



**Gulf Research Center**  
Knowledge for All



## Understanding the European Union

A 5-day Executive Learning Seminar  
The GCC-EU Partnership Program



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Executive Learning Program  
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Brussels, Belgium  
September 1 to 5, 2005





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leaders

innovative independent sector

strategic

government

relationship

network of experts



## What is the European Union Program?

- ◆ An innovative and in-depth executive learning program focusing on the key strategic relationship between the Arab Gulf region and the European Union

- ◆ A program bringing together leaders from government, business, academia and the independent sector for a week long session of highly focused presentations and intense debate.

- ◆ An opportunity to gain unprecedented knowledge and insight into the workings of the European Union from knowledgeable practitioners and insiders

- ◆ An initial building block in the establishment of a life-long network of experts



## A program of unparalleled importance

**Without a doubt, Europe is the strategic partner of the future for the Gulf region.**

- > Overall trade volume between the GCC and the EU stands at well over 50 billion Euros. Prospects are for further growth in trade and investment.
- > The Euro is emerging as a leading world currency openly competing with the dollar.

“The benefits for both of us are enormous. In this small planet of ours we cannot avoid each other, nor should we. It does not take a stretch of the imagination to see what great things we can achieve if we mobilize our collective resources for the benefit of our peoples.”

H.R.H. Prince Saud Al-Faisal, Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia in a speech to the European Policy Center, February 2004.

- > By 2007, there is likely to be one economic Europe, a constitutional Europe and a political Europe. The EU is the rising actor on the world stage.
- > Geographic Proximity means that the Gulf and Europe and neighbors drawing ever closer together.



EU Commissioner for External Relations and the EU's Neighborhood Policy Benita Ferrero-Waldner meeting with GCC Secretary-General Abdulrahman Hamed Al-Attiah in March 2005.



The Barroso Commission November 2004.





The EU Heads of State after EU Enlargement May 2004.

## Providing practical take-home advantages

Participating in the European Union Program is both unique and practical. What you get after five days of learning is unprecedented insight combined with contacts that could determine your future path as a professional. Specifically, the program provides:

- > An opportunity to learn from people who know best ranging from policy practitioners and academic specialists
- > The ability to take advantage of the growing strategic partnership between the GCC and the EU by a thorough understanding of the institution of the European Union and its various functions and roles

- > A specialized focus on how to best represent regional interests vis-à-vis European counterparts.

- > Promoting dialogue and expanding information exchange on issues of regional and international concerns.

*“As a union of 25 states with over 450 million people producing a quarter of the world’s Gross National Product, and a wide range of instruments at its disposal, the European Union is inevitably a global player.”*

European Security Strategy, December 2003

- > Creating awareness of current developments and thoroughly understanding the complexities behind today’s decision-making processes

- > Providing unparalleled insights into an issue where there exists a significant information and knowledge gap.





“The European Union is a global player ...  
The EU serves as an anchor of stability in  
its neighborhood and far beyond.”

Jose Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission

### Added values

- Customized content for each program session to maximize relevance and enhance value;
- A conference reader containing background readings and course materials. This reader will serve as reference tool even after the program is concluded;
- Building exclusive institutional and organizational partnerships among all participants;
- Providing a forum for continuous e-learning through the provision of services on the GRC website related to European issues and their relationship to the Gulf;
- Formulating an alumni network that seeks to establish lasting partnerships;
- Focusing on problem-solving mechanisms as a means to promote relationships and gain knowledge.

Program outline

### Unprecedented insight and expertise

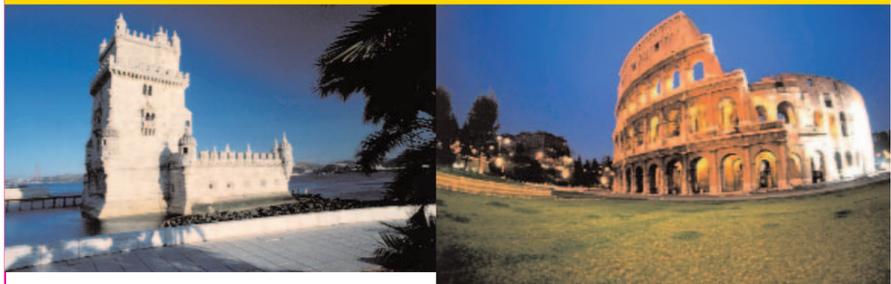
The European Union Program is conducted by the **Gulf Research Center (GRC)** in conjunction with the **Center for Applied Policy Analysis** at the University of Munich in Germany.



**GRC** is a leading Arab think tank focusing on political, strategic, economic and social research questions confronting the Arab world. GRC combines the qualities of research expertise, a broad network of researchers and partners from which to draw on with its in-depth knowledge about the current status of public policy research in the Arab world.



**CAP** is the largest university policy research institute on European and international questions in Germany. Headed by Prof. Dr. Werner Weidenfeld, the Center's director, the CAP brings together key policy practitioners from throughout Europe to discuss in-depth the politics and policies of the European Union and how these relate to the Gulf region.



**Abdulaziz Sager**  
is Chairman of the Gulf Research Center located in Dubai, UAE



**Prof. Dr. Werner Weidenfeld**  
is a Member of the Executive Board, Bertelsmann Foundation, Gütersloh and the Director of the Center for Applied Policy Research, Ludwig-Maximilian-University, Munich, Germany.



**Josef Janning**  
is a member of the Management Committee, Bertelsmann Foundation, Gütersloh and the Director of the Bertelsmann Group for Policy Research at Center for Applied Policy Research, Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich, Germany.



**Dr. Christian Koch**  
is Program Director GCC-EU Relations at the Gulf Research Center located in Dubai, UAE



**Jürgen Turek**  
is Managing Director of the Center for Applied Policy Research (CAP) at the Geschwister-Scholl-Institute for Political Science, University of Munich where he also serves in the capacity of Director of the Research Group on Global Affairs.



**Felix Neugart**  
is Senior Research Fellow, Bertelsmann Group for Policy Research.





At the end of the program, participants will walk away with a comprehensive understanding of the institution of the European Union, its various organs and their policy function, and the EU's relevance within the framework of Gulf politics.

## Program outline

Based on an intensive five day course, the program sessions to be included are:

### Day 1:

**Introduction:  
How to Understand Europe**

**Day 2:  
The Institutional Design of the EU**

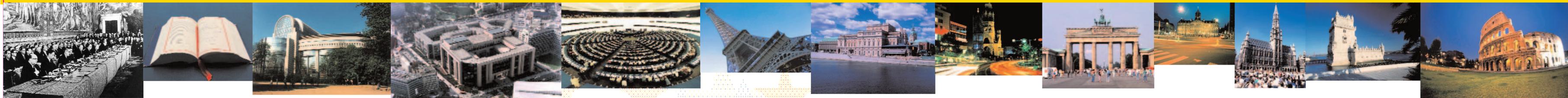
**Day 3:  
Europe as an Economic Actor**

### Day 4:

**The Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union**

**Day 5:  
GCC-EU Relations**

Program outline



#### DAY 1 HOW TO UNDERSTAND EUROPE

> **How to Understand Europe**  
Prof. Dr. Werner Weidenfeld  
Director, Center for Applied Policy Research

#### DAY 2 THE INSTITUTIONAL DESIGN OF THE EU

- > **The Institutional Design of the European Union**  
Dr. Eckart Cuntz  
Head, Europe Department, Foreign Ministry, Germany
- > **Reforming the European Union: The Constitutional Debate**  
Prof. Geoffrey Edwards,  
University of Cambridge
- > **The Future of the European Union after the Enlargement**  
Prof. Dr. András Inotai,  
General Director, Institute for World Economy, Budapest

> **Visit to the EU Commission**

#### DAY 3 EUROPE AS AN ECONOMIC ACTOR

- > **Europe as an Economic Actor**  
Prof. Dr. Horst Günter Krenzler  
Former General Director, European Commission
- > **The European Economic and Monetary Union**  
Dr. Martin W. Hüfner  
Chief Economist, HypoVereinsbank
- > **The European Union and Trade: Competitiveness and Influence**  
Dr. Manfred Wegner  
Former Chairman, Institute for Economic Research, Halle

#### DAY 4 THE COMMON FOREIGN & SECURITY POLICY OF THE EU

- > **The Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union**  
Josef Janning,  
Center for Applied Policy Research
- > **Security Challenges for the European Union**  
Dr. Günter Burghardt,  
Ambassador for the European Union to the USA and Former Director General Foreign Policy, European Commission, Belgium
- > **Conflict Management of the European Union**  
Dr. Wim van Meurs,  
Radboud Universitet Nijmegen

#### DAY 5 GCC-EU RELATIONS

- > **Visit to NATO Headquarters**
- > **The European Union and the Middle East**  
Dr. Tobias Schumacher,  
Research Fellow, Mediterranean Programme, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, European University Institute, Florence
- > **Supporting Political Reform and Good Governance in the GCC Countries**  
Dr. Gerd Nonneman  
University of Lancaster
- > **Prospects for Economic Cooperation and Investment between the EU and the GCC**  
Prof. Rodney Wilson,  
University of Durham

#### Contact:

**Dr. Christian Koch,**  
Program Director for GCC-EU Relations,  
tel: +9714-324-7770 ext. 424  
e-mail: ckoch@grc.ae





### > Who should attend?

- ◆ Mid- to high-level professionals who seek a qualitative edge to the information they receive and to the relationships they want to build.
- ◆ Government Managers who wish to expand their in-depth understanding of the institution of the European Union, the macroeconomic and political changes taking place within the EU, and the role of the EU in Gulf affairs and the overall GCC-EU relationship
- ◆ Corporate Managers wishing to broaden their knowledge of the European Union, place current developments into their proper business context, and being able to evaluate opportunities for future relationships.

The European Union Program reflects the complexities of today's global environment and the overlapping and intersecting interests of various sectors of society. As such, the composition of the participants is a reflection of the multitude of institutions concerned with the relationship between the Gulf and Europe.

### > Methodology

The Gulf Research Center structures its learning programs by emphasizing social research and critical thinking tools to maximize the value for course participants.

The program has been developed around three layers: classroom teaching, roundtable discussion and practical field visits.

#### ◆ **CLASSROOM TEACHING:**

Each day is structured around individual presentations focusing on a specific aspect of the overall topic. This will help set the stage for the discussions to follow.

#### ◆ **OPEN DISCUSSION PERIODS:**

The purpose of the sessions will be to strengthen analytical skills and to provide a forum for better communication and interaction among the participants. In this way, each attendee will gain a systematic understanding of the European Union and be able to apply the lessons learned to their professional area of expertise.

#### ◆ **PRACTICAL FIELD VISITS:**

The program will also include specialized visits to the institutions of the European Union such as the European Commission and the European Council. This will allow participants to get a better interactive feel for the environment and to relate their classroom experience through discussion with EU policymakers.





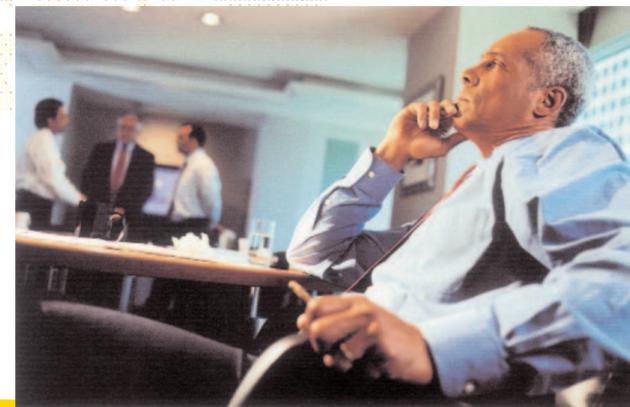
## Eligibility

To be eligible for participation, individuals must show that their professional responsibilities are directly related to the issue of GCC-EU relations and that through their participation they can add significant value to the promotion and expansion of such ties. While an advanced university degree is desirable, it is not essential.

The conference language will be English thus applicants must have a thorough working knowledge of the English language to be able to follow the presentations and engage in detailed discussion and exchange of opinion.

Successful candidates are also expected to attend all sessions of the program meaning they have to be able to confirm their availability for the entire period of September 1 to 5, 2005. Participants are given one day each for arrival and departure.

Once candidates have been accepted, they will be provided with a username and password enabling them access to the dedicated program website which includes the program's reading materials and their personal information. Participants will be able to use their access to receive any updates to the program, edit their own profiles or convey any questions and concerns to the relevant GRC personnel. As material will be constantly added right up the beginning of the program, individuals will be encouraged and expected to check in regularly to the web portal.



## > Logistics

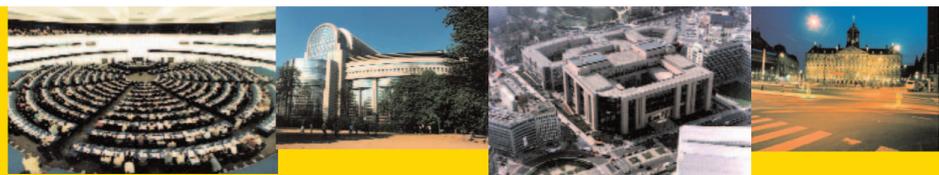
**Date:** September 1-5, 2005

**Location:** Chateau du Lac - located about 30 minutes south of the center of Brussels in the Brabant Wallon district. This first-class accommodation and conference facility provides an intimate atmosphere aimed at maximizing the contact between the speakers and the participants as well as the participants themselves.

**Fee:** The fee for the European Union Program is 7,500 Euros. This includes participation in all the sessions of the program, all necessary conference materials, the conference reader, hotel accommodations as well as lunches for the entire week and dinners on selected evenings. The fee does not include travel expenses to and from the meeting venue. Payment of the conference fee is due in full prior to the start of the program.

**Application:** To apply for the program, a completed application form must be submitted to the Gulf Research Center. A form is included or can be downloaded through the GRC website. Prospective candidates are encouraged to apply online. Only complete applications will be considered. Of particular importance are the open fields in which the candidate explains of why he/she will benefit from participation. Thus, these fields should be filled in with special care.

**Contact:** Dr. Christian Koch, Program Director for GCC-EU Relations, +9714-324-7770 ext. 424 or e-mail under [ckoch@grc.ae](mailto:ckoch@grc.ae)



To apply, please fill in and submit the enclosed form.



