



SAUDI ARABIA IN FOCUS

MONTHLY UPDATE | Saudi Mission to the EU

JUNE | JULY 2019

In This Issue

Saudi Arabia at the G20 Summit

Vision 2030 Continues to Empower Saudi Women and Expand Global Partnerships

Combatting Terrorism & Terror Financing

The Latest: Saudi Arabia in Brussels



From the Ambassador

I would like to seize the opportunity to congratulate the European Parliament on the launch of its 9th term, to the government of Finland on the start of its presidency of the European Council and to Ursula von der Leyen on her confirmation to head the next European Commission. May these new beginnings for all of you be basked in wisdom and success. This moment of transition for the European Union mirrors the cultural, social, and economic transformation taking place in Saudi Arabia under **Vision 2030**.

In these momentous times, we are especially grateful for the long experience and expertise of our Foreign Minister HE Ibrahim Al-Assaf and our Minister of State for Foreign Affairs HE Adel al-Jubeir.

The aggregation of their high capacities builds a particularly robust institutional framework for the foreign relations of Saudi Arabia, which is instrumental in conveying transparently and accurately Saudi stances to the international community and improving even further strategic relationships around the world for the advancement of Saudi **Vision 2030**.

Unfortunately, Iran and its proxies continue their campaign of aggression. Four oil tankers were sabotaged in the Gulf in May, two more in June. In July, they kept scaling up their acts of piracy until finally seizing a British tanker. Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia has maintained its commitment to employ the necessary resources to keep the global energy supply stable and reassure the markets that Iran will not succeed in bullying the world by upsetting the oil markets.

We renew our call to the international community, and especially to the European Union, to stay united in the response against these attacks. When the danger against our future grows graver, we must grow closer together.

Saad bin Mohammad Alarify

Head of the Saudi Mission to the European Union

SAUDI ARABIA STRENGTHENS GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS AT THE G20 SUMMIT

The 2019 G20 summit concluded at the end of June in Osaka, Japan. This year's edition of the annual meeting of the world's 19 biggest economies and the European Union focused on global sustainable development, addressing an array of issues intrinsically related to Vision 2030 - and, therefore, of profound importance for Saudi Arabia.

The themes discussed were all aligned with Saudi Vision 2030: "Global Economy," "Trade and Investment," "Innovation," "Environment and Energy," "Employment," "Women's empowerment," "Development" and "Health."



Representing the Kingdom, HRH Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman was enthusiastically greeted by other world leaders and held highly productive meetings. The summit was a momentous occasion for Saudi Arabia to move forward in strategic relationships with other countries and to reaffirm its commitment to the main issues concerning the international community.



Family photo of the 2019 G20 Osaka summit (Photo: Alan Santos/PR)

The Crown Prince was accompanied by Foreign Minister HE Ibrahim Al-Assaf and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs HE Adel al-Jubeir, who provided invaluable support in these achievements for the Kingdom's foreign relations.

During his speech at the summit's closing session, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman welcomed hosting the next edition of the G20 summit in Saudi Arabia. His Highness stressed the Kingdom's determination to work together with all countries "to find a consensus to crises in the world." He added that "the empowerment of women and youth is key to global growth." The Crown Prince concluded by stating that "in the G20, we have a responsibility to create an environment in which the world thrives."

Follow us on twitter: @KsaMissionEU

Follow Ambassador Al-Aarify: @SaadAlarify



VISION 2030 CONTINUES TO EMPOWER SAUDI WOMEN, EXPAND GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS



Saudi Arabia becomes a full member of the Financial Action Task Force

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has become the first Arab country to be granted full membership of the Financial Action Task Force, the inter-governmental body that is the watchdog and standard-setter in the global fight against money laundering and terror financing.



Financial Action Task Force Plenary session
(Photo: FATF)

Saudi Arabia was already an observer with the FATF since 2015 and had been working closely with the institution to review and improve its financial system's security and reliability. The Kingdom is also a founding member of the Middle East and North Africa Financial Action Task Force, established in November 2004.

This achievement is one of the positive outcomes of the implementation of Vision 2030, as well as a serious commitment to compliance with international and bilateral conventions on this matter. Moreover, Saudi Arabia has demonstrated consistent progress and effectiveness in implementing the steps of the action plan approved as a result of the mutual evaluation process, conducted with the FATF during the last couple of years.

Such improvements are also a fundamental part of Saudi counter-terrorism strategy of hunting down the men, cutting off the money and changing the mindsets on which terrorist organizations rely.

Saudi Arabia's admission to the global policy-making group is an international acknowledgment of the Kingdom's efforts to promote every necessary reform to its regulatory framework in order to prevent money laundering and, especially, the financing of terrorism.

Advancing Saudi partnership with South Korea under Vision 2030

Saudi Arabia is making strides in the realization of its Vision 2030 transformation. A substantial move in this direction has been the expansion of crucial partnerships way beyond the traditional reliance on the oil trade. The most recent instance of this new approach is the enhancing of cooperation between Saudi Arabia and South Korea. Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's historic visit to South Korea accomplished paradigm-changing improvements to the partnership between the two countries.

The two leaders agreed to establish a joint "Vision Realisation Office," that will be based in Riyadh and Seoul and work continuously to expand the bilateral cooperation. Always focusing on sustainability, the two governments signed 16 memoranda of understanding, including relating to eco-friendly automotive technology and hydrogen energy.



Prince Mohammed bin Salman and South Korean President Moon Jae-in (Photo: AP)

Apart from the government agreements, the Crown Prince secured eight MoU's between Saudi and Korean companies. The Korean Ministry of Trade estimates the value of the deals at 8.3 billion dollars, which will ultimately revert to jobs and further development.



Saudi inventor Hadeel Ayoub is a tech visionary that founded BrightSign, a London-based tech company. Ayoub has focused much of her research on wearables technology, which led her to design and program a smart glove that translates sign language into speech. BrightSign's smart glove is already being tested in some schools to help non-verbal children in the classroom. It is expected to launch later this year.



Captain Yasmeen Al-Maimani became the first Saudi woman to fly a commercial airplane. She celebrated her achievement on June 29th alongside representatives of the Saudi General Authority of Civil Aviation. Capt. Al-Maimani, who has a commercial pilot's license from the US and received training at Prince Sultan Aviation Academy in Jeddah, is now proudly flying with Nesma Airlines.



Princess Reema presented her credentials at the White House

HRH Princess Reema bint Bandar presented her credentials as Saudi Arabia's ambassador to the US on the 4th of July. Princess Reema is the first Saudi female ambassador, having previously been the vice-president of Women's Affairs at the Saudi General Sports Authority and head of the Saudi Federation for Community Sports. As also a prominent entrepreneur and philanthropist, Princess Reema has been her whole life an outstanding advocate for women empowerment.

Follow us on twitter: @KsaMissionEU

Follow Ambassador Al-Aarify: @SaadAlarify

VISION 2030 CONTINUES TO EMPOWER SAUDI WOMEN, EXPAND GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS

Summer bursts in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with leisure, sports, culture and world-class entertainment for everybody

One of the features of Saudi Vision 2030 is that more and more the expression "like never before in Saudi Arabia" is being used to describe a wide range of developments in the Kingdom. And it is true: the transformation happening in Saudi Arabia is much broader than just economic diversification, it is a genuine breaking of the paradigms that molded the old widespread preconceptions regarding the country.

It is in the context of this tectonic shift towards the future that Saudi Arabia just hosted the largest-ever entertainment festival of its history. The city of Jeddah became the world-class platform for a celebration of a vibrant Saudi society through the "Jeddah Season: Sea & Culture" festival, that took place from June 8 until July 18.

Jeddah Season offered visitors the most varied range of options for entertainment, leisure, and sports.

The events included pop-up retail stores and sports venues, live performances of circus and theater, comedy shows, art exhibitions, street parades, pop-up versions of renowned international restaurants,



(The Jeddah World Fest stage. Photo: ROQU Media)

arcade and virtual reality games and concerts at the biggest outdoors stage ever built in the Middle East. Music fans were especially thrilled to experience breathtaking live performances by iconic artists of all styles. A duo of renowned European DJs swayed the crowd by remixing a blend of Arab and international songs, and Saudi fans of K-pop were mesmerized by an acclaimed Korean band's sensational performance.

Jeddah Season was wrapped up by the groundbreaking first edition of the Jeddah World Fest international music festival, which electrified an audience of more than 40 thousand people with performances by outstanding international stars.

The spectacular event brought to the Kingdom tremendous talents and great live productions from around the world, some of which were even joined on stage by Saudi Arabia's own greatest talents.

The festival was carefully outlined to be wholly inclusive, and offer attractions to the most diverse fans of all backgrounds and persuasions. It is already confirmed to happen annually for the next five years and is open for everybody over 16 years old, without any form of segregation. As aptly put by one of the performers, "music unites us" - and this is the sentiment the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia wishes to promote.

COMBATting TERRORISM & TERROR FINANCING



(Photo: Reuters)

Saudi Forces capture ISIS leader in Yemen

Saudi Special Forces conducted a successful operation that resulted in the capture of the Emir of ISIS in Yemen and other senior members of the terrorist group. The raid was the latest example of the Kingdom's deep commitment to uproot terrorism. HRH Prince Khalid bin Salman, vice Minister of Defense, later tweeted that "the Kingdom's military operations in Yemen are aimed at restoring the legitimate government of Yemen and preventing terrorist groups like the Houthis, Al Qaeda, and ISIS from using the country to destabilize the region and to threaten the global economy." The operation also led to the apprehension of several weapons, ammunition, electronic devices and cash in various currencies. Saudi Special Forces took all precautionary measures, and there were no civilian casualties. Saudi Arabia remains firmly resolute to employ all the means and resources necessary to eradicate the threat of terrorism.



THE LATEST : SAUDI ARABIA IN TUNE WITH THE EU

HE Ambassador Saad Alarify enhanced Saudi-EU alignment through engagement in a series of constructive dialogs with senior members of EU Institutions



HE Ambassador Alarify with General Claudio Graziano, chairman of the EU Military Committee



HE Ambassador Alarify with Marc Giacomini, Deputy managing director for Human rights, global and multilateral issues at the EEAS

The Ambassador paid a visit to General Claudio Graziano, chairman of the EU Military Committee to discuss matters of mutual concern relating to security and defense. He also had meetings with Mrs. Alexandra Jour-Schroeder, acting Deputy Director-General for Justice and Consumers in the European Commission; with HE Ambassador Micheal Fluegger, the German representative to the Political and Security Committee of the Council of the EU; with Mr. Jean-Christophe Belliard, Deputy Secretary-General of the EEAS; with Dr. Colin Scicluna, Deputy Managing Director for the Middle East and North Africa in the EEAS; with Mr. Jean Louise De Brouwer, Director for Neighbourhood and Middle East in the European Civil Protection & Humanitarian Aid Operations; with Mr. Marc Giacomini, Deputy managing director for Human rights, global and multilateral issues at the EEAS; and with Mr. Tomáš Zdechovský, Member of European Parliament from the Czech Republic.



HE Ambassador Alarify with HE Jean-Christophe Belliard, Deputy Secretary General of the EEAS



HE Ambassador Alarify with HE Ambassador Micheal Fluegger, German representative to the Political and Security Committee



HE Ambassador Alarify with Alexandra Jour-Schroeder, acting Deputy Director General for Justice and Consumers

Saudi Arabia joins EU in coordinating efforts to help restore stability to Sudan

HE Ambassador Alarify and a delegation from the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs met with international partners in a roundtable discussion organized by the EEAS regarding the current situation in Sudan. The meeting included representatives from France, Germany, Norway, the United Kingdom, the United States, the African Union, Egypt, Ethiopia, the United Arab Emirates, and the United Nations, as well as representatives of the key international financial institutions.

Saudi Arabia stresses its solidarity with the people of Sudan and fully supports a transition that allows the achievement of peace, stability, and economic recovery. The Kingdom is committed to collaborate with the other parties in the group and coordinate its approach to supporting Sudan.



HE Ambassador Alarify with a delegation from the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the EEAS headquarters

Follow us on twitter: @KsaMissionEU

Follow Ambassador Al-Aarify: @SaadAlarify