

EURO-GULF MONITOR

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by Arnold Koka & Veronica Stigliani



EGIC
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WEEK IN BRIEF

1. Saudi Arabia chaired the G20 Summit, concluding its 2020 presidency.
2. The UAE announced the discovery of a massive oil reserve in Abu Dhabi and confirmed \$122 billion (USD) oil plan for 2021-2025.
3. US Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, toured Qatar and Saudi Arabia discussing Gulf Crisis, Iran and counter-terrorism.
4. Bahrain's Minister of Industry met with members of Israeli trade delegation in Manama.
5. Qatar and Turkey inked agreements worth billions of dollars amid Turkish economic crisis.



ROUND & ABOUT THE GULF

KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN

Thursday, 26 November – Two Bahraini Coast Guard vessels were intercepted and blocked by the Qatari Coast and Border Security patrol during the Kingdom's maritime exercise "Al-Manaa" after they reportedly entered Qatar's waters due to technical issues. The ships were later released. Bahrain's Government denounced Qatar's action as a violation of international law and GCC agreements.

STATE OF KUWAIT

Monday, 23 November – The United Kingdom and Kuwait held the 16th session of their Joint Steering Group, co-chaired by Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister, Khaled Al-Jarallah, and British Minister for Middle East and North Africa, James Cleverly. They assessed furthering cooperation in economy, defence, security, investment, culture, healthcare and cybersecurity.

SULTANATE OF OMAN

Wednesday, 25 November – Oman and China discussed cooperation in economy, trade and Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) projects in the Sultanate. The 9th Oman-China Joint Committee session was held to promote incentives in bilateral projects, particularly regarding the Chinese BRI and in the fields of manufacturing, energy and mining.

STATE OF QATAR

Thursday, 26 November – Qatar signed agreements worth billions with Turkey, including in industry, investment, trade, water resources and military, as Emir Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani and President Recep Tayyip Erdogan met for the 6th Qatar-Turkey Supreme Strategic Committee session in Ankara.

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

Saturday, 21 November – Saudi Arabia chaired the two-day G20 virtual Summit. Leaders of the 20 largest economies discussed and approved several initiatives regarding global distribution mechanisms of the COVID-19 vaccines, curbing economic recession, enhancing human rights and tackling climate change, among other issues.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Sunday, 22 November – The UAE's Supreme Petroleum Council (SPC) announced the discovery of an estimated 22 billion stock tank barrels of unconventional oil resources and 2 billion barrels of conventional oil reserves in Abu Dhabi.



- Saturday, 21 November—President of the European Council, Charles Michel, and President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen participated in the virtual G20 Summit, hosted by Saudi Arabia. The G20 leaders signed the Riyadh Declaration to tackle common challenges, most notably COVID-19, stressing the importance of granting vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics to all countries. Other issues discussed included climate change, debt relief, trade and taxation of the digital economy.



- Tuesday, 24 November—The Head of the EU Delegation to Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Oman, Patrick Simonnet, condemned the Houthi missile attack on Saudi Aramco's oil distribution station in Jeddah. On Monday the Ambassador met the Governor of Jeddah, Prince Mishaal bin Majid bin Abdulaziz, and the Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Yousef Al-Othaimeen.



- Wednesday, 21 October—A delegation of the European Union participated in the W20 Summit in Riyadh. The W20 delegates adopted a joint statement calling on the G20 leaders to include and empower women to ensure economic recovery amid COVID-19 pandemic.

KEY OFFICIAL VISITS



- Saturday, 21 November—The US Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, toured Qatar and Saudi Arabia. In Doha, Secretary Pompeo discussed the Gulf crisis and developments in Lebanon and Iraq with his Qatari counterpart, Mohamed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani, and Emir Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, and he met with the Taliban and Afghan government representatives. The following day, Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince, Mohammed bin Salman Al-Saud, and the US Secretary met in NEOM to discuss cooperation in counter-terrorism, Iran and the US-Saudi trade relationship.

- Tuesday, 24 November—Kuwaiti Foreign Minister and Acting Information Minister, Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, met in Washington with US Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, within the framework of the 4th US-Kuwait Strategic Dialogue. They discussed bilateral cooperation opportunities and regional developments.



- Wednesday, 25 November—Bahrain's Industry Minister, Zayed bin Rashid Al-Zayani, met in Manama with Israel's Export & International Cooperation Institute Chairman, Adiv Baruch, and the CEO of Israel's largest bank Hapoalim, Dov Kotler. The meetings came within the framework of a broader Israeli trade delegation to the Kingdom, which included the CEO of the Harel Group, the largest insurance group in Israel, Michel Siboni, and Founder of Viola FinTech Fund, Daniel Tsiddon.

- Wednesday, 25 November—Bahrain's Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Salman bin Hamad Al-Khalifa, and India's External Affairs Minister, Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, discussed bilateral cooperation opportunities in Manama.

