



COOPERATION ARRANGEMENT
between the
EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE
and the

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE KINGDOM OF THE SAUDI ARABIA

Introduction

The European External Action Service (EEAS) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are hereafter jointly referred to as the "Participants"

With the present Cooperation Arrangement ("Arrangement"), both Participants intend to enhance their dialogue in order to achieve common goals and objectives in areas of mutual interest.

This Arrangement intends to support and strengthen relationships between the two Participants, by promoting information sharing and consultations, and by fostering mutual understanding.

Both Participants recall that the European Union (EU) - Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) Cooperation Agreement concluded in 1988 constitutes the fundamental pillar of the overall cooperation between the EU and the GCC.

Both Participants intend to cooperate as follows:

I. Purpose and objectives

1. Both Participants intend to develop a closer and more regular dialogue and consultation in the areas of common interest set out below, based on the principles of mutual trust and benefit.
2. Each Participant will explore with its own stakeholders the possibility to advance cooperation which would reflect their specific needs and interests and would take further the existing EU- GCC Cooperation Agreement.

II. Areas of common interest

1. Both Participants will enhance their dialogue and consultation with a view to:
 - a) Increasing their mutual understanding on political and security matters, including regional issues.
 - b) Working jointly in their respective fields of competence with a view to strengthening their coordination and cooperation.

- c) Discussing challenges, shared goals and potential actions in areas of common interest.
2. Each Participant will engage, as appropriate, with relevant services domestically in order to promote, within their tasks and responsibilities, the areas of cooperation identified in the EU- GCC Cooperation Agreement of 1988 covering education, transport, trade, enterprise, environment, health and consumer protection, research and innovation, and other relevant areas of cooperation.
3. Both Participants will engage, as appropriate, with relevant services at EU level and in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, each in its area of competence and within their tasks and responsibilities, in order to promote an EU-Saudi Arabia business to business dialogue.

III. Working arrangements

Both Participants will exchange experience, information and best practices through the following mechanisms:

- a) Regular consultations on political and other issues of mutual interest, either in Brussels or Riyadh or in the margins of international events;
- b) Annual Senior Officials Meetings between EEAS (inviting representatives from relevant EU institutions) and Saudi MFA officials (inviting representatives from relevant line Ministries), with venues alternating between Brussels and Riyadh.

Both Sides intend to promote the organization of

- a) *ad hoc* expert meetings or joint working groups with representatives from relevant EU institutions and Saudi line Ministries in areas of common interest, in particular in the framework of our cooperation on regional political issues as well as on the specific areas of Security cooperation and the promotion of the implementation of the Saudi "Vision 2030"¹;
- b) Joint events such as workshops or conferences as necessary.

¹ <https://vision2030.gov.sa/download/file/fid/417>

IV. Miscellaneous

1. This Arrangement is to start on the date of signature. This Arrangement remains valid unless either of the two Participants informs the other of its desire to discontinue it by written notification through diplomatic channels, which take effect three months from the date of receipt of the notification.
2. This Arrangement may be modified at any time by mutual written consent of both Participants.
3. Any question arising from the interpretation, application or implementation of this Arrangement should be handled amicably through diplomatic channels.
4. Any activities undertaken pursuant to this Arrangement are subject to the internal procedure and regulations of both Participants and to the availability of respective resources. Both Participants will bear their expenses relating to cooperation under this Arrangement.
5. This Arrangement does not intend to create legally binding rights and obligations.

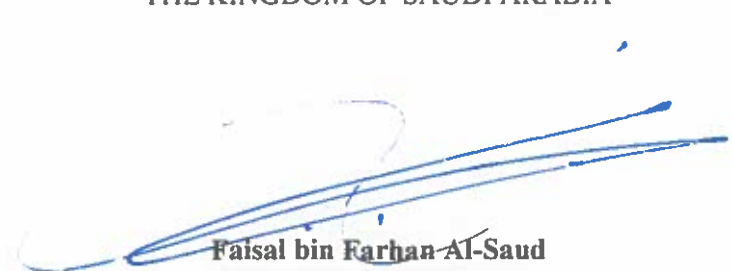
Signed in Riyadh this Sunday, 03/10/2021 corresponding to 26/02/1443 AH in duplicate, both in English and Arabic languages. Both texts carry the same value.

For
THE EUROPEAN EXTERNAL
ACTION SERVICE



Josep Borrell Fontelles
High Representative of the European Union for
Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

For
THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF
THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA



Faisal bin Farhan Al-Saud
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia