

# EU Turns Up Heat on Gulf Trade Talks

● European Parliament delegation holds high-level meetings ahead of October EU-GCC Summit

● Free trade deal, security cooperation and parliamentary exchanges all on the table

TDT | Manama  
Ashen Tharaka

Bahrain and the European Union are looking to deepen political, economic and parliamentary cooperation as a visiting European Parliament delegation held a series of high-level meetings in the Kingdom.

The European Parliament's Delegation for Relations with the Arab Peninsula, led by MEP Reinhold Lopatka, discussed stronger institutional ties, regional security, trade and investment during its visit.

Speaking at a reception at the German Residence in Saar, Lopatka highlighted plans to strengthen parliamentary exchanges between the GCC and European Parliament.

"Bahrain has a developed parliamentary system with two chambers," Lopatka said, pointing to opportunities for regular exchanges between GCC parliaments and the European Parliament.

He also stressed the importance of engaging young people through greater contact with



European Parliament delegation members and Bahraini officials during the reception at the German Residence.



European institutions and policymakers.

Lopatka said the European Union supports Bahrain's right to security and stability amid the wider regional conflict, adding that Bahrain can play a significant role despite its size.

The delegation's visit included meetings with His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Council of Representatives Speaker Ahmed Al Musallim and Shura Council Chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh, as well as representatives of other institutions.

Discussions included prospects for an EU-GCC Free Trade Agree-

ment and a Strategic Partnership Agreement covering political, security and economic cooperation.

German Ambassador Henning Simon said a free trade agreement could make business between European and GCC companies easier by reducing trade barriers.

He said the proposed strategic partnership could also cover security cooperation, counterterrorism, organised crime and cybersecurity.

"Bahrain is a hub to really enter GCC countries," Simon said, highlighting the Kingdom's skilled workforce, tax environment and investment opportunities.

He also encouraged European companies to explore investment opportunities in Bahrain and said cooperation should extend beyond trade to investment in both directions.

The ambassador announced that the EU Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Bahrain, which began operations on September 15, will be officially inaugurated on October 14, with the participation of Luigi Di Maio, European Union Special Representative for the Gulf region.

The visit also comes ahead of the EU-GCC Summit scheduled for October 24, providing another platform for discussions on closer cooperation between the two regions.

The delegation's programme and the German-hosted reception brought together Bahraini and European officials, diplomats and institutional representatives, with discussions also covering regional and international developments.

The talks underline efforts to expand Bahrain-EU relations beyond political dialogue into trade, investment, parliamentary engagement and institutional cooperation.

## Your child is not a project with a delivery date

TDT | Manama  
Hasan Barakat

A project has a goal, a deadline, a cycle of corrections and a result someone is waiting on. With the new school year starting, parenting coach Tuqa Marhoon says that is very close to how many parents treat their children.

Whether it comes from care or from fear, it still produces the same thing. It still produces the same thing.

Start with the goal, because every project has one. Parents begin the year with a list already written inside them. He must become more independent. He must get better at reading. He must be braver. He must concentrate more.

Having goals is not the problem, Marhoon said. The problem starts when the only thing a parent can see is the part they want to improve.

Then comes the deadline. He still cannot read fluently. How long do I have to keep reminding him about his homework? At his age he should be managing on his own. Someone else's child finishes it in 10 minutes. Put together, they treat a child's growth and his skills as though they were due by a certain date.

After that, the corrections. Your mark is good, but why this mistake? Your handwriting has improved, but you can do better. You have finished your homework, now go and prepare tomorrow's lesson.



**"Teach your child to grow, not to constantly perform."**

- TUQA MARHOON,  
A CERTIFIED PARENTING COACH

Every time the child completes something, the search begins for the next thing to adjust. Marhoon's question is when a parent stops long enough to look at what he has actually done.

Last comes the result, the thing a project is measured by. Whether you put him in the best school, arranged a private tutor, or checked his homework every day. None of it guarantees an outcome, because a child is not an equation that can be worked out.

Her conclusion is direct. Your child is not a project. He has no delivery date, he does not need continuous improvement, and you cannot guarantee his result.

Follow him, teach him, guide him and push him to grow, she said. But do not get so occupied with the child you want him to become that you stop seeing the child in front of you now.

# Missile Debris Damage Payout Sought for Hidd Family



TDT | Manama  
Mohammed Darwish

A Hidd family is still waiting for compensation after debris from an intercepted missile struck its home and car during Ramadan, as Muharraq Municipal Council on Monday approved a proposal calling for the family to be paid for the damage.

Council member Mohammed Al Moqahwi raised the family's case after the home in Block 111 was hit shortly before Iftar.

He said air defence forces intercepted an incoming Iranian missile, sending shrapnel and debris down onto the property as the family prepared to break its fast.

The house was damaged, including its walls, while a car was also struck.

No one was physically hurt, despite the debris falling directly onto the property.

Al Moqahwi said the family was nevertheless left shaken by

the incident and had suffered psychological distress alongside the damage to their home and vehicle.

'Al Moqahwi, there were no injuries, but psychologically it affected them,' Mr Al Moqahwi told The Daily Tribune.

He added that the family had yet to receive compensation for the loss.

'All property can be compensated for, but lives cannot be replaced,' Al Moqahwi said. 'Until now, they have not been compensated.'

The incident happened during the holy month of Ramadan, only a short time before Iftar, when families across the area would have been preparing to end the day's fast.

Al Moqahwi said the home belonged to a neighbour and argued that the family should be paid for the damage caused by the falling debris.

He said the fact that no one was injured should not leave the property damage unresolved, drawing a distinction between



material loss, which can be repaired or paid for, and human life, which cannot be replaced.

His proposal was approved by Muharraq Municipal Council on Monday and calls for compensation for the damage to both the house and car.

## Councillors press for footbridge after fatal Dry Dock crash



Muharraq Club under-14 goalkeeper Ahmed Osama Adel, 14, who died in the September 3 crash on Dry Dock Highway



Mohammed Al Moqahwi, Muharraq Municipal Council member

The death of a 14-year-old boy on Dry Dock Highway has driven councillors to demand an urgent pedestrian bridge at the spot, four years after they say an earlier plan was turned down.

Ahmed, goalkeeper for Muharraq Club's under-14 team, died on September 3 after an electric scooter carrying him and a 15-year-old companion was involved in a collision with a vehicle on Dry Dock Highway. The other boy was injured.

Mr Al Moqahwi said councillors had already sought a bridge there about four years ago.

He and the council chairman visited the company responsible for the road with a full design made by engineers, he said. 'We went to them, the chairman and I, and took a complete design for the pedestrian bridge that the engineers had prepared for us,' he told The Daily Tribune.

'That was about four years ago.' Mr Al Moqahwi said the request was rejected verbally, with cost and other issues cited. 'They told us verbally that they

could not do it and spoke about the budget and other matters,' he said. The boy's death has now led the council to press the case again.

'We prepared a memorandum today asking for a pedestrian bridge to be built as a matter of urgency, so that such accidents do not happen again in the future, God forbid,' Mr Al Moqahwi said.

He dismissed the idea that cheaper measures could replace the bridge. 'You cannot do anything else other than a pedestrian bridge,' he said. Mr Al Moqahwi said extra traffic patrols could help and noted that patrols already operate in East Hidd. Road users must also take care, he added. But he said neither step removes the need for a bridge.

'On the first issue, the pedestrian bridge, something needs to happen urgently,' he said.

## Court Upholds Five-Year Sentence Over Iran Attack Posts

The Court of Cassation has rejected an appeal against a five-year prison sentence in a case involving social media content that endorsed and supported Iranian attacks against Bahrain.

The ruling upheld the defendant's sentence of five years in prison, a BD2,000 fine and the confiscation of seized items, according to the Advocate General and Chief Prosecutor of the Court of Appeal.

The case began after the Anti-Cyber Crime Directorate of the General Directorate of Anti-Corruption and Economic and Electronic Security reported a social media account containing images, videos and comments that endorsed, supported and justified the attacks.

Investigations identified the person operating the account. The Public Prosecution then questioned the defendant, heard witnesses and assigned technical experts to examine seized electronic devices.

The technical examination confirmed the acts attributed to the defendant, according to the Public Prosecution.

The defendant was subsequently referred to the High Criminal Court, which heard the case over several sessions and provided legal safeguards, including the right to defence.

The High Criminal Court sentenced the defendant to five years in prison, fined him BD2,000 and ordered the confiscation of the seized items. The Court of Cassation has now upheld that ruling.