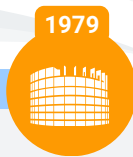


THE HISTORY OF EU-GCC RELATIONS



1974
The **Euro-Arab Dialogue**, which included the Gulf countries, after the 1973 Arab-Israeli War and the global energy crisis, launched



1979
Delegation for Relations with the Gulf States established in the European Parliament



1982
The first visit by the **Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Secretary General** to the European Commission, one year after the GCC's establishment



1983
Official **Energy Dialogue** set up between the GCC and the European Union (EU, then the EEC - European Economic Community)



1988
The **EU-GCC Cooperation Agreement** signed, creating a framework for EU-GCC relations and collaboration (in force from January 1990)



2003
Launch of the **EU-GCC Economic Dialogue** and the **EU-GCC Dialogue on the Fight Against Terrorism and Terror Financing**, following the establishment of the GCC Customs Union



1996
The first **EU-GCC Senior Officials Meeting** in Brussels, agreed to meet twice a year
Agreement on **decentralised cooperation in business, university and media**



1995
The first **EU-GCC Troika Ministerial Meeting** held in Granada and recommended to strengthen political, economic, cultural and scientific relations



1991
The EU and GCC decided to form three **Working Groups on cooperation in: industry, environment, and energy**
EU countries participated in **liberation of Kuwait** from Iraq



1990
The **EU-GCC Free Trade Agreement** negotiations began
The first annual **EU-GCC Joint Council and Ministerial Meeting** held in Oman



2004
The first **EU Delegation in the Gulf** opened in Saudi Arabia, accredited to the GCC and all six member states



2008
Suspension of the **EU-GCC Free Trade Agreement** negotiations



2010
The **EU-GCC Clean Energy Network** launched (2010-2021)
INCONET-GCC: The EU Science and Technology International Cooperation Network for the GCC (2010-2012, 2014-2017)



2011
The **EU Erasmus Mundus Gulf Countries Programme** for higher education inaugurated
The first annual **EU human rights dialogue with a GCC country, the UAE**, followed by Bahrain (2016), Qatar (2018), Kuwait (2020), Saudi Arabia (2021), and Oman (2022)



2013
The **EU-GCC Civil Aviation Dialogue** launched in Riyadh
EU Delegation to the UAE opened in Abu Dhabi



2019
EU Delegation to Kuwait opened in Kuwait City
The first **Senior Officials' Meeting** between the European External Action Service (EEAS) and Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, and the UAE. Bahrain and Saudi Arabia followed in 2022



2018
The **EU-GCC Dialogue on Economic Diversification Project** launched



2017
The **EU-GCC Dialogue on Trade and Investment Issues**, involving the private sector, was launched



2016
The first annual **EU-GCC Business Forum** held in Brussels
A **Cooperation Arrangement between the EEAS and Kuwait's Foreign Ministry** signed. Qatar, Oman and the UAE signed in 2018, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia in 2021



2014
A GCC Secretariat of **EU's CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear) Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence** opened in the UAE
EU-GCC Business and Trade Facility launch



2020
The **Enhanced EU-GCC Political Dialogue, Cooperation & Outreach Project** began (2020-2023)
Launch of the **European Maritime Awareness in the Strait of Hormuz (EMASOH)** and the military operation **AGENOR** based at the French Naval Base in Abu Dhabi



2022
The EU released the **'Strategic Partnership with the Gulf'** document, outlining its priorities for strengthening relations with the GCC and its member states
EU Delegation to Qatar opened in Doha



2023
Appointment of the first **EU Special Representative for the Gulf Region**
The **India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor** announced
The first **GCC-EU Conference on Extremist Ideology and Radicalisation** convened in Riyadh
The **EU eased Schengen visa** rules for citizens of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, and Saudi Arabia (the UAE obtained visa-free travel in 2015)



2024
The EU launched **naval operation Aspides in the Red Sea** in response to Houthi attacks on international shipping
The first **EU-GCC Security Dialogue** held in Riyadh
The **EU-GCC High-Level Forum on Regional Security and Cooperation** took place in Luxembourg
The first edition of the **EU-GCC Young Leaders in Regional Diplomacy** Programme inaugurated
The first **European Chamber of Commerce** in the Gulf opened in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
The first **EU-GCC Summit** hosted in Brussels



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ABOUT

Headquartered in Rome, Italy, the Euro-Gulf Information Centre (EGIC) is a non-profit, non-partisan, think-and-do tank, established on 1 October 2015. The Euro-Gulf Information Centre blends research and analyses with outreach and engagement. We are proud of being an action centre that contributes to enhancing strategic, cultural, economic and political ties in the Euro-Gulf space. Through specialised platforms, programmes and activities, EGIC works hard to develop human-to-human and institution-to-institution contact points in order to strengthen relations and constructive engagement.

EGIC also provides information services to organisations and individuals that seek to deepen their understanding of the trends unfolding in both Europe and the Gulf. EGIC is a firm believer in breaking paywalls and provides open access information – infographics, articles, reports (etc) – to the interested public. Finally, EGIC organises a wide assortment of events ranging from conference and seminars to workshops, art exhibitions, travels and specialised training.



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