



Gulf Research Centre Cambridge

Knowledge for All

GULF RESEARCH MEETING

16th Gulf Research Meeting

21 - 23 July 2026 – University of Cambridge

Workshop No. 8

The GCC–EU Economic Bilateral Partnership: Strategic Opportunities and Economic Diplomacy

Workshop Schedule

Workshop Directors

Dr. Mohamed Ismail Sabry
Philipps University of Marburg, Germany

Dr. Ahmed Shoukry Rashad
Diplomatic Academy Vienna, Austria
Zayed University, United Arab Emirates

First Workshop Day - Wednesday, July 22, 2026

08:15 - 08:30 – Welcome coffee and tea

08:30 - 09:00 – Introduction of Workshop and Participants

09:00 - 09:45 – Paper 1: The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) and its Implications for European Union-Gulf Cooperation Council Trade, Connectivity, and Logistics

Author: Adam Krzymowski

Discussant: Mate Szalai

09:45 - 10:30 – Paper 2: The EU Green Deal and the Pathway of the Green Transition in the United Arab Emirates

Author: Mohamed Ismail Sabry

Discussant: Sameera Hablail

10:30 - 10:45 – Coffee and tea break

10:45 - 11:30 – Paper 3: Effect of FDI on bilateral trade between the EU and the GCC

Authors: Ahmed Alawadhi, Husam Arman, Aljaber Abdullah*

Discussant: Monged Eltahir Abdalla

11:30 - 12:15 – Paper 4: Economic Diplomacy and Regional Integration: A GCC Assessment of a GCC-EU Free Trade Agreement Scenario and Its Spillover Effects on Arab Economies

Author: Ahmed Shoukry Rashad

Discussant: Mona Mostafa El-Sholkamy

12:15 - 13:00 – Paper 5: CBAM, Trade Remedies, and Industrial Integration: Regulatory Challenges for EU-GCC Global Value Chains

Author: Shaymaa Bayoumi

Discussant: Corina Lozovan

13:00 - 15:00 – Lunch break (lunch served at King's College)

15:00 - 15:45 – Paper 6: How Does Clean Hydrogen Impact EU–GCC Energy Cooperation?

Author: Pauline Raabe

Discussant: Chiara Ferro

15:45 - 16:30 – Paper 7: European Green Policies and GCC–EU Trade: Economic Impacts, Competitiveness Redistribution, and Strategic Adjustment Paths

Author: Monged Abdalla Eltahir Abdalla, Abdalftah Hamed Ali, Quosay Awad Ahmed

Discussant: Adam Krzymowski

16:30 - 16:45 – Coffee and tea break

16:45 - 17:30 – Paper 8: The Role of City Twinning in Enhancing Economic and Diplomatic Partnerships between the GCC and EU Countries (Doha and European Cities as a Case Study)

Author: Sameer Hableil

Discussant: Mohamed Ismail Sabry

End of First Workshop Day

Evening Free

Second Workshop Day - Thursday, 23 July 2026

08:45 - 09:00 – Welcome coffee and tea

09:00 - 09:45 – Paper 9: Bilateral relations between the European Union and the Kingdom of Bahrain beyond traditional cooperation: from the Cooperation Agreement to the Strategic Partnership Agreement

Author: Chiara Ferro, Daniela La Foresta

Discussant: Ahmad Alawadhi

09:45 - 10:30 – Paper 10: The EU–Oman Trade Deal: Challenges to and Opportunities from Unlocking the Potential for Strategic Cooperation

Author: Rakesh Belwal, Shweta Belwal, Sangeeta Khorana

Discussant: Ahmed Shoukry Rashad

10:30 - 11:15 – Paper 11: What Makes a Reliable Energy Partner? European Public Opinion on External Energy Suppliers

Author: Martijn Vlaskamp

Discussant: Shaymaa Bayoumi

11:15 - 11:30 – Coffee and tea break

11:30 - 12:15 – Paper 12: Investing in Interdependence: Energy, Capital, and EU-Gulf Relations

Author: Corina Lozovan

Discussant: Pauline Raabe

12:15 - 13:00 – Paper 13: The role of SWFs in Economic Diversification and Diplomacy: The case of the UAE

Author: Mona Mostafa El-Sholkamy

Discussant: Sangeeta Khorana

13:00 - 14:15 – Lunch break (lunch is served from 13:00 till 14:00 at the workshop venue)

14:15 - 15:00 – Paper 14 Green, strategic, and just? – Evaluating EU-GCC cooperation in the renewable energy market and green hydrogen

Author: Mate Szalai

Discussant: Martijn Vlaskamp

15:00 - 15:45 – Paper 15: Enhancing UK-Oman Investment Relations: Strategies to Attract Greater Direct Investment into Oman Using AI Tools

Author: Malak Hamdan, Shaima Al Busaidi

Discussant: Rakesh Belwal

15:45 - 16:15 – Publication discussion and questionnaire

End of Second and Final Workshop Day

19:00 Farewell Dinner at King's College

Not in attendance:

Paper 16: Exploring the Potential of Trade of GCC with the EFTA: Evidence from Gravity Model Analysis

Authors: Sandeep Kaur, Harpreet Singh, Mankirat Singh, Rahul Kumar, Ekta Verma