



**COOPERATION ARRANGEMENT
BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF THE SULTANATE OF OMAN AND
THE EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE**

Introduction

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman (MOFA) and The European External Action Service (EEAS) (hereafter jointly referred to as the "Sides").

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

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

Both Sides 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.

I. Purpose and Objectives

1. Both Sides intend to develop a closer and more regular dialogue and consultation in the areas of common interest set out below, based on principles of mutual trust, respect and benefit.
2. Both Sides endeavor to explore with their stakeholders the possibility to advance cooperation, which would reflect their specific needs and interests.

II. Areas of common interest

1. Both Sides endeavour to enhance their dialogue and consultation with a view to:
 - a) Increasing their mutual understanding of 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. Both Sides endeavour to engage, as appropriate, through the relevant official authorities, including via training courses, expert visits and other relevant means, in order to promote, within their tasks and responsibilities, possible areas of cooperation covering education, transport, trade, enterprise, environment and climate change, science and technology, visa and travel, health and consumer protection, “blue growth”, and other relevant areas of cooperation. These will notably take into account ongoing economic diversification and economic modernization efforts.
3. Endeavor to engage, as appropriate, through the relevant official authorities at EU level and in the Sultanate of Oman, within their tasks and responsibilities, in order to promote EU- Oman business to business dialogue.

III. Working arrangements

- Both sides intend to exchange experience, information, and best practices through the following mechanisms:
 - a) Regular consultations at high level officials between them on political and other issues of mutual interests, either in capitals or on the margins of international events.
 - b) Annual senior officials meetings between EEAS (inviting representatives from relevant EU institutions) and Oman MOFA officials (inviting representatives from relevant government entities), with venues alternating between Brussels and Muscat.

- Both sides intend to promote the organization of:
 - a) *Ad hoc* expert meeting or joint working groups with representatives from relevant EU institutions and Oman government entities in areas of common interests.
 - b) Joint events such as workshops or conferences as necessary.

IV. Miscellaneous

1. This Arrangement is to start on the date of signature. This Arrangement remains valid unless either of the two Sides informs the other of its desire to discontinue it by written notification through diplomatic channels, which takes 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 the Sides.

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 Sides and to the availability of respective resources, both Sides 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 Brussels this, 20 / 9 / 2018 in duplicate, both in Arabic and English languages.

For
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Sultanate of Oman



For
The European External
Action Service

