, accounting for 1.2% of the EU's agri-food exports (2021).



Growth of EU agri-food exports to the UAE:



### EU'S MAIN AGRIFOOD EXPORTS TO UAE:



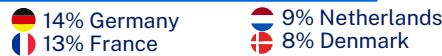
(Source: European Commission, UN Comtrade, 2022)



### UAE exports to the EU (43%)



### EU exports to the UAE (57%)



(Eurostat, 2022)

## STUDENT EXCHANGES

(UNESCO)

UAE participates in ERASMUS+



## INVESTMENTS

(Eurostat, EEAS)

**+92%** The stock of Emirati investment (FDI) in the EU increased from €61.5 B (2019) to €118.4 B (2020).

**-51%** EU FDI in the UAE fell from €297.2 B (2019) to €141.5 B (2020).



Manufacturing, Logistics, Tourism, Healthcare, Education

ABU DHABI  
Media, FinTech, Financial Services & Insurance, Energy, Communication, Real Estate, Digital Economy

DUBAI  
IT, Green Technology, Retail, Medical tourism, Autonomous cars, Artificial intelligence

## MILESTONES



- 1999: Dubai hosted the 9th EU-GCC Joint Council and Ministerial Meeting, Abu Dhabi hosted the 21st Session in 2011.
- 2005: Abu Dhabi hosted the 2nd EU-GCC Joint Workshop on Combating Terrorist Financing, attended by the EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator.
- 2007: The EU and the UAE signed a horizontal air transport agreement.
- 2009: EU joined the UAE-based International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).
- 2009: France opened its first permanent military base in the Gulf in the UAE.
- 2011: The UAE became the first Gulf country to launch an annual human rights dialogue with the EU.
- 2011: The UAE and EU were among the co-founders of the Global Counterterrorism Forum.
- 2012: Abu Dhabi hosted the 2nd EU-GCC Clean Energy Network Conference.
- 2013: The EU's second Delegation in the GCC was opened in Abu Dhabi.
- 2014: The EU Youth Orchestra made its Middle East debut at the Abu Dhabi Festival.
- 2014: The GCC Regional Secretariat of the EU's CBRN Centres of Excellence Initiative was inaugurated in Abu Dhabi.
- 2015: The EU joined the Steering Board of the first International Centre of Excellence for Countering Violent Extremism (Hedayah) in Abu Dhabi.

- 2015: The UAE became the first Arab country to obtain a visa free travel to the Schengen area with the UAE-EU short-stay visa-waiver agreement.
- 2016: UAE was the first GCC country to sign an Agreement on Strategic Cooperation in the fight against serious crime and terrorism with Europol.
- 2016: The European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and the Dubai Police and Dubai Customs explored cooperation to counter illicit trade.
- 2016: The European Commission obtained a mandate to negotiate an EU-UAE comprehensive aviation agreement.
- 2018: The European External Action Service (EEAS) and UAE Foreign Ministry (MOFAIC) signed a Cooperation Arrangement in Brussels.
- 2019: The first EEAS-UAE Senior Officials' Meeting took place.
- 2019: The Dubai Foundation for Women and Children and the Higher Committee for the Special Olympics World Games in Abu Dhabi received the annual EU Chaillot Prize for the Promotion of Human Rights in the GCC.
- 2020: Eight EU states launched the European-led maritime surveillance mission in the Strait of Hormuz (EMASOH) headquartered in the UAE.
- 2021: The UAE hosted the 5th EU-GCC Business Forum.
- 2022: The EU actively participated in the EXPO 2020 Dubai, the first universal exposition organised in the region.