



Gulf Research Centre Cambridge
Knowledge for All

PAPER PROPOSAL APPLICATION FORM

11th Gulf Research Meeting July 21-23, 2020

Location: University of Cambridge

Application Instructions

1. Fill out the **entire** application form (typed). Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.
2. Email this application form along with the CVs of **ALL** authors/co-authors to grmapplicant@grc.net before **February 15, 2020**. -
3. All proposals should be written in English. There will be no interpretation at the meeting. A good working knowledge of English is essential for participation in the workshops.
4. You may only participate in **one** workshop during the meeting. If you submit applications to multiple workshops and are selected in more than one, you will be asked to choose only one to attend.
5. If you have any questions, please email grm@grc.net.



WORKSHOP NAME	Workshop 3: EUROPE AND THE MULTIPOLARIZATION OF THE GULF
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PERSONAL DETAILS

Include information for all authors/co-authors. If there are more than 3 co-authors, you may add their details to the end of this application. Please note that only a maximum of 2 co-authors can receive a travel allowance (GBP 100-250 based on country of departure) for their participation. If more than 2 co-authors will attend, they will need to split the funding amongst themselves. GRM does not provide any additional funding to paper presenters other than this allowance.

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Paper Title

The Implications of the United Kingdom's Withdrawal from the European Union for Europe's Role in the Gulf

PROPOSAL TEXT (250-500 WORDS)

The United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union (EU) in 2020 will have far-reaching consequences for both parties' relations with the Gulf. Importantly, this development is likely to have both positive and negative implications for all parties, especially as previously bilateral ties morph into an increasingly trilateral relationship.

The paper will explore the specific impact of Brexit on Europe's future relations with the Gulf region. It will examine the following areas:

- a. Political and Diplomatic.
- b. Economics and Trade.
- c. Security and Defence.
- d. Societal and Cultural.

Political and Diplomatic. EU Commission President von der Leyen, has placed significant emphasis on the EU becoming a more "geopolitical Europe". In this context, it seems probable that the UK will become a geopolitical competitor to the EU as it pursues its national ambitions in the Gulf. While it is accepted that this need not be a 'zero sum' competition, it seems possible that the UK will make early moves to shore up its bilateral relations with the Gulf states, singly and collectively, thus complicating the EU's parallel ambitions in the region.

Economics and Trade. Arguably, the most important dimension of relations between the EU and GCC is in the economic sphere. The latest EU estimates show that the value of EU-GCC trade amounting to €143.7 billion, of which EU exports were worth €99.8 billion (2017). On its departure from the EU, the UK government has announced its intention to pursue stronger trade relations with the Gulf states. This paper will explore this area to determine whether the UK's changed position, vis a vis the EU, will be a help or hindrance for European and Gulf economic relations.

Security and Defence. To date, the EU has played a low-key role in the security and defence of the Arab Gulf. In contrast, the UK has long played a strategic role in the Gulf region. This paper will seek to examine in closer detail whether the Gulf, particularly through possibly increased NATO involvement in the region, will become a forum for future EU-UK cooperation or strategic competition.

Society and Culture. Finally, the paper will consider 'softer' aspects of the impact of the UK's withdrawal from Europe, particularly in the context of society and culture. This final part will consider issues including: language, education, religion and cultural exchange. It will consider how these aspects may be affected by the UK's withdrawal from the EU and whether it presages the development of some form of 'soft power' competition within Europe as nations vie to consolidate bilateral and collective ties with their Gulf counterparts.

Summary. As the Arab Gulf strives to adapt to an increasingly multipolar world, the UK's much-changed relationship with Europe has the potential to complicate this process. Equally, possible cooperation between the UK and the EU may offer some advantages for the Gulf. This paper will aim to shed light on these possibilities and assess the most likely outcomes.

Angus Taverner



Angus Taverner is a policy analyst specialising in the political, economic and strategic affairs of the Arab World. He is a Director at the Bussola Institute in Belgium and is a b'huth Non-Resident Fellow.

He is a specialist in issues associated with political risk, international relations, security analysis and strategic communication. He has worked with governments and organisations across Europe, the US and the Middle East involving: news analysis; social trend analysis; reputation management; and offers regular commentary on strategic issues that influence political, diplomatic and economic debate around

the world.

Angus has contributed to a number of books on the international relations of the Arab Gulf and the strategic use of 'Soft Power' and the strategic employment of Information and Influence Campaigns. He lectures widely and regularly contributes commentary for a number of international publications.