



Mission of Saudi Arabia to the European Union October 2020

*Welcome to the monthly newsletter of the mission of Saudi Arabia
to the European Union.
We hope that you will enjoy reading a variety of news on Saudi Arabia.*



Celebrations of the 90th National Day of Saudi Arabia with a slogan “Himma Hatta al-Qimma”

The 90th National Day of Saudi Arabia was on 23 September 2020 throughout the Kingdom and all over the World, with a very special slogan this year, “Himma Hatta al-Qimma”

I want to take the opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to all of you, particularly to

of the Kingdom by the late founder, declaring the end of 32 years of war throughout the country. Ever since, Saudi Arabia strived and flourished on the foundation of the preservation of human values, promoting peace and goodness, continuously investing in knowledge and development to secure a better future for its people, the Islamic nation and the whole World.

Today, Saudi Arabia is a key Global player in the most strategic spheres and has obtained a strategic position on the multilateral and regional dimensions. With the vision 2030, Saudi Arabia is set to define the power of an insightful leadership and a dynamic nation.

Joining the Saudi people in their celebrations, many international figures have conveyed their best wishes on this very happy occasion.

effects of the pandemic. They have done an amazing job, and I want to thank them for their dedication. All in all, the country has performed rather well, and this is also thanks to the resilience of the Saudi people. The decision, taken by the highest authority, to limit access to the holy sites for Hajj and Umrah to a very small number of people has also been a difficult, but necessary one to prevent the spread of COVID-19. I salute the courage of the authorities for having taken such a measure. I hope we will, all together, overcome this difficult period. I would like to congratulate the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and the Saudi people for their National Day.” –

Dominique Mineur: Belgian Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Sultanate of Oman, and the Republic of Yemen.



Saudi Arabia & the EU strategic Cooperation on Solar Power

The planet is heating up, and Europe has led the way in regional and global efforts to tackle climate change and in foresighted energy and resource efficiency (Circular Economy) initiatives which underpin the transition to a low-carbon, secure and competitive economy. Saudi Arabia is collaborating with the European Union on many projects in this field, including on solar power.

A prime example of such cooperation is King Saud University's successful participation in the STAGE-STE project, led by Spain's Centre for Energy, Environmental and Technological

The EU-funded project behind this effort was prepared in the framework of the European Energy Research Alliance's (EERA) joint programme on concentrating solar power (CSP).

The project brought together 43 partners, including solar energy institutes, national agencies, specialist organisations, and companies from 19 countries covering every major geographical region.

It generated useful data and know-how and ensured the exchange of best practices. The participating groups included the European Solar Thermal Electricity Association from Belgium, the Institute of Electrical Engineering-China Academy of Sciences, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (Australia), Mexico's National Autonomous University, as well as partners in the Middle East and North Africa. Both Vision 2030 and the G20 Presidency agenda emphasize the need for more and closer cooperation on renewable energy and environmental projects, and Saudi Arabian institutions are ready to commit.

[> Read more about the project](#)

The G20 Framework Working Group (FWG) launches an Action Plan to support the Global Economy through the COVID19 Pandemic.

Due to the pandemic the Global economy is under pressure, and the work of the G20 has rarely been as crucial as it is now.

The G20 Framework Working Group (FWG) met virtually on 24 September 2020 to advance the G20 Action Plan *Supporting the Global Economy through the COVID19 Pandemic*.

The Action Plan was first endorsed by the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) on 15 April 2020, with a commitment to regularly review, track implementation, and report on progress in upcoming FMCBG meetings and at the G20 Leaders' Summit in November 2020.

At their meeting in July 2020 Framework Working Group members identified areas to update the G20 Action Plan as agreed by the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors.

During the meeting, Dr Naif Alghaith, Saudi Policy Lead for the FWG, said, "The initial phase of the COVID-19 pandemic caused unprecedented declines in economic activities due to the great lockdown, market disruption, and the shutting down of major sectors of the global economy. In response, G20 members have agreed on an Action Plan, which sets out the key principles guiding our response and our commitments to specific actions to drive forward international economic cooperation as we navigate this crisis and look ahead to a robust and sustained global economic recovery. While the worst may be behind us, uncertainty remains, and economic development is still evolving."

Following that, the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors agreed to update the G20 Action Plan to take into account the evolving economic and health situations.

[> Read more about the G20](#)



Tech as the enabler of Vision 2030

"Although oil and gas are essential pillars of our economy, we have begun expanding our investments into additional sectors. Diversifying our economy is vital for its sustainability".

(His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman in 2016, at the presentation of Vision 2030.)

A year later, NEOM – Arabic for "new future" – was launched. NEOM is the vision of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman and is a centerpiece of Saudi Arabia's 2030 Vision plan to grow and diversify the

Today, Saudi Arabia accounts for 15% of all green building projects in the Arab world, including the highest concentration of gold and platinum LEED-certified buildings. In a mere decade, Saudi Arabia has made significant headway towards its sustainability goals.

The growing adoption of green building technology coincides with aligning the manufacturing and service industry with a future-ready, sustainable approach.

All initiatives under Vision 2030 will boast an equally holistic integration of critical assets, safety systems, and "Artificial Intelligence" and "Internet of Things" enabled automation. With

development. While NEOM is being driven and initially funded by Saudi Arabia, it is an international project that will be led, populated, and funded by partners from all over the world.

NEOM is the embodiment of Saudi Arabia's emphasis on green buildings. Coupled with smart city initiatives, it is expected to drive the nation's transition into a value and knowledge-based economy.

Green Buildings

In 2009 The King Abdullah University of Science and Technology in Thuwal became the country's first *Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design* (LEED) certified building.

stage, the resulting projects will boast unprecedented efficiency and optimal performance. Furthermore, the provision for full programmability, at scale, adds the possibility for seamless future improvements.

[> Read more about NEOM](#)



Faces of Saudi Arabia

Shahad Alazzaz, Founder of Azaz Architects

As a child, I was heavily exposed to culture, the arts, and to a lesser extent politics, due to the nature of my father's work, and I grew to be ambitious as a result of my mother's strong character, a combination that made me the person I am today.

I am the founder of architectural design firm Azaz Architects and was born and raised in Riyadh as the second of five children. My sister, Shihana, is the oldest of my siblings, then after me is Shahla, Abdullah, and the youngest Leyana.

[> Read the inspiring story of Shahad](#)



A path for the future through our Vision 2030

During the General Debate at the 75th session

At the G20 Leaders' Summit last March, the focus was on coordinating global efforts to combat the pandemic and curb its humanitarian and economic impacts. During the March summit, Saudi Arabia pledged \$ 500

tremendous challenge in the form of COVID-19 pandemic and its health, humanitarian, and economic repercussions, which compel all of us to stand together in order to face the common challenges to our world.

Saudi Arabia also stressed its continued promotion of global response efforts to confront the pandemic and address its repercussions.

Saudi Arabia reiterated that in regional and international spheres, it advocates a policy that relies on respect for international laws and principles, and continues to work on achieving security, stability, and prosperity in its region, while supporting political solutions to conflicts and combating extremism in all its forms.

Holding the G20 Presidency, Saudi Arabia is coordinating international efforts on Covid19.

responses.

In the Kingdom, we choose a path for the future through our Vision 2030, which aspires to create a robust economy and a community which interacts with its surrounding and contributes actively to the progress and civilization of humankind

(The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud)

His Majesty rounded off his speech by stating,

From this podium, we call for the intensification of global efforts to confront the great challenges facing humanity in the areas of climate change, poverty, organized crime, the spread of epidemics, and other challenges which require that we strengthen our cooperation to work for a bright future so generations to come may live in stability, peace, and security.

Guest of the Month

Ambassador Patrick Simonnet, Head of the EU Delegation in Riyadh

On June 16th 2020 Ambassador Simonnet was nominated as the new Head of the EU Delegation to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Kingdom of Bahrain, and the Sultanate of Oman. Simonnet has also assumed the role of the European Union's Special Envoy to the OIC. Previously he served as the head of the Horn of Africa, East Africa Division at the European External Action Service, and prior to that Head of the EU Delegation to Iraq.

We welcome Ambassador Simonnet to Saudi Arabia and we wish him an excellent time in our country.



G20

Recent:

Energy Ministers Meeting,
27 – 28 September 2020.

Coming up:

Tourism Ministers Meeting,
7 October 2020.
Anti-Corruption Minister Meeting,
22 October 2020.

Brussels

Recent:

On 23 September the 90th Saudi National Day was celebrated in Brussels.

Mr Josep Borrell received Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, for a working lunch on 29 September 2020. Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud also meet with the President of the European Council, Charles Michel, and with the Chair of the EU's Political and Security Committee, Sofie From-Emmesberg.



> WATCH THE VIDEO OF the Minister of Foreign Affairs
being received by President Charles Michel

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