



# KEY OUTCOMES OF THE THE EUROPEAN UNION-GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL SUMMIT



Historically the **first Summit** between the EU and the GCC at the level of heads of governments



Held in **Brussels on 16 October 2024** under the theme **'Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity'**

“*Recognising the growing political EU-GCC ties and challenges to regional and international peace, security and stability, we commit to our EU-GCC Strategic Partnership and pledge to elevate it to the next level. We agree to build our Strategic Partnership, based on mutual respect and trust, for the benefit of the people of our regions and beyond.*”  
(EU-GCC Summit Joint Statement)



Gathered **government leaders and senior representatives** of the member states of the EU and the GCC, EU institutions and the GCC General Secretariat



Agreed to hold an EU-GCC Summit **every two years** – the next one will be hosted by Saudi Arabia in 2026



(photo credit: Council of the EU)

## INCREASING TRADE, INVESTMENT & ECONOMIC COOPERATION



take advantage of the enhanced business & investment environment, green & digital transitions, sustainable energy, & connectivity



resume discussions on regional-level **free trade agreement**, while exploring tailor-made bilateral trade & investment agreements



aim to advance resilient, sustainable & **global value chains & secure resilient energy supply chains**, including on clean technologies, raw materials and critical minerals



advance **EU-GCC Trade and Investment Dialogue** and enhance **joint investments**



explore joint research and development opportunities to boost cooperation in **fintech, digital transformation, health**

## ENHANCING ENERGY COOPERATION & FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE



enhance cooperation on **energy security**



focus on **renewable energy & hydrogen, energy efficiency, renewable electricity & connectivity**



**innovation** on clean technologies & critical energy transition minerals

## STEPPING-UP ENGAGEMENT ON DEVELOPMENT & HUMANITARIAN AID



explore **parallel funding** in response to crises



structured cooperation & coordination mechanism on **disaster response** between the EU Emergency Response Coordination Centre-GCC Emergency Management Centre

## STRENGTHENING INTER-REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY



explore cooperation in **telecommunications, advanced technologies, digital economy, innovation & space**



encourage initiatives related to the **exchange of knowledge and advanced technologies**



cooperation on **energy efficiency** & on ensuring stability, security & affordability of global sustainable energy markets



promote sustainable **transport** & climate resilient regional and cross-border **infrastructure**



enhance connectivity through **energy grids, hydrogen transportation & data cables**



step up sustainable **joint investments**, cooperation on the **India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) & the EU Global Gateway**

## REINFORCING JOINT EFFORTS TO ADDRESS KEY GLOBAL ISSUES



deepen **security cooperation** (counter-terrorism, maritime security, cyber, non-proliferation, emergency management)



enhance international-level cooperation against **organised crime** (migrant smuggling & human trafficking)



strengthen cooperation to combat **money laundering & terrorism financing**



enhance **judicial & law enforcement** cooperation through EU & GCC bodies

## BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN PEOPLE



work on a safe & mutually beneficial **visa-free travel** arrangement



deepen engagement with GCC academia and students via the **Erasmus+ and Horizon Europe**



encourage institutional cooperation on **youth, sport, culture, (non-higher) education & creative industries**



address **hate speech, extremism & racism**, promote **tolerance, interreligious & intercultural dialogue**

(source: EU-GCC Summit Joint Statement, 16 October 2024)



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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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