

SAUDI ARABIA IN FOCUS

Monthly update from the Saudi mission to the EU

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From the Ambassador

In a few weeks we celebrate the first year of the opening of the Saudi Arabia Mission to the EU. Despite the fact that much of this year was dedicated to building the foundation of the Mission, I am proud to say, that we were able to significantly elevate our ties with the EU to unprecedented heights.

The relationship between Saudi Arabia and the European Union is more in-depth, through daily contact and numerous meetings that myself or members of my team have made with European officials from the Commission and the Council as well as Members of European Parliament and political group officials in addition to non-governmental organisations.

As a sign of the importance we attach to strengthening our relations with the EU, our foreign minister His Excellency, Mr. Adel Al-Jubeir, and other high ranking officials have made multiple visits to Brussels and Strasbourg. On their part, several European officials visited the Kingdom as well as a delegation of the European Parliament.

Last but not least, the visit of the Pioneer Saudi Women Delegation (pages 2,3,4) was a big success thanks to the talent and determination of the women of the delegation and to the four day program that allowed them to engage with the European Parliament, the Commission, think-tanks and international organisations.

Saad bin Mohammad Alarify

Head of the Saudi Mission to the European Union



On the 4th Anniversary of King Salman Bin Abdulaziz assuming the Throne

On this dear occasion, we extend our congratulations to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman Bin Abdulaziz, wishing him the best health and continued success and more prosperity for our country under his wise leadership.

G20, The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Delegation Headed by HRH Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman

Saudi Arabia's strong participation, led by the Crown Prince, smashed all the prejudiced propaganda campaigns by countries hostile to the Kingdom, which had attempted to distort the kingdom's image and weaken its representation at the summit. In addition, it ensured the Kingdom's powerful global position. Furthermore, Riyadh's hosting of the G20 Summit in 2020 will further frustrate its critics and will be an irritation to its competitors.



Bilateral Meetings in the EP



Spanish MEP HE Mrs. Beatriz Becerra



UK MEP HE Mr. Sajjad Karim



German MEP HE Mrs. Barbara Lochbikler



Czech MEP HE Mr. Tomas Zdechovsky



Italian MEP HE Mr. Mario Borghezio



*Finnish MEP HE Mrs. Mirja
Vehkaperä*



Pioneer Saudi Women Visit to the European Union

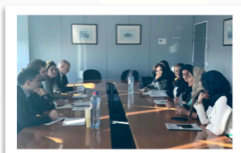
Five trailblazing women, from various civil society sectors in Saudi Arabia, visited Brussels on the 3/4 December and held several meetings with Members of European Parliament, European Commission, Representatives of Member State and two think-tank events. The pioneer Saudi women's visit to the European Union was the first of its kind and aimed at building bridges and removing misunderstandings.



Delegation for Relations with Arab Peninsula in the European Parliament

Her Excellency Member of European Parliament Madame Michelle-Alliot Marie, Chair of the delegation for relations with the Arab peninsula in the European Parliament, invited the Saudi women delegation to exchange views with European Parliament members.

Bilateral meetings in European Commission, EEAS & UN



Deputy Director-General for Transport and Mobility Ms. Maja Bakran



Director of Energy Policy Mrs. Megan Richards



Deputy Secretary General of the European External Action Service, HE Mr. Jean-Christophe Belliard



Director for Land Transport Ms. Elisabeth Werner



director of the UNESCO liaison office in Brussels



ECR Group meeting hosted the Saudi Women Delegation

The European Conservatives and Reformists group meeting, chaired by HE Mr. Syed Kamall Co-Chair of the ECR group in the European Parliament invited Dr. Maha Almuneef to address the parliamentary group members on Vision 2030 and how it relates to Saudi Arabia's efforts to strengthen women's participation in the economy and social change.

East-West institute Event on Saudi Women Today

The prestigious East-West institute in Brussels hosted a round table discussion on Saudi women today with the pioneer Saudi women delegation. Exchanges focused on the role of women and their empowerment in context of the Saudi Vision 2030 and its future opportunities.



Bussola institute Event on Saudi Women Today

Bussola Institute invited the Pioneer Saudi women delegation to an event titled: Change and transformation: A conversation with Saudi Women Pioneers.



Bussola Institute was established as an independent and not-for-profit, non-governmental organisation, in Brussels in 2017, underpinned by the philosophy of fostering and enhancing relations between countries in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the European Union (EU), particularly in relation to political, social, economic, security and cultural issues.



Head of Mission News

H.E Ambassador Saad Alarify



During the October Plenary session of the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France, HE Ambassador Saad Alarify and members of his team paid the European Parliament in Strasbourg a landmark visit aimed at strengthening relations with different parliamentary groups and increase mutual understanding with Members of European Parliament.

The various meetings that took place during the visit proved to be very successful in clarifying misconceptions about the Kingdom, as well as sharing exciting new developments taking place in Saudi Arabia in line with the ambitious Vision 2030.



Member of European Parliament HE Mrs. Jose-Ignacio Salafranca



Member of European Parliament HE Mrs. Michele Alliot Marie



Member of European Parliament HE Mrs. Sandra Kalniete



Member of European Parliament HE Mrs. Elena Valenciano



Member of European Parliament HE Mr. Christian Dan Preda



Member of European Parliament HE Mrs. Zeljana Zovko



Member of European Parliament HE Mr. Wajid Khan



Member of European Parliament HE Mr. Mario Borghesio



Member of European Parliament HE Mr. Geoffrey Van Orden



Member of European Parliament HE Mrs. Ramona Manescu



Member of European Parliament HE Mr. Sajjad Karim



Member of European Parliament HE Mr. Anders Visitsen



Member of European Parliament HE Mr. Knut Fleckenstein



Member of European Parliament HE Mr. Charles Tannock



Member of European Parliament HE Mr. Amjad Bashir



Member of European Parliament HE Mr. Gilles Pargneaux



Member of European Parliament HE Mr. Antonio Panzeri



Member of European Parliament HE Mr. David McAllister

Head of Mission News



HE Ambassador Saad Alarify also enhanced Saudi Arabia's diplomatic presence in Brussels through intensifying bilateral meetings with Ambassadors and diplomats representing most of the 28 EU Member States. In addition to participating in National Day celebrations as well as several engagements with high ranking officials in the European Institutions and International Organisations.

This effort by the Ambassador has produced increased cooperation with the EU and has succeeded in removing misconceptions regarding the Middle-East region and Saudi Arabia in particular.



HE Ambassador Paul Johnston, the UK representative to the PSC



HE Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates Mr. Mohamed Abushahab



Director General for Energy in the European Commission HE Mr. Dominique Ristori



Slovenian Representative to the PSC HE Ambassador Marco Makovec



Italian Permanent Representative to the EU HE Ambassador Franchetti Pardo Luca



HE Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman Najeem Al Abri, during the Omani national day celebration



Permanent Representative of Bulgaria Mrs. Gergana Kardjova



HE Mr. Fadi Hajali the Ambassador of Lebanon, during Lebanon's 75th Independence Day



Deputy Secretary-General of the EEAS HE Mr. Jean - Christophe Belliard



Hungarian Representative to the PSC HE Ambassador Alex Harry Rusz



H.E. Mr. Jean Luc Demarty Director General for Trade in the European Commission



Permanent Representative of Germany to the Political and Security Committee HE Ambassador Michael Flügger



Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Commissioner HE Dr. Christos Stylianides



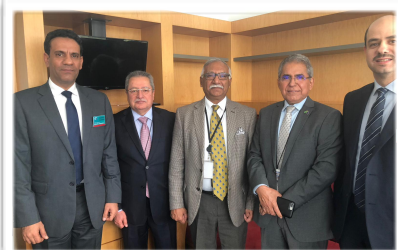
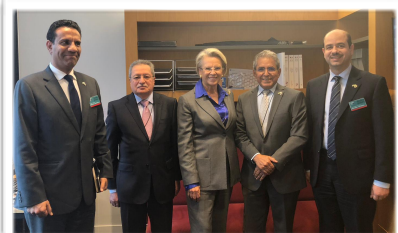
HE Permanent Representative of Hungary Ambassador Oliver Varhelyi



EU Counter Terrorism Coordinator HE Mr. Gilles de Kerchove



U.S Ambassador to the European Union HE Ambassador Gordon Sondland



Coalition Forces in Support of Legitimacy in Yemen, Visit the European Parliament in Strasbourg

HE Ambassador Saad Alarify along with HE Ambassador of the Republic of Yemen Joined by Brigadier General Saud Bin Muammar and the Spokesman of the Coalition to Restore Legitimacy in Yemen Colonel Turki Almalki, visited the European Parliament during its October plenary session in Strasbourg, France.

The delegation visited the European Parliament with the aim of exchanging ideas and opinions, and to discuss the current situation, in Yemen. Several important meetings with members of European Parliament, including with Their Excellencies Mr. David Mcallister, Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Mrs. Michele Alliot-Marie Chair of the Delegation for Relations with the Arab Peninsula (DARP), former chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee Mr. Elmar Brok.

The delegation referred to the participation of a coalition delegation, at the annual meeting of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, as the United Nations expressed appreciation of the generous support (\$ 930 million) provided by the coalition.

The delegation also pointed out that the number of ballistic missiles launched during the period from 18 to 25 June are three missiles, confirming the continuation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the protection of its territory, its citizens and residents on its land.

On the military side, the delegation stressed the importance of increasing the pressure on the Houthi Militia in order to force it to the dialogue table, while at the same time addressing the most pressing humanitarian needs of the Yemeni people.

LARGEST BUDGET IN THE HISTORY OF THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

SAUDI ARABIA ANNOUNCES LARGEST BUDGET IN ITS HISTORY FOR 2019

SPENDING SAR 1.106 TN about 7% higher than the projected expenditure by end of fiscal year 2018

REVENUES SAR 975 BN 9% increase over expected revenue by the end of 2018

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman said economic and structural reforms are progressing steadily towards achieving the objectives of the Kingdom's Vision 2030, which aims to:

- Diversify the economy
- Realize economic stability and financial sustainability
- Stimulate the private sector
- Work to improve the standard of living for all citizens

// We here announce the budget for the fiscal year 1440/1441H (2019) as the largest budget in the history of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which aims to support economic growth in the Kingdom, raise the efficiency of spending and achieve sustainability and financial stability within the objectives of Saudi Vision 2030 //

King Salman bin Abdulaziz //

BUDGET 2019

// This year's budget continues to improve the efficiency of public fiscal management, and promote economic stability and financial sustainability. //

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman



Saudi Arabia Successfully Launches SaudiSat 5A and SaudiSat 5B High-Resolution Imagery

RIYADH, December 07, 2018 – Saudi Arabia successfully launched the SaudiSat 5A and SaudiSat 5B satellites into outer space on board the Chinese rocket “Long March 2D” from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in China on Friday at 12:12 PM Beijing time.

The launch is a result of efforts made by King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KACST) over the years to transfer, localise and develop numerous advanced technologies, including satellite technologies, building local capabilities in these fields and establishing a sophisticated infrastructure.

These collective efforts enabled KACST to develop and manufacture the two satellites at its facilities by Saudi scientists. The two satellites will be used to provide government agencies access to high-resolution images of a quality on par with those found in developed countries for use in various fields related to national development. Management and operation of the two satellites will be handled from an advanced control station located at KACST in Riyadh.

King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology launched 13 Saudi satellites between 2000 and 2017 for imaging, surveying, and space exploration. This included conducting scientific experiments on board SaudiSat4 in 2014 in cooperation with the American Space Administration NASA and Stanford University, as well as taking part in the Chang’e 4 space mission in cooperation with the Chinese Space Agency, which explored the dark side of the moon earlier in this year.



Saudi Arabia's Heritage Site in Focus as Formula E Championship

AD DIRIYAH, November 27, 2018 AD Diriyah home to the Middle East's first Formula E race, Known as The Home of Kings and Heroes and just minutes from Saudi Arabia's capital city Riyadh, Ad Diriyah ushers in an era of E-racing in the Middle East by hosting Season 5's inaugural ABB FIA Formula E Championship race on December 15, 2018.

Ad Diriyah is the historical site of the establishment of the first Saudi state and is considered the birthplace of the Kingdom. It embodies the soul of the nation's history, and the promise of its future. For hundreds of years, its cool mud-brick buildings have been a refuge for those seeking respite from the heat of the desert and a hub where communities can gather, share and grow together. As the Kingdom continues to embrace new technologies, develop renewable energy sources and invest in electrified mobility, hosting the Formula E race at Ad Diriyah represents the essence of Saudi Arabia – a gateway connecting the past and the future and a space for preservation, innovation and togetherness.

Located just minutes from Riyadh, Ad Diriyah was founded in 1446 CE on the banks of the Wadi Hanifah, surrounded by lush agricultural lands. Between 1744 and 1818 CE, Ad Diriyah became the site for the first Saudi capital, known as At-Turaif.



King Salman Energy Park sparks new era of growth for Saudi Arabia's energy sector

RIYADH, December 11, 2018

HRH Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz today broke ground on the King Salman Energy Park (SPARK), located in the Kingdom's Eastern Province. SPARK is a 50-square-kilometer energy city megaproject which will position Saudi Arabia as a global energy, industrial and technology hub. The first phase of the development will be completed by 2021.

SPARK has already attracted investments from foreign and local companies to produce and manufacture goods and services in the Kingdom's energy sector. The investment in the first phase of the project is expected to be around \$1.6 billion.

Saudi Aramco is at the heart of SPARK's development, helping bring businesses together to drive efficiencies and promote technological development, manufacturing and exports, as well as build a world-class energy supply chain. SPARK's role in enabling localization within the Kingdom's energy supply chain aligns with the strategic goals of Saudi Aramco's In-Kingdom Total Value Add (IKTVA) program.