

**Joint Action Programme
for
Implementation of the GCC-EU Cooperation Agreement of 1988
2010-2013**

Subject	Areas of Cooperation	Proposed Mechanism	Target Date
1. Economic, Financial and Monetary Cooperation	1. Continued exchange of views on macroeconomic issues	- Hold regular EU-GCC dialogue on economic and financial issues to exchange views on macroeconomics at a senior official level	2010 – 2013
	2. Exchange of expertise and information in all aspects of the GCC & EU experience in economic integration	- Organize annual joint forums on this experience	2010 – 2013
	3. Technical cooperation in specific topics to be agreed upon in economic, financial and monetary areas.	- Hold technical meetings to examine certain issues such as the taxation system and Islamic banking products	2010 – 2013
	4. Continued cooperation with the EU Central Bank in the area of the GCC Monetary Union	- Continue holding regular meetings between GCC central bank governors & ECB governors - Exchange of expertise & technical assistance by the ECB on the GCC monetary union	
2. Investment	1. Encouragement of mutual investment 2. Development of small and medium enterprises in the GCC States 3. Development of GCC human	- Encourage business partnerships between businesses from both sides in all areas of investment - Establish a regular dialogue regarding issues that have an impact on investors access to the EU and GCC markets	2010 – 2013

	resources in various production activities and latest technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitate the increase of EU-GCC investments flow, including the removal of the regulatory barriers - Enhance coordination between the GCC and the EU Chambers of Commerce Federations - Develop mechanisms to facilitate exchange of expertise - Exchange of expertise in the area of human resources development and training 	
3. Trade cooperation	1. Enhance trade relations in order to increase bilateral GCC-EU trade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encourage the exchange of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - trade delegations in coordination with the business organizations - schedules of trade exhibitions organized in GCC states and EU countries in order to facilitate participation from both sides - Continue organizing annual “GCC Days” in EU countries and promote organizing similar “EU Days” in GCC States - Organize workshops and forums on specific topics: E-commerce, export requirements in both GCC and EU regions, consumer protection - Exchange views on the topics to be examined at the WTO and the multi-lateral negotiations - Establish a regular dialogue on issues having an impact on the access to the EU and GCC markets 	2010 – 2013

		- Facilitate the increase of EU-GCC trade flows, including the removal of non-tariff barriers.	
4. Energy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Exchange views on oil and gas market developments as well as the energy policies on both sides. 2. Exchange information and experiences on policies, frameworks best practices and techniques in the field of energy, in upstream, midstream, and downstream (infrastructure). 3. Cooperation in the field of energy equipments, machinery and spare parts manufacturing especially those used in the oil and gas industry. 4. Cooperation in the field of clean and renewable energy technologies. 5. Cooperation in the field of energy efficiency policy and measures. 6. Cooperation in the field of solar energy technologies and policy framework. 	<p>Note the ongoing work programme of the joint energy expert group and the setup of sub-groups, as well as the EU-GCC clean energy network, the following mechanisms are identified:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish ad-hoc groups to address specific areas as needed 2. Hold seminars, exhibits, workshops, visits, technical exchange and joint studies. 3. Training and capacity building in some identified areas of cooperation. 	2010 – 2013

<p>Electricity & Water</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Technical cooperation in all stages of electricity and water production (generation, transport, energy transfer distribution and service providers), including technology transfer 2. Benefit from the EU in: power interconnection, load management, regulatory framework and in creating and developing regional markets for the trade in, and exchange of electricity. 3. Exchange of best practices in RDT (Research, Development and Technology) regarding the integrated management and sustainable development of water, in order to achieve water security in the GCC states. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish Ad-hoc groups to address specific areas as needed 2. Hold seminars, exhibits, workshops, visits, technical exchange and joint studies. 3. Training and capacity building in some identified areas of cooperation. 	
<p>Nuclear Safety</p>	<p>Exchange best practices and techniques in the efficient use of power and water consumption.</p> <p>Cooperation in the field of atomic energy as well as nuclear safety and security.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish Ad-hoc groups to address specific areas as needed 2. Hold seminars, exhibits, workshops, visits, 	

	Exchange of information and experience in matters such as the legal framework for protection against radiation, nuclear security and safety, radioactive waste, warranties and appropriate systems and surveillance.	technical exchange and joint studies. 3. Training and capacity building in some identified areas of cooperation.	
5. Transport	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cooperation in the field of development, construction operation and maintenance of railway projects in GCC States. 2. Cooperation in maritime affairs: passengers, vessel inspection, maritime legislation, safety regulations and navigation security. 3. Benefit from the EU experience in the aviation management as well as areas of studies and scientific research in various aviation areas, particularly aviation and air transport safety and security. 4. Exchange of expertise in formulating work policies and procedures related to the issuance of landing and transit 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish Ad-hoc groups to address specific areas as needed 2. Hold seminars, exhibits, workshops, visits, technical exchange and joint studies. 3. Training and capacity building in some identified areas of cooperation. 	2010 - 2013

	<p>permits for all types of aircraft.</p> <p>5. Benefit from the EU experience regarding professional road transport and road safety for all road users. In terms of professional road transport: the emphasis should be placed on fair competition, rights of drivers, passengers, students and workers; this would include rules on the access to the profession and social rules for drivers.</p>		
6. Environment and climate change	<p>1. Cooperation in the field of waste recycling, related power generation technologies and building indigenous technologies in these fields, as well as exchange of expertise and research and cooperation between industries and research centers.</p> <p>2. Exchange views and studies on the causes and effects of climate change as well as policies dealing with climate change within the framework of relevant UN conventions.</p>	<p>1. Establish Ad-hoc groups to address specific areas as needed.</p> <p>2. Hold seminars, exhibits, workshops, visits, technical exchange and joint studies.</p> <p>3. Training and capacity building in some identified areas of cooperation.</p>	2010 - 2013

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Cooperation in developing national adaptation strategies to climate change impact. 4. Enhance cooperation in the field of carbon capture and storage; and conduct joint studies in this connection. 5. Enhance technical cooperation and exchange of studies as well as researches in the field of the environmental impact related to handling and use of chemicals, such as import, export, production, manufacturing, sale, transportation and storage. 6. Cooperation in the field of disaster management and environmental crises. 7. Cooperation in the field of water management and combating desertification. 8. Cooperation in the field of preservation of biodiversity. 9. Cooperation in the field of environmental aspects of water and waste water treatment. 		
7. Industry	1. Support efforts of the GCC States in the development of	- Jointly discuss the GCC Unified Industrial Strategy and provide the necessary technical	2010 - 2013

	<p>their industrial production and diversification of their industrial base, taking into account the mutual interests of both parties.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Benefit from the available EU programmes and mechanisms in the development and the updates of the GCC industrial structure, as well as increasing the competitive capacities of production sectors. 3. Encourage and attract investment and set up joint projects 4. Cooperate in the preparation of studies, consultation, and the joint industrial statistical surveys 	<p>expertise in order to develop workable implementation mechanisms and common quantitative indicators measuring the progress in achieving the objectives of the GCC Unified Industrial Strategy and compare them with international indicators, and cooperation in the field of training the GCC specialists to carry out these tasks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exchange of expertise in center establishments specializing in product orientation, industrial partnership and subcontracting. - Organisation of meetings and forums between industry policy-makers to discuss issues of mutual interest and encourage establishing new relations in the industry sector, consistent with the objectives of the EU-GCC Cooperation Agreement. - Urge businesses to organize GCC-EU industry forums, and consider industrial partnerships. - Cooperate in conducting studies and preparing reports, research and industrial surveys, as well as consultancy services required by either party, including obtaining the results of studies or reports prepared for technical guidance. - Benefit from the EU expertise and best practices on issues of mutual interest on both sides. 	
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8. Combating money laundering and terrorist financing	Enhance cooperation in the field of combating money laundering and terrorist financing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue holding annual joint EU-GCC workshops on combating terrorism financing; with a view to possibly setting up a joint working group which would submit its recommendations to the Joint Cooperation Committee. The main functions of the group would include, inter alia, organizing joint annual forums, exchanging expertise and visits and consultations on matters of mutual interest. 	2010 – 2013
9. The Intellectual Property rights	Intellectual property rights and patenting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exchange of views and experience in the area of intellectual property rights. - Establish cooperation between the EU and the GCC in the field of patents in order for the GCC to benefit from the EU experience. Such cooperation could include exchange of expertise and technical assistance in various fields such as capacity building, training, expert missions, patent databases, IT and seminars. In this respect, cooperation between the European Patent Office and the GCC Patent Office will be encouraged. 	2010 – 2013
10. Telecommunications and Information Technology Sector	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Exchange expertise and information in the field of regulating telecommunications and Internet governance 2. Exchange expertise in the field 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To hold a joint meeting to develop a plan in this area. - To exchange visits of experts in the field of Telecom and IT. - To review the EU experience in the field of the 	2010 – 2013

	of E-commerce applications and E-transactions and benefit from IT training programmes.	general policies of telecommunications and the role of the governments in the development of the Telecom and IT sector.	
11.Higher Education and Scientific Research	(A). Cooperation in Higher Education		2010 – 2013
	1. Continue cooperation between EU and GCC at senior expert level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment of a joint GCC-EU expert group to follow up and coordinate on a regular basis - Explore the possibility of cooperation between the European University Association and the GCC Committee of Heads of Universities 	
	2. Enhance GCC participation in ERASMUS MUNDUS and Marie Curie Scientific Mobility Programmes. Universities shall select the fields deemed most appropriate and compatible with their bylaws and rules of procedure of the relevant Ministry of Higher Education.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promotion and awareness campaigns in the region - Explore possibilities for partnership between GCC and EU universities 	
	3. Establish a sustained partnership between EU and GCC universities for cooperation in teaching Arabic language and Middle Eastern studies as well as European languages and studies under	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Study the possibility of increasing exchanges of students and faculty staff in Arabic language and Middle Eastern studies, as well as in European languages and studies 	

	which universities will be open to receive specific modules and training.		
	4. Establish and develop joint supervision programmes between GCC and EU universities through which scholarships would be granted to students of GCC universities to study in the EU in major fields that are important to the GCC States.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhance and facilitate existing cooperation between GCC universities and distinguished EU universities with regard to joint supervision in higher education programmes - GCC Secretariat will provide the list of recognized public and private universities in the GCC countries. The EU will provide a similar list. 	
	5. Cooperation with EU universities in developing academic programmes at GCC universities, focusing on new scientific specializations such as the peaceful use of nuclear energy, genetics, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organize a workshop at one of the GCC universities (coordination could be made with Bahrain University to organize this type of workshop as the electronic learning centre is based there) wherein concerned universities from both sides can participate. - Organize workshops on best practices on this subject. - Explore the EU opinion on the assistance that EU universities can provide to GCC universities in the cooperative education provided by the EU universities. - Organize a workshop at one of the GCC universities (coordination can be made with King Abdulaziz University, King Saud University or the Arab Gulf University) in which representatives from the universities of 	

		both sides can participate to identify cooperation opportunities.	
	5.1. Call on the EU countries to develop a mechanism for exchanging e-learning expertise with the GCC universities.	- Organize workshops on best practices on this subject.	
	5.2. Call on the EU universities to establish partnerships with the GCC States in the field of cooperative education to enable exchange of expertise and give opportunities to the students from both sides to be exposed in the industrial and commercial training programmes.	- Explore the EU opinion on the assistance that EU universities can provide to the GCC universities in the cooperative education provided by the EU universities.	
	5.3. Call for cooperation with the EU universities to upgrade academic performance (university leadership level, teaching staff level or administrative level) through participation of the GCC universities in sharing best practices	- Organize a workshop at one of the GCC universities (coordination can be made with King Abdulaziz University, King Saud University or the Arab Gulf University) in which representatives from the universities of both sides can participate to identify cooperation opportunities.	
	(B). Cooperation in Scientific Research		2010 – 2013
	1. Achieve highest degree of cooperation between the GCC	- Establish a GCC-EU science and technology policy dialogue to deal with the main issues of	

	<p>and EU universities and research centers in the joint research projects of applied nature through which knowledge and modern technology can be transferred from the EU countries to the GCC States in areas of importance to GCC countries such as: water related technologies (i.e., solar techniques applied to desalination), renewable energies (solar and wind), environment, bio-technology, nano-technologies and petrochemicals.</p>	<p>research, development and innovation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop ways and means to ensure benefits for the GCC researchers from the 7th EU Research Framework Programme, and activate their participation in obtaining the scholarships offered by the programme. - Provide opportunities to GCC researchers (via research cluster meetings) to participate in joint research projects undertaken by the EU with a view to upgrading their capacities and expertise. - Invite the EU researchers to participate in certain research projects existing in the GCC States. 	
	<p>2. Open up the field for GCC universities and Research Centers to make use of the INCONET initiative for scientific research</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expand the participation of GCC universities and research centers to make use of this initiative. 	
	<p>3. Transfer of the EU expertise in the field of establishing financing and managing research programmes to the GCC universities and national research centers, and establish a long-term relationship to foster</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EU will provide background documents about its experience in this area at the earliest joint meeting between the two sides and will also organize a thematic seminar on this subject. 	

	those practices in research area.		
	(C). Meteorology		2010 – 2013
	Encourage GCC-EU cooperation in the exchange of satellite meteorological data and training of GCC national manpower	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Form a joint working group specialized in meteorology matters composed by representatives from the GCC secretariat, GCC member states and the EU. The group should also study mechanisms for the continued reception of data from EUMETSAT satellites positioned over the Arabian Sea and the Arabian Peninsula, support training of GCC cadres in meteorology, and research meteorological phenomena in the region to submit recommendations. 	
12. Tourism	Discuss possibilities of cooperation in tourism and joint projects that can be established in this area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To encourage GCC and EU participation in tourism fairs in both EU and GCC. - To promote EU institutional presence on stands in tourism fairs in the GCC. - To promote a framework of cooperation and exchange of expertise and know-how in sustainable tourism development (national parks, protected areas, hot water springs, mountain and coastal areas, desert, eco and agri-tourism) in terms of policy making; planning; investment and promotion; management and operation. - To encourage EU investors to explore investment opportunities in the GCC. - Exchange of good practices and know-how on 	<p>- according to events</p> <p>- according to events</p> <p>- 2011-2013</p> <p>- according to events</p> <p>- 2010-2011</p>

		<p>protection and preservation of natural and cultural heritage (visual pollution, environmental hazards, etc)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Explore possible participation of GCC officials in the area of tourism in EU relevant training programmes. 	- 2010
13. Culture and mutual understanding	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cultural exchange and transfer of the real picture of GCC culture and acquaint the EU communities with the artistic and cultural creativity in the GCC States. 2. Discuss issues of translation from/to European languages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encourage the intensification of exchanges and dialogues between segments of the society, such as academia, universities, think-tanks and cultural institutions from the EU and the GCC countries on subjects such as common values, history and culture, through workshops, and seminars (ex: Al-Jisr project). - EU to programme support to the promotion of EU cultural activities or events organized in GCC. - EU to help identifying contact points in EU-Member States to promote GCC cultural events. - Urge the two sides to activate the role of the competent agencies from public and private sectors in translating certain important GCC or EU reference texts in the areas of tourism and culture - Promote cultural visits and exchanges between higher education students (ex: EPDOP). 	<p>- 2010– 2013 (ongoing)</p> <p>-2010-2013 (ongoing)</p> <p>- according to events</p> <p>- upon establishment EU information center in GCC (2010)</p> <p>- 2010-2013 (ongoing)</p>
14. Antiquities and	To benefit from the EU expertise	- To encourage GCC and EU participation in	- according to events

Museums	in this field	<p>cultural and antiquities events in both EU and GCC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To promote a framework of cooperation and exchange of expertise and know-how in cultural tourism, antiquities, museums, in terms of policy making, planning, studies, investment and operation. - To explore possible participation of GCC officials in the areas of tourism, culture and antiquities in EU relevant programmes, including training. - Encourage existing cooperation in the above areas. - To encourage EU investors to explore investment opportunities in the GCC in cultural tourism. - Exchange of best practices and know-how on protection, preservation and rehabilitation of cultural heritage and antiquities. 	<p>- 2010-2013</p> <p>- 2010</p> <p>- ongoing</p> <p>- according to events</p> <p>- 2010-2013</p>
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