

Bahrain and Qatar committed to advancing ties

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His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, emphasised the Kingdom of Bahrain's commitment to advancing relations with the State of Qatar to mutually benefit the citizens of both countries. HRH Prince Salman was speaking as he received yesterday His Excellency Nasser Abdullah Al Nassr, the newly appointed Ambassador of Qatar to Bahrain, at Riffa Palace.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister highlighted the



HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister receives H.E. Qatar Ambassador Nasser Abdullah Al Nassr

strength of Bahrain-Qatar historic relations, supported by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, the Amir of Qatar.

For his part, H.E. Ambassador Al Nassr expressed his appreciation for His Royal Highness's commitment to advancing Bahrain-Qatar ties and conveyed his best wishes for the Kingdom's continued progress.

H.E. Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Minister of Finance and National Economy, also attended the meeting.

Transport unity

Shura Council backs GCC unified land-transport rules for smoother cross-border road haulage



H.E. Dr Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa



Abdullah Al Nuaimi



Dalal Al Zayed



Dr Ebtisam Al Dallal

● New decree-law aims to streamline goods movement and address delays

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

The Shura Council approved yesterday Decree-Law No. (35) of 2025, adopting the Gulf Cooperation Council's unified land-transport rules for cross-border road haulage between member states.

The decree-law was passed by name vote and sent to the Speaker of the Council of Representatives to inform the government.

During the debate, His Excellency Dr Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Minister of the Ministry of Transportation and Tele-

communications, said the sector was running on too thin a legal base, with pressure felt most at the King Fahd Causeway.

"We are facing a legislative gap in Bahrain and at the international level, particularly at the King Fahd Causeway where major challenges appear," he told members.

Traffic

He said the scale of freight traffic was clear.

"We have more than 2,300 trucks belonging to 150 companies," he said, adding that the ministry had brought in remote inspection to cut delays. "Remote inspection will help speed up procedures and make things easier."

H.E. Dr Abdullah said Bahrain moved to ratify the unified rules after neighbours started applying them.

"Saudi Arabia was the first state to ratify it, so it was neces-

“Remote inspection will help speed up procedures and make things easier.”

— H.E. DR ABDULLAH BIN AHMED AL KHALIFA, MINISTER OF THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

sary that Saudi Arabia does not start applying it while Bahrain falls behind," he said.

Report

The Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security Committee backed the decree-law in a report debated by the chamber.

Its rapporteur, Abdullah Al Nuaimi, said the step followed decisions taken by GCC leaders at their 43rd Supreme Council session and was meant to deal with delays after the date set

for work under the unified rules had passed.

The report said the hold-up risked leaving a legal gap that could disrupt cross-border traffic, especially with Saudi Arabia already applying the system, and could harm Bahraini carriers in an open regional market.

Under the decree-law, Bahrain approves the attached unified regulation, defines the "competent authority" as the body to be named by decree, and sets an exchange rate for application purposes at one Bahraini dinar to ten riyals.

Grievances

It also sets a route for grievances against decisions taken under the regulation and its executive rules, keeps existing decisions in force until those executive rules are issued, and includes an implementing article.

The attached regulation has 25 articles.

Labour Minister takes part in 8th Abu Dhabi Consultation Ministerial Meeting

Dubai

His Excellency Yousif bin Abdulhussain Khalaf, Minister of Labour and Minister of Legal Affairs and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA), participated in the 8th Ministerial Meeting of the Abu Dhabi Consultation.

It was held in Dubai, UAE from January 31 to February 1, with the participation of ministers responsible for labour affairs, alongside a number of specialised regional and international organisations.

The meeting addressed several strategic themes related to



H.E. Yousif bin Abdulhussain Khalaf with ministers responsible for labour affairs

strengthening labour cooperation frameworks among participating countries, including labour mobility, skills pathways, and productivity to support a

just transition towards the green

economy. It also explored the impact of climate change, the role of skills and diversity in enhancing labour productivity, and

emerging labour market trends across member states.

The Abu Dhabi Consultation aims to align policies and perspectives on labour markets

and promote constructive dialogue between labour-sending and labour-receiving countries, in support of shared interests and sustained economic growth.

This is achieved through the development of balanced labour policies that respond to market needs, safeguard workers' rights, and ensure safe and supportive working environments, while keeping pace with labour market transformations, particularly emerging professions requiring advanced skills, and prioritising optimal investment in human capital and the integration of citizens into promising sectors and future jobs.