



هيئة الربط الكهربائي
لدول مجلس التعاون لدول الخليج العربية
GCC Interconnection Authority

The EUGCC Clean Energy Technology Network

Reporting from Brussels,

July 4, 2018

PRESS RELEASE

Representatives of utilities and energy authorities from the Gulf region discussing with EU stakeholders on Electricity Markets and Interconnections during a study tour organised in Belgium and Germany an initiative of the EU GCC Clean Energy Technology Network and of the Gulf Cooperation Council Interconnection Authority (GCC IA)

25 representatives of utilities and energy authorities from all GCC states as well as from GCC Interconnection Authority are participating in the EU Study tour on “Electricity Interconnections and Markets” organised by the **EU GCC Clean Energy Technology Network** in cooperation with the **Gulf Cooperation Council Interconnection Authority** (GCC IA). The study tour, already successfully in its third day, takes place from 2-5 July in Belgium and Germany and aims to facilitate the exchange of experiences and know-how among EU and GCC stakeholders.

“Cooperation between the EU and the GCC has been strong and long standing since 1988. The two regions face common challenges in the context of the clean energy transition and in this context there are many opportunities for concrete partnerships and for exchange of knowledge and lessons learnt aiming to meet our energy targets”. said **Massimo Lombardini, Policy Officer at the Directorate General for Energy, European Commission** in his address during the introductory workshop, on Monday, 2 July in Brussels. *“We welcome the distinguished delegation of GCC energy experts in Europe for this technical study tour and we hope that the next four days will highlight cooperation prospects and will prepare future partnerships.”*

The GCC delegation includes representatives from **OMANGRID, Abu Dhabi Water and Electricity Authority ADWEC, TRANSCO United Arab Emirates, Dubai Electricity and Water authority, Sharjah Electricity and Water authority, Saudi Electricity Company, National Grid of Saudi Arabia, Electricity and Water Authority of Bahrain, Qatar General Electricity & Water Corporation “KAHRAMAA”, Ministry of Electricity & Water Kuwait and the GCC Interconnection Authority**

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“The GCC member states have set ambitious renewable energy targets aiming to reduce their dependence on traditional fossil fuels with clean and renewable energy, coupled with reforms of government-based subsidies on fuel, thus providing multi-billion savings to all GCC states over the next 20 years. The GCC Interconnection can play key role in mitigating renewable energy sources intermittency and can enable cross-border balancing and sharing of reserves. Moreover, the GCC states perceive that its Power Grid could be expanded beyond the GCC region to exchange and trade energy with other interconnected regions aligned with the economic strategy of the Gulf Cooperation Council to interlink the electricity systems of the six member states, it also strives to expand this interconnection to other regions around the world. In this process, we consider that sharing lessons learnt and best practices with the EU on interconnections and electricity markets is valuable.” says **Dr Nasser Al Shahrani COO of the GCC Interconnection Authority.**

“We are honoured to cooperate with the GCC Interconnection Authority for the organisation of this study tour bringing in Europe such a high level delegation of experts . The study tour is a very interactive and fruitful experience where we learn from each other and have the opportunity to discuss on future concrete partnerships.” notes **Frank Wouters, Director of Network.**

The agenda of the study tour includes a number of training workshops, high level exchanges with as well as visits to EU organisations and industries, including **DG Energy, CORESO, ENTSOe, EUROPEX, T&D Europe, SolarPower Europe, Uniper SE / RWTH Aachen, RWE** etc.

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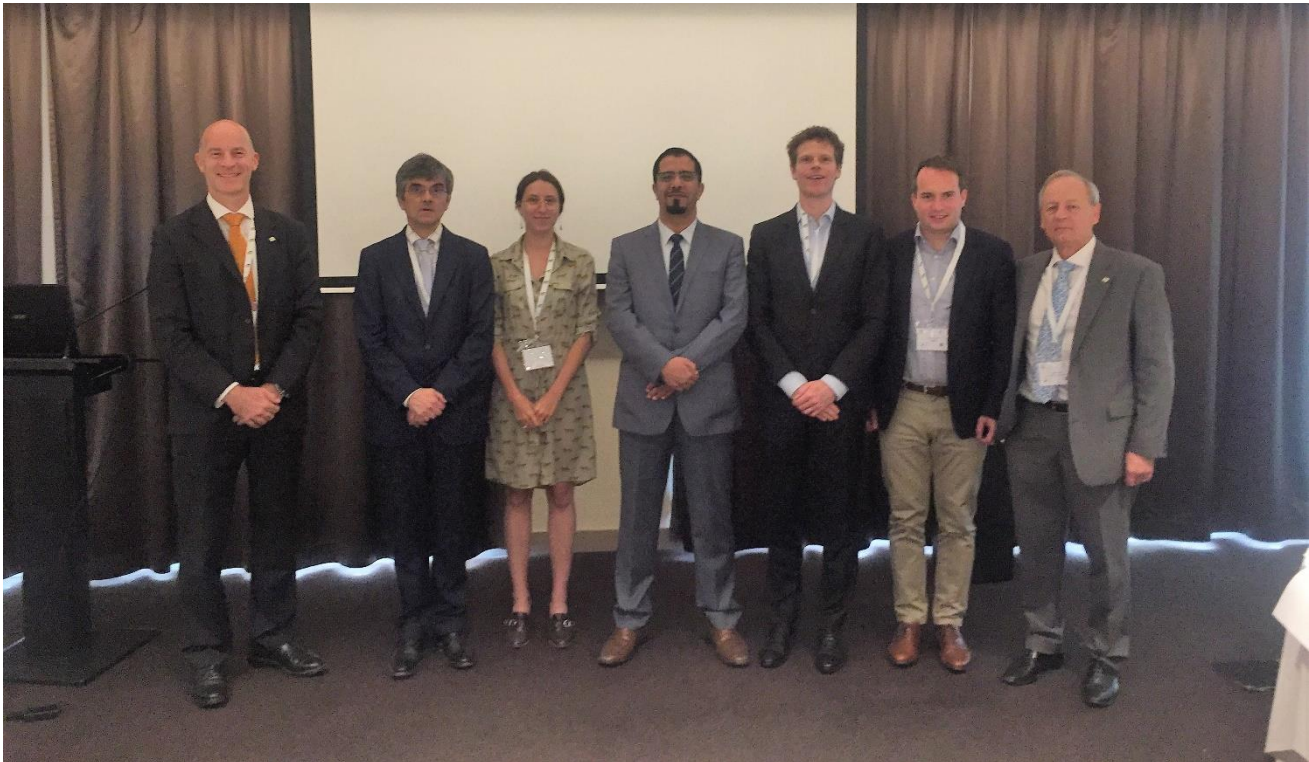




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1: (photo from the study tour Introduction Workshop)



2: (From left to right@ Frank Wouters Director - EU GCC Clean Energy Technology Network, Massimo Lombardini Policy Officer DG Energy – EC, Aurelie Beauvais Policy Director - SolarPower Europe, Dr Nasser AL Shahrani COO - GCC Interconnection authority, Franz Folker - T&D Europe, Christian Baer Secretary General - EUROPEX and Nick Carter Convener of Electricity Markets at the Network)

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3 – 4: (The delegation during an interesting and fruitful site visit at CORESO, guided by Jean-François Gahungum CORESO CEO)



5: (Susanne Nies, Director of Strategy and Communication ENTSOe)

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Notes to Editors

The EU– GCC Clean Energy Technology Network, funded by the European Commission, was established as a response to the common EU and GCC interest for strategic clean energy cooperation. The Network aims to act as catalyst and facilitate the development of clean energy partnerships including the related policy and technology aspects among various stakeholders in the EU and GCC countries. The Network is structured around collaboration in five working areas, with Climate Change as a cross-cutting topic: Renewable Energy Sources; Energy Efficiency & Demand Side Management; Clean Natural Gas & related Technologies; Electricity Interconnections & Market Integration; Carbon Capture & Storage. The Network is funded by the European Commission. Its head office is in Abu Dhabi/ UAE.

More information available at: www.eugcc-cleanenergy.net | contact@eugcc-cleanenergy.net

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