

PRESS RELEASE

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JOINT COMMUNIQUE

Meeting between the European Community and
the Gulf Cooperation Council
Brussels, 23 June 1987

1. A meeting between Ministerial representatives of the European Community and of the Co-operation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf was held in Brussels on 23 June 1987.
2. Sheikh Rashid Abdullah Al Na'imi, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates, Prince Saud Al Faisal Bin Abdul Aziz, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Mr Yusuf Bin Alawi Bin Abdullah, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman and Mr Abdullah Yacoub Bishara, Secretary General of the GCC represented the Gulf Co-operation Council.
3. Mr Leo Tindemans, Minister of External Relations of Belgium, President of the EC Council of Ministers, Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom, Mr K.E. Tygesen, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of Denmark and Mr Claude Cheysson, Member of the EC Commission, represented the European Community.

4. Recalling the wide measure of understanding reached at the previous Ministerial meeting held in Luxembourg on 14 October 1985, the two sides reiterated their common aim to conclude a comprehensive and mutually beneficial agreement to foster the broadest possible economic and commercial co-operation between the two regions.
5. They reviewed the results of the high level discussions held pursuant to the decision taken at their previous Ministerial meeting and were pleased to note the convergence of their views on the various aspects of co-operation in the field of energy, investment, industrial co-operation, science, technology and training.
6. They noted that their discussion of co-operation in the field of trade had been open and constructive, reflecting their common desire to improve trade exchanges to the mutual benefit of both regions. They recognized that such co-operation must be in full conformity with the international trading system and the obligations of both organizations and/or their Member States.
7. Both sides exchanged views on the future co-operation between the two regions in an open and friendly spirit and agreed to report to their respective constituencies and to recommend that measures should be taken to enable the two sides to enter into formal negotiations as soon as possible and not later than the autumn of 1987.
8. The Ministers had an exchange of views on recent international developments. Both sides emphasized their interest in promoting peace, security and stability and expressed their resolve to continue working to achieve these objectives.

In this regard they expressed their concern over the Iran-Iraq conflict, over the threats to neighbouring countries and over the implications for regional and world peace and security. They gave their support to the concerted international efforts aiming at ending the Iran-Iraq war and, in particular, to the activities of the UN Secretary-General and of the UN Security Council. They expressed their resolve to help ensure the success of these efforts.

The Ministers emphasized that the freedom of navigation and the free flow of oil and other traffic through the Gulf is of utmost importance for the international community.

Both sides renewed their support to Security Council Resolutions 552(1984) and 562(1986).

The two sides also discussed the situation in the Middle East. They reiterated their support for an International Peace Conference on the Middle East which would provide a framework for the participation of the parties concerned to bring about a just, global and lasting peace in the region.

The GCC side expressed its gratitude and appreciation for the warm reception and cordial hospitality accorded to them.