



## Announcement of the Opening of the Gulf Research Center Foundation Brussels Office.



**Gulf Research Center Foundation Brussels**  
Knowledge for All

It is a great honor to officially announce the opening of the Gulf Research Center Foundation's new office in Brussels. This important milestone marks a significant step forward in the expansion of our work, as the Brussels office will serve as a hub for conducting in-depth research on the evolving dynamics between the Gulf and Europe.

The Gulf Research Center Foundation Brussels will focus on addressing key areas of mutual interest between the Gulf Cooperation Council and the European Union, promoting academic excellence both within the Gulf region and on Gulf-related issues. We aim to contribute to a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities shaping GCC-EU relations while fostering dialogue and collaboration between policymakers, scholars, and stakeholders from both regions.

**Dr. Abdulaziz Sager**

Chairman

Gulf Research Center



### For more information on the Gulf Research Center Foundation Brussels

Avenue de Cortenbergh 89

4th Floor

1000 Brussels, Belgium

[grcb@grc.net](mailto:grcb@grc.net)

Dr. Christian Koch

Executive Manager

GRCF Brussels:

[ckoch@grc.net](mailto:ckoch@grc.net)

#### ◆ GRC Events & Activities

Opening of GRC Foundation  
Office Brussels

Gulf In-Depth Executive  
Learning Program

Roundtable on EU-GCC  
Relations

Saudi-Kazakhstan  
Roundtable

Visit of Thomas Röwekamp,  
Member of the German  
Parliament

#### ◆ GRC Programs

Gulf Labour Markets,  
Migration, and Population  
(GLMM) Programme

Environmental Security and  
Sustainability Program

Cultural & Media Program

#### ◆ GRC Publications

#### ◆ GRC Participations

#### ◆ GRC in the Media

# Gulf In-Depth Executive Learning Program

6-19 October 2024

Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



02

OCTOBER 2024

## THE GULF IN-DEPTH

### Executive Learning Program

6-10 October, 2024

Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



The Gulf In-Depth Executive Learning Program (GID) took place from October 6 to 10 at the Gulf Research Center's office in Riyadh, bringing together 20 participants from 18 different countries. This week-long program aimed to deepen participants' understanding of the key strategic aspects shaping the Arabian Gulf and its global interactions. It facilitated comprehensive discussions on the dynamic transformations occurring within the Gulf region, emphasizing the importance of regional cooperation and the evolving geopolitical landscape.

Spanning five days, the program featured 14 sessions that addressed a wide array of present-day political, security, and socioeconomic changes in the Gulf, with key themes covered each day. The first day focused on The Gulf in Transition, exploring current political dynamics and their implications for governance and stability. The second day featured discussions on The Political Environment in the Gulf Region, including the political position of the Gulf in a new world order, public policy formulation in the region, and an outlook on the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). The third day examined The Gulf Economy, highlighting trends, diversification efforts, and growth opportunities. The fourth day addressed Gulf Foreign and Security Issues, discussing regional security challenges and the geopolitical landscape. Finally, the fifth day focused on The Gulf Moving Forward, with sessions dedicated to climate change and the role of the media in shaping perceptions of the region.

**THE GULF IN-DEPTH EXECUTIVE LEARNING PROGRAM**  
6 - 10 OCTOBER 2024 | Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

ORGANIZED BY  
**Gulf Research Center**  
Knowledge for All

**DAY 1: The Gulf in Transition**  
Sunday, 6 October 2024

- Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman, Gulf Research Center (GRC)
- Dr. Tahani Altorkat, Member for Research & Studies, Secretariat General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)
- H.E. Hoda Al-Holaili, Former Member of the Board, Council of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

**DAY 2: The Political Environment in the Gulf**  
Monday, 7 October 2024

- Prof. Saleh Al-Khatib, Senior Advisor, Gulf Research Center (GRC)
- Prof. Susan Al-Qurashi, Full Professor of Public Policy & Member of the Saudi Board of Trustees of the King Abdulaziz University (KAU)
- Dr. Assad Alsharhan, Adjunct Professor of Political Science, Prince Saud Al-Jalal Institute for Diplomacy Studies

**DAY 3: The Gulf Economy**  
Tuesday, 8 October 2024

- Dr. Omar Al-Ubaydi, Director of Studies & Research, Outlook
- Dr. Aisha Al-Sarhi, Research Fellow, National University of Singapore and NUS-RIIS
- Dr. Raja Almarzouqi, GCC Chief Negotiator & Chief Economist, Arabuko, Saudi Ministry of Economic and Planning (MEP)

**DAY 4: The Gulf Foreign & Security Issues**  
Wednesday, 9 October 2024

- Amrhan Ibrahim, Senior Advisor to the Emergency Management Center, Secretariat General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)
- Dr. Yousof Al-Sulhhi, Geopolitical Analyst, Independent
- H.E. Manal Radwan, Senior Advisor on Non-Regional Security & Middle East Peace Process, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (MFA)

**DAY 5: The Gulf Moving Forward**  
Thursday, 10 October 2024

- Prof. Waleed Zuhairi, Professor of Water Resources, Arabian Gulf University (AGU)
- Faisal J. Abbas, Editor-in-Chief, Arab News





*Participants of the GID Program*

## Program Sessions:

### An Overview of the Arab Gulf's Historical Development

Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, launched the program with a comprehensive overview of the historical evolution of the Arabian Gulf. Dr. Sager traced significant milestones over the past four decades, particularly highlighting the achievements of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). He also analyzed the multifaceted threats that GCC countries face and discussed potential strategies for addressing these challenges.



### Exploring Visions and Plans in the GCC States

Dr. Tahani Alterkait, Advisor for Research and Studies at the Secretariat General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), shared valuable insights into the development plans of GCC countries, detailing their objectives and unique features. She outlined key reforms aimed at fostering economic growth and enhancing global competitiveness, underlining the region's commitment to their national visions and plans.



### Gulf Society as a Driver of Change

H.E. Hoda Al-Helaissi, Former Member of the Saudi Shura Council, brought attention to the social transformations shaping the Gulf, focusing on the impact of demographic shifts and reforms empowering women and youth. Her session highlighted the essential role of societal engagement in driving the region's progress.



### The Gulf in a New World Order

Prof. Saleh Al-Khathlan, Senior Advisor at the Gulf Research Center (GRC), analyzed global power shifts and their implications for the Gulf region. He explored how the GCC is navigating a multipolar world, balancing alliances with traditional partners and emerging powers.





## Public Policy in the Gulf

Prof. Suzan AlQurashi, Full Professor of Public Policy and Member of First Saudi Board of Trustees at King Abdulaziz University, discussed the mechanisms of public policy formulation in the Gulf, with a spotlight on Saudi Arabia. Her session revealed the pivotal role of government institutions in achieving national development goals.



## Outlook and Role of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

Prof. Asa'ad AlShamlan, Associate Professor of Political Science and Director of the Center for European Studies at the Prince Saud Al Faisal Institute for Diplomatic Studies, examined the GCC's achievements and ongoing challenges, from fostering regional cooperation to influencing economic integration. His insights shed light on the GCC's contribution to stability and development in the region.



## Oil, Gas, and Energy Markets in the Gulf

Dr. Aisha Al-Sarihi, Research Fellow at the Middle East Institute (MEI) of the National University of Singapore (NUS), provided a comprehensive overview of the Gulf's energy landscape, discussing the geopolitical and economic factors shaping it. She explored OPEC's role, the region's decarbonization efforts, and the varying strategies of Gulf states in hydrocarbon production.



## The Gulf in the Global Economic Context

Dr. Omar Al-Ubaydli, Director of Research at the Bahrain Center for Strategic, International, and Energy Studies (Derasat), evaluated the Gulf's position in the global economy, highlighting its strategic alliances and challenges in trade negotiations. The session covered challenges in negotiating the GCC-EU Free Trade Agreement and addressed Saudi Arabia's measured engagement with BRICS, highlighting the Gulf's strategy of building relationships with Russia, India, and China as a hedge against US dominance.



## Challenges to Economic Diversification in the GCC States

Dr. Raja Almarzoqi, GCC Chief Negotiator and Chief Economic Advisor at the Saudi Ministry of Economy and Planning (MEP), analyzed the hurdles and opportunities in the GCC's push for economic diversification. He emphasized the importance of public-private partnerships, institutional reforms, and fiscal discipline in achieving sustainable growth. Vision 2030's mega projects were also discussed as critical drivers of change.





## The Foreign and Security Policies of the GCC States

Amnah Ibraheem, Senior Advisor to the Emergency Management Center at the Secretariat General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), delved into the factors influencing the Gulf's foreign and security policies, including its geography and strategic resources. She highlighted how the Gulf states leverage their global energy leadership and innovative diplomacy to exert influence.



## Security Challenges in the Middle East and GCC Responses: The GCC States and External Powers

Mr. Yousuf Al-Bulushi, Geopolitical Analyst, explored the region's security landscape, discussing major issues like Yemen, Iran, and violent non-state actors. He emphasized the significance of maritime security and the vulnerabilities in key waterways such as the Bab Al-Mandab and Hormuz Straits.



## Regional Security Structure: GCC Perspectives

H.E. Manal Radwan, Senior Advisor at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia, addressed the GCC's vision for regional security, emphasizing the importance of unified diversity in foreign policy. She also underscored the urgency of resolving the Palestinian issue to achieve lasting peace and stability in the region.



## The Post-Oil Gulf: Climate Change and the Environment

Prof. Waleed Khalil Zubari, Professor of Water Resources at the Arabian Gulf University (AGU), examined the impact of climate change on the Gulf, focusing on the Water-Energy-Food (WEF) Nexus and its links to sustainable development. He also highlighted the region's policies on circular economy practices and future sustainability challenges.



## Understanding the Gulf: The Role of the Media

Mr. Faisal J. Abbas, Editor-in-Chief of Arab News, explored how media shapes global perceptions of the Gulf. Drawing from Arab News' experience, he outlined effective strategies for projecting the region's narrative and fostering a positive image internationally.



The full summary report can be accessed through the [following link](#).





Roundtable on EU-GCC Relations  
Organized by the  
Gulf Research Center Foundation Brussels  
Supported by the European Union  
October 10, 2024



On October 10, 2024, the Gulf Research Center Foundation Brussels convened a roundtable discussion on EU-GCC relations ahead of the inaugural EU-GCC Summit at the heads of state level on October 16 in Brussels and in line with the official opening of the Gulf Research Center Foundation Brussels Office (GRCF). The roundtable brought together stakeholders from both regions to discuss pressing issues and identify areas of mutual interest. The objectives of the meeting included:

- Deepening the understanding and analysis of current political and security issues and their respective dynamics.
- Exploring sustainable economic and energy collaborations and opportunities within the framework of agreed climate targets and green transition commitments.

- Identifying mechanisms to enhance social and people-to-people connections.

**Panel Session:**

The first panel on 'The Middle East Regional Environment from a Gulf and European: Current Drivers, Assessments and Outlooks' had input from Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, Helene Le Gal, Managing Director of the Middle East Department of the European External Action Service, and Sheikha Najla AlQassimi, Associate Researcher of the Global Affairs Department of the Dubai Public Policy Research Institute (b'huth).



## Roundtable on EU-GCC Relations



*Panel Session 1*

This panel focused on the geopolitical landscape and how it is characterized by trends of uncertainty, normalization of force, increased fragmentation and polarization, and an acceleration of global transition. It was emphasized that it is more important than ever to focus on reconstructing the human element in future action plans on post-conflict building and regional cooperation. It was further mentioned that discussions on any potential developments in the Saudi-Iran relationship should be conducted and examined through four pillars: different political systems, ideology, oil policy, and regional security.

The second panel of the GCC-EU Relations workshop was focused on **"Enhancing Sustainable Economic and Energy Partnerships between the GCC and EU in Green Transition Context"** brought into light the pessimism on both sides regarding the prospect of a EU-GCC FTA, raising questions on the bilateral agreements as an alternative.



*Panel Session 2*

The speakers included Léon Delvaux, Principal Advisor, DG Trade from the European Commission, Dr. John Sfakianakis, Chief Economist at the GRC, Haitze Siemers, Senior Advisor, DG Energy at the European Commission, and Faris Al-Sulayman, Founder of Haala Energy, and Non-Resident Scholar at the Middle East Institute.

It was highlighted that more focus should be put on exploring opportunities towards a roadmap for comprehensive trade agreements with more bold, ambitious opportunities. In addition, better and more coordinated decarbonization efforts, structured Sovereign Wealth and EU Investment Funds, and trilateral partnerships for example with Africa should be pursued.

The third and final session, **"Strengthening Social & People-to-People Ties with a Focus on Human Rights- Women's Empowerment and Youth Engagement"** highlighted the critical importance of a paradigm shift to effectively address the people-to-people exchange.

The speakers of this panel were Felix Fehling, Cooperation Officer, DG for International Partnerships (INTPA), Hanaa AlMoaibed, Associate Fellow, Middle East and North Africa Programme at Chatham House, and Khalid Al-Huraibi, Founder and Managing Director at Impact Incorporated.



*Panel Session 3*

The discussion highlighted that while journeys are different and the end goals are not necessarily the same, mutual respect and cooperation should still be in place. There was a call to think beyond the EU perception on women and youth needs in the GCC to actually build collaborative initiatives based on first-hand, context-specific notions of these needs. This could come about by marking a systematic and structural shift from previous conversations and strategies to focus on co-designed and co-created projects based on ecosystem and strategic mapping.



### Central Asia Ambassador's Roundtable Meeting

October 7, 2024

The Gulf Research Center (GRC) GCC-Central Asia Research Program, in partnership with **H.E. Ambassador Madiyar Menilbekov**, Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, organized a roundtable meeting at the GRC office in Riyadh on October 7, 2024, in light of celebrating the 30th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Saudi Arabia and Kazakhstan.

**trade exchanges** and **investment flows**. From the Central Asian side, the ambassadors stressed that their governments prioritize economic cooperation through energy, especially **renewable energy**, in their expanding bilateral ties with the GCC countries, who have expressed a particular interest in investing in the Central Asian region's energy sector.



This meeting gathered ambassadors of the Central Asia region, including **H.E. Ambassador Akram Karimi Muhammadar**, Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan, **H.E. Ambassador Ulukbek Maripov**, Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan, **H.E. Ambassador Shahin Abdullayev**, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and **H.E. Ambassador Nodirjon Turgunov**, Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Experts from the Saudi business community also participated in the meeting. The meeting focused on the current relations and developments in cooperation between Kazakhstan and Saudi Arabia, in addition to the overall relations of the Kingdom with the other countries of Central Asia. The participants noted the growing development in all aspects of cooperation between the GCC and Central Asian countries including political and security dialogue, economic and investment cooperation, enhancing communication between people, and sharing best practices and knowledge across all domains, including media, sports, tourism, youth affairs, culture, education, and tourism.

Economic and trade relations have been at the forefront of GCC and Central Asia ties. The participants emphasized the priority of cooperation in the economic fields, including **logistics services, infrastructure, and investment projects**, and the need to deepen people-to-people relations to increase mutual understanding. The participants affirmed that both regions want to **enhance**



The roundtable also explored the potential for establishing a **joint fund** between the Gulf and Central Asia, emphasizing how such a mechanism could drive future economic and investment cooperation. Both regions expressed interest in enhancing Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) between Central Asian and Saudi bank chambers, as well as with other GCC states' government chambers. **Expanding think tank** institutional relations between the two regions was also highlighted as a critical way to foster deeper collaboration and policy dialogue.

Both regions discussed the importance of organizing business delegations to facilitate direct engagement and explore joint ventures, particularly in sectors of mutual interest. Collaborative projects focusing on neighboring regions were also highlighted as a way to promote regional stability and shared growth. Additionally, both sides saw significant potential in launching joint natural resource projects that leverage the wealth of resources from Central Asia and the Gulf states, including energy, minerals, and agricultural assets, to benefit both regions economically.





## Visit of MP Thomas Röwekamp, Member of the German Parliament

October 27, 2024



On October 27, 2024, the Gulf Research Center (GRC) hosted a roundtable discussion at its Riyadh office, coinciding with the visit of MP Thomas Röwekamp, a distinguished Member of the German Parliament. The event, organized in collaboration with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, aimed to foster dialogue and deepen mutual understanding between Germany and Saudi Arabia regarding their shared commitment to promoting stability in the Middle East.



The session provided a valuable platform for Gulf and German policy experts and researchers to explore potential avenues for collaboration across various sectors, including security, economic development, and cultural exchange. Discussions emphasized the importance of a coordinated approach to address regional challenges such as conflict resolution, economic diversification, and sustainable development. Both sides highlighted their commitment to strengthening diplomatic ties and working together on initiatives that would positively impact regional peace and stability.



The roundtable underscored the strong foundation of Gulf-German relations and identified specific areas where the two nations could leverage their unique strengths to contribute to a more secure and prosperous Middle East.



### GLMM

The Gulf Labour Markets, Migration, and Population Programme (GLMM) is an international, independent, non-partisan, non-profit programme established in 2010 and is hosted and supported by the Gulf Research Center. The programme provides data, analyses, and recommendations contributing to the improvement of the understanding and management of Gulf labour migration, population, and labour markets, engaging with and respecting the viewpoints of all stakeholders. Visit the website [here](#).

#### Data

For over a decade, GLMM has gathered, analyzed, and published official data related to labour and migration from multiple sources of all six GCC states. The database contains more than 1,000 tables.

#### Country tables

Access Bahrain Data [here](#)

Access Kuwait Data [here](#)

Access Oman Data [here](#)

Access Qatar Data [here](#)

Access Saudi Arabia Data [here](#)

Access UAE Data [here](#)

#### GCC regional tables

GLMM also constructs unique GCC regional tables based exclusively on the official country data. Access them [here](#).

#### Publication

Françoise De Bel-Air, "Towards a Knowledge-Based Labour Market in Saudi Arabia?" GLMM Factsheet No. 12, October 2024

#### GLMM Activities Report (January 2023 - July 2024)

GLMM published its activities report covering the period January 2023 - July 2024. Access the report [here](#).

#### Publication

Sophia Kagan and Ryszard Cholewinski, "The regulation of platform work and labour hire companies for migrant workers in the Gulf Council Cooperation countries – a new challenge or an old problem?" GLMM Explanatory Note No. 4/2024.

Access all GLMM publications [here](#).

### GLMM/KAS

GLMM and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAS, Amman) have developed a joint project on "Highly Skilled Migration to the Gulf States: How Do GCC Countries Fare in the Global Competition for Talent?"

The project aims to provide an in-depth analysis of highly skilled migration trends and dynamics in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region. It examines policies, migration dynamics, and outcomes related to the attraction, recruitment, and retention of highly skilled talent from Arab (Egypt, Tunisia) and Asian (India, Pakistan, the Philippines) countries of origin to three GCC states: Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.

The project will produce a total of nine Research Reports and nine corresponding Policy Briefs. The first drafts were submitted at the end of September. Revised (final) drafts were submitted at the end of October. A virtual meeting with all authors was held on October 22 and an in-person meeting is scheduled to take place in Riyadh on December 1-2, 2024 with the authors and Saudi and international stakeholders.

### GLMM Africa

On October 1-2 GLMM's Imco Brouwer participated in a meeting in Addis Ababa organised by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Africa Migration Policy Center (FES-AMPC) and the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) on the occasion of the presentation of a report by Free the Slaves entitled "From Illegal Migration to Human Trafficking: Dangerous Journeys across the Horn of Africa and the Arabian Peninsula."

### GLMM Pakistan - (Gulf -) Canada

For the month of October Prof. Nasra Shah was a Visiting Professor at the Toronto Metropolitan University within the framework of The Canada Excellence Research Chair in Migration and Integration (CERC Migration) led by Prof. Anna Triandafillydou.

During her visit, Nasra focused on analyzing the socio-demographic and economic profile of this group based on secondary data. Nasra also collected some primary data by conducting focus group discussions with selected professionals and their families. The initial work will form the basis of a larger study to look at transnational linkages of Pakistani migrants in Canada, their sense of identity and belonging to the host country, and their future plans. She also explored whether Pakistani migrants migrated first to the Gulf then subsequently further migrated to Canada and why.

Contact: Mr. Imco Brouwer. [imco.brouwer@grc.net](mailto:imco.brouwer@grc.net)



### 7 October 2024

Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf, Environmental Security and Sustainability Research Program Director at the Gulf Research Center, chaired the monthly coordination telecall of the UNEP Major Groups Facilitation Committee aiming to plan for Major Groups engagement at the Summit of the Future and UNEP CPR coming meetings. GRC is currently the co-chair of MGFC at UNEP.

### 10 October 2024

Layla Ali, researcher at the Gulf Research Center, participated in the first quarterly meeting of the Saudi AgriFood Tech Alliance (SAFTA) members in Riyadh. The meeting proved a good opportunity for alliance members to share valuable insights and discuss plans for UNCCD COP16 in Riyadh in December 2024. The Gulf Research Center is a member of SAFTA.

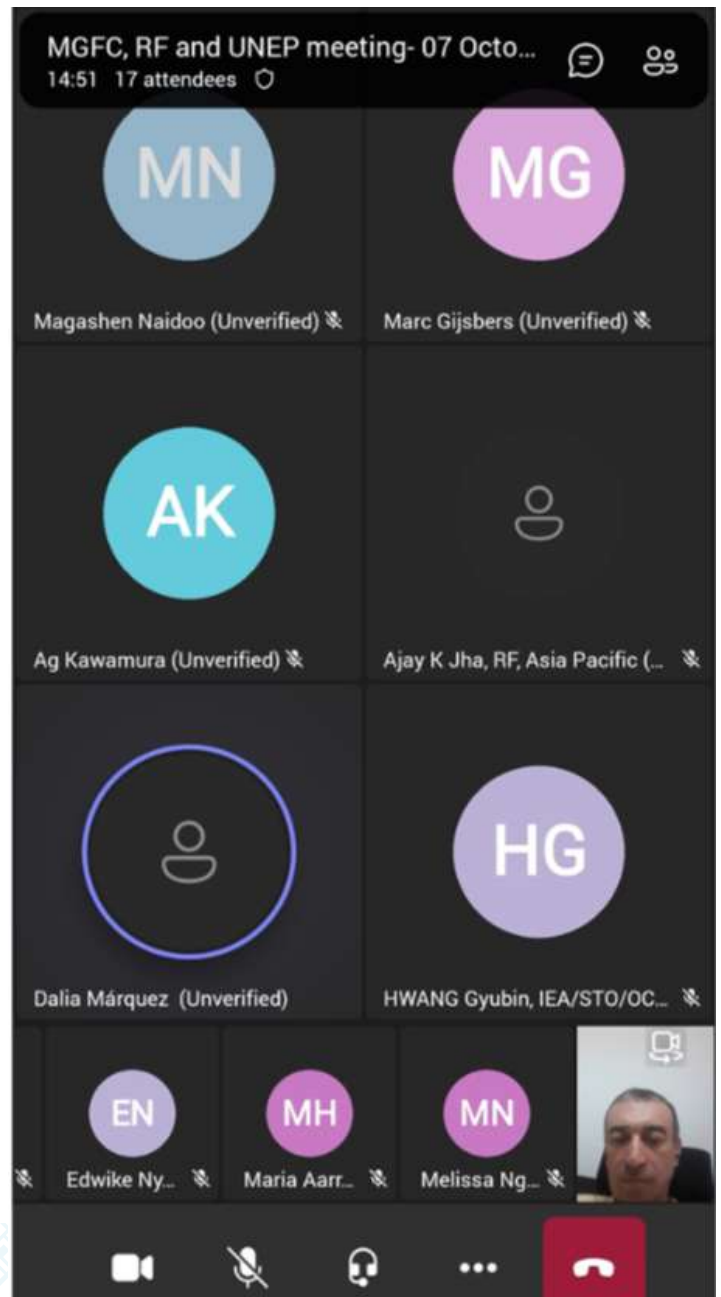
### 14 October 2024

Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf, Environmental Security and Sustainability Research Program Director at the Gulf Research Center, participated in a coordination call between co-chairs of the Major Groups at both UNEP and HLPF to coordinate Major Groups engagement over the next few months in major UN events either in Nairobi or New York.

### 17 October 2024



Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf, Environmental Security and Sustainability Research Program Director at the Gulf Research Center, chaired the monthly coordination telecall of the SPP Scientist Alliance for Chemicals Waste and Pollution Protection aiming to plan and coordinate next practical steps for the official establishment of the alliance. The call focused on the criteria selection for the host organization of the alliance.





مختبر الحوار الخليجي  
Gulf Dialogue Lab



GRC PODCAST  
بودكاست مركز الخليج للأبحاث

## Publications



### Umm Kulthum: The Muse of Musical Modernism

October 2024

Access the full paper [here](#).

## GRC Podcast Activities

October 2, 2024

In an episode titled "Sustainability in Agricultural Development," Dr. Zaid Alfadeil, Director of the GRC's Culture and Media Program, hosted sustainable agricultural development expert Dr. Turki bin Faisal Al-Rasheed. Access the full episode [here](#).



دراسات ثقافية



تطور مفهوم الهوية وتأثيراتها السياسية  
على دول شبه الجزيرة العربية  
قراءة في المدلول والبعد الاستراتيجي

### The Evolution of the Concept of Identity and its Political Implications for the Arabian Peninsula

October 2024

Access the full paper [here](#).



د. زيد بن علي الفديلي  
أكتوبر 2024



The Gulf Research Center produces various publications through its research programs, projects, and Gulf Research Meetings. The GRC's publications can be accessed on its website via [this link](#); the commentary and analyses can be found [here](#); and selected Arabic articles can be found [here](#).

## Commentary & Analyses



**New Alliances: The 2024 BRICS Summit and Its Strategic Implications for the Gulf Region**

Layla Ali\*  
November 2024



**Enhancing Gulf-Europe Relations: GCC-Benelux and Northern Europe**

Amnah Mosly  
October 2024



**Conflict Resolution Efforts by GCC States in Africa**

Hubert Kinkoh\*  
October 2024

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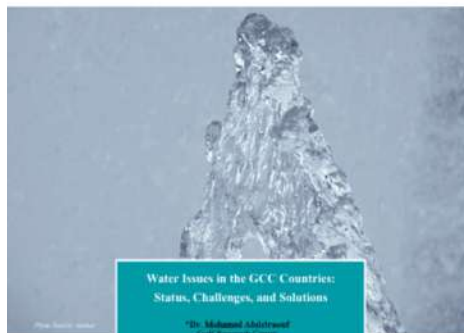
Hubert Kinkoh

October 2024



**From Ports to Pipelines: The Gulf Cooperation Council's Influence on Africa's Oil and Gas Landscape**

Michael William Wilson  
October 2024



**Water Issues in the GCC Countries: Status, Challenges, and Solutions**

\*Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf  
Gulf Research Center  
October 2024



**EU-GCC: Time Looks Ripe for Security and Defense Cooperation**

Published in ISPI Dossier On Bridging Continents: The Future of EU-GCC Cooperation  
By Aldo Liga and Chiara Lovotti  
Houda Barroug and Eleonora Ardemagni  
October 2024

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October 2024



Commentary & Analyses



An EU-GCC Summit at a Critical Time: Is Europe Ready?  
Dr. Christian Koch  
October 2024

Selected Arabic Articles



BRICS as Seen by the Russians  
Prof. Saleh Al-Khathlan  
October 2024

Araa



#202 (October 2024)  
The Impact of the Rise of the Far Right in Europe on International and Regional Relations





In October 2024, the GRC participated in numerous international events, both online and in-person, tackling issues pertaining to developments in the Gulf region and its broader neighborhood. The GRC emphasizes participating in such events, as it allows for the inclusion of a regional perspective in the debate. The following is an overview of the critical events in which the GRC participated this month.

### October 30-31, 2024



Dr. Christian Koch, Executive Manager of the Gulf Research Center Foundation's Office in Brussels, participated as a speaker in the Council of Councils (CoC) 15th Regional Conference in Brussels on October 29, 2024. Dr. Koch spoke in the session on 'EU-Middle East Relations' and discussed how the EU should have a cohesive and unified approach for post-conflict scenarios in the region and how it should build stronger partnerships with key regional players to enhance the EU's influence and effectiveness in addressing conflicts and promoting stability.

### October 30, 2024



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), met with H.E. Nodirjon Turgunov, Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, at the GRC's office in Riyadh, on October 30, 2024. During the meeting, the two sides discussed areas of mutual interest and areas of cooperation in research activities. They also discussed the necessary arrangements for GRC to organize a workshop under the title "Relations between GCC and Central Asian Countries" in April 2025 on the occasion of the GCC-Central Asian Countries Summit, which is expected to be held in Samarkand, Republic of Uzbekistan, in May 2025 and is expected to bring together think tanks from both regions.

### October 29, 2024



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), met with H.E. Mr. Luigi Di Maio, the European Union Special Representative for the Gulf Region at the European External Action Service (EEAS), and his accompanying official delegation, at the GRC's office in Riyadh on October 29, 2024. During this meeting, both sides discussed areas of mutual interest, including cooperation with the GRC Foundation's office in Brussels on GCC-EU research activities.

### October 27, 2024



Dr. Ahmed Sager, Vice President of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), met with Mr. Leo Kwartan, a lecturer from The Clingendael Institute, at the GRC's office in Riyadh on October 27, 2024, where they discussed areas of mutual interest and cooperation.

### October 27, 2024



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), met with H.E. Chang Hua, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on October 27, 2024, at the GRC's office in Riyadh. Both sides engaged in discussions on areas of mutual interest.



## October 25, 2024



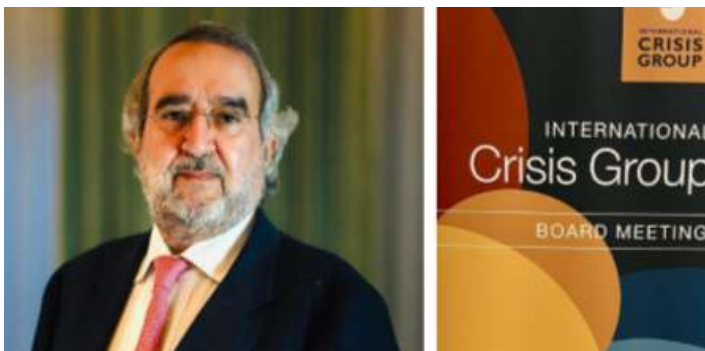
Dr. Christian Koch, Executive Manager of the Gulf Research Center Foundation's Office in Brussels, participated as a speaker in the panel on the "Strategic Narrative of the Southern Region" at the Arab Geopolitics 2024 conference, organized by the NATO Defense College. Watch his remarks here as Dr. Koch discusses the need for increased security alignment and collaborative efforts between NATO and the GCC to ensure regional stability.

## October 22, 2024



Dr. Ahmed Sager, Vice President of the Gulf Research Center, and Prof. Saleh Al-Khathlan met with Tom Allan, Head of Iraq and Arabian Peninsula Department at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, at the GRC's office in Riyadh on October 22, 2024. During the meeting, they discussed ways of enhancing research cooperation between think tanks in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Kingdom.

## October 17-19, 2024



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC) and member of the International Crisis Group (ICG) Board of Trustees, participated in ICG's Board of Trustees meeting in London from October 17 to 19 to discuss critical global issues and strategies for conflict resolution. Many topics were discussed, including the future outlook of the ICG over the next five years, and an analysis of the current situation in the conflict areas, the rising number of conflicts globally, and key challenges such as the US elections, Horn of Africa, maritime and Red Sea security, escalations in the Middle East, climate and conflict, and the rising number of conflicts in Haiti, Sudan, Myanmar, the Sahel, and Ukraine.

## October 16, 2024

Dr. Christian Koch, Director of Research at the GRC and Executive Manager of the Gulf Research Center Foundation's office in Brussels, conducted an interview with 'Les Echos' in which he discussed how the 'stakes of [the GCC-EU Summit] are high' especially in light of the current escalation in the region. Dr. Koch argued that the GCC "believe[s] that the Europeans are not putting enough pressure on Israel to de-escalate. They fear being caught up in a wave of Iranian reprisals in the event of a war between Jerusalem and Tehran." Read the full article here.

## October 10, 2024



Layla Ali, Researcher at the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated in the first quarterly meeting for the Saudi AgriFood Tech Alliance (SAFTA) members in Riyadh on October 10th. The meeting proved a good opportunity for alliance members to share valuable insights and discuss plans for UNCCD COP16 in Riyadh in December 2024. The Gulf Research Center is a member of SAFTA.





## October 9, 2024



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated as a Keynote Speaker in the opening panel on 'Regenerating Our Planet: Innovative Solutions for Climate Adaptation and Change' at the 12th Arabia Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainability Forum on October 9, 2024, in Dubai. Dr. Sager focused on climate strategy, considering both adaptation and mitigation to better address climate change's current and future effects and the necessity to balance ecological, economic, and social considerations when applying a specific solution or strategy.

## October 8, 2024



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), met with Valerio De Molli, Managing Partner and CEO of the European House Ambrosetti, and his accompanying colleagues at the GRC's office in Riyadh on October 8, 2024, in which they discussed areas of mutual interest and cooperation.

## October 6, 2024



As part of cultural activities aimed at deepening mutual understanding between the UAE and Japan, the UAE Embassy in Japan hosted a UAE cultural event in Tokyo on the UAE's collaboration with JAXA highlights a significant partnership in space exploration and technology. One of the key milestones in this collaboration was the successful launch of the UAE's Mars Mission, the Hope Probe, in 2020, using Japan's H-IIA rocket from the Tanegashima Space Center. This mission marked the UAE's first interplanetary endeavor, with JAXA providing vital technical support. The collaboration between the UAE and JAXA reflects both nations' commitment to advancing space exploration scientific research, and fostering international cooperation in the aerospace sector. Noriko Suzuki, GRC's Senior Advisor, participated in the cultural event.

## October 6, 2024



H.E. Mr. Patrick Maisonnave, Ambassador of the French Republic to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, invited Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), to the French Residence for lunch on October 6, 2024. A discussion took place on various areas of cooperation, including research and education.



## October 6, 2024



Noriko Suzuki, GRC's Senior Advisor participated in the Saudi Royal Cup. The Saudi Royal Cup is a Grade 3 horse race held annually in Japan, primarily at the Tokyo Racecourse. It is a key event for 2-year-old thoroughbreds and serves as an important early indicator for future stars in Japanese horse racing. The race is typically run over a distance of 1,600 meters on turf. As a prestigious event, it attracts promising young jockeys and is viewed as a stepping stone to major races like the Japan Cup and the Japanese Classics. The Saudi Royal Cup represents a collaboration between Saudi Arabia and Japan, promoting their shared interest in the global horse racing industry.

## October 2, 2024



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), met with Mr Björn Kavalkov-Halvarsson, Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of Sweden to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, at the GRC's office in Riyadh on October 2, 2024. The two sides discussed cooperation and areas of mutual interest.

## October 2, 2024



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), met with H.E. Mr. Jean-Philippe Linteau, Ambassador of Canada to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, at the GRC's office in Riyadh on October 2, 2024. Both sides discussed cooperation and areas of mutual interest.

## October 2, 2024



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), met with H.E. Kjersti Tromsdal, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, at the GRC's office in Riyadh on October 2, 2024. Both sides discussed cooperation and areas of mutual interest.



GRC media participation can be accessed [here](#), at the GRC official YouTube channel.



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, participated in the program 'Time for Politics with Tariq Al-Hamid' airing on Al Arabiya Radio FM where he discussed the latest developments in the region including:

- Saudi Arabia hosting the first high-level meeting of the 'Global Alliance for Implementing the Two-State Solution' in Riyadh
- U.S. Elections
- Potential Israeli strike on Iran

Watch the full episode [here](#).



Dr. Adelrazzaq Gharraf, Senior Researcher at the GRC, participated on the 'Global Algeria' program and commented on the visit by the Algerian President to Egypt and Oman. Watch the full episode [here](#).



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, participated as a speaker on Al Arabiya in an episode titled: 'Following the Israeli Response to Iran, the Gulf Calls for Self-Restraint and Sparing the Region from Expanded Conflict'. Watch the full episode [here](#).



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, participated on the 'Here is Riyadh' program on Al Ekbaryyah where he discussed the recent visit of U.S. Secretary of State and the political and military developments in the region. Watch the full episode [here](#).



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, participated in an interview on the Al Hadath channel where he discussed the visit of the U.S. Secretary of State to the region and the political and military developments in Lebanon. Watch the full episode [here](#).



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, participated on the MBC Bulletin and discussed the EU-GCC Summit in Brussels. Watch the full episode [here](#).



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, participated in Al Arabiya where he discussed U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken's visits to Riyadh to discuss ways to de-escalate the situations in Gaza and Lebanon. Watch the full episode [here](#).



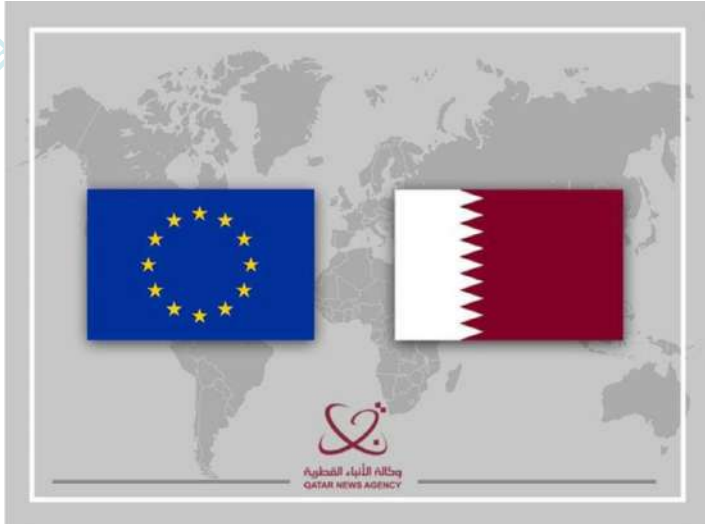
Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, participated on Radio Monte Carlo International where he discussed the EU-GCC Summit in Brussels. Hear the full episode [here](#).



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, participated on Asharq TV (Bloomberg) in an episode titled: 'Saudi- Jordanian confirmation of the necessity of a ceasefire in Gaza and Lebanon.' Watch the full episode [here](#).



Dr. Christian Koch, Executive Manager of the GRCF Brussels office, participated in an interview on Al Arabiya where he discussed the GCC-EU Summit in Brussels. Watch the full episode [here](#).



Dr. Christian Koch, Director of Research at the GRC and Executive Manager at the Gulf Research Center Foundation Brussels office was quoted in Qatar News Agency's article on 'EU-GCC Cooperation Agreement Strengthens Relations' in which he mentions that the EU-GCC Summit comes at a very important time, given all the regional developments, stressing that both the EU and the GCC are determined to deepen their partnership. Read the full interview [here](#).



Dr. Abelrazzaq Gharraf, Senior Researcher at the GRC, spoke on 'Al Sharooq' channel to discuss the current state of Algerian diplomacy on its National Day. Watch the full episode [here](#).



Dr. Abelrazzaq Gharraf, Senior Researcher at the GRC, spoke on 'Global Algeria' and spoke about the developments of the war in south of Lebanon. Watch the full episode [here](#).



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC, participated on 'Asharq TV' in an episode titled: "The Anniversary of the October 7 Attack...Regional Repercussions and Open Scenarios." Watch the full episode [here](#).



**Gulf Research Center  
Jeddah  
(Main office)**

19 Rayat Alitihad Street  
P.O. Box 2134  
Jeddah 21451  
Saudi Arabia  
Tel: +966 12 6511999  
Fax: +966 12 6531375  
Email: info@grc.net



**Gulf Research Center  
Riyadh**

Unit FN11A  
King Faisal Foundation  
North Tower  
King Fahd Branch Rd  
Al Olaya Riyadh 12212  
Saudi Arabia  
Tel: +966 112112567  
Email: info@arc.net



**Gulf Research Center  
Foundation Geneva**

Avenue de France 23  
1202 Geneva  
Switzerland  
Tel: +41227162730  
Email: info@grc.net



**Gulf Research Centre  
Cambridge**

University of Cambridge  
Sidgwick Avenue,  
Cambridge CB3 9DA  
United Kingdom  
Tel:+44-1223-760758  
Fax:+44-1223-335110



**Gulf Research Center  
Foundation Brussels**

Avenue de  
Cortenbergh 89  
4<sup>th</sup> floor, 1000  
Brussels  
Belgium



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# GULF RESEARCH CENTER NEWSLETTER

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