

**Question for written answer E-002087/2024/rev.1
to the Council
Rule 144
Per Clausen (The Left)**

Subject: Lack of human rights content at the EU-Gulf Cooperation Council summit

On 16 October 2024, the then European Council President, Charles Michel, co-hosted the first ever EU-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) summit¹ in Brussels with the Emir of Qatar H.H. Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani.

The European Council website lists the following six main topics for discussion:

1. common key global challenges;
2. economic cooperation, including trade and investment;
3. energy;
4. sustainability and climate;
5. connectivity;
6. people-to-people contacts.

None of these relates to one of the major issues with regard to the GCC countries, namely the grave human rights situation. Can the Council therefore answer the following:

1. Was the European Council informed of, and had it agreed to, the main topics of discussion before the summit?
2. What was the reasoning behind not having human rights dialogue at the top of the list of main topics?
3. Was the issue of EU citizens being held as political prisoners in GCC countries, such as the case of Danish citizen Abdulhadi Al-Khawaja, raised at all during the summit?

Submitted: 16.10.2024

¹ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/international-summit/2024/10/16/>.