

Question for written answer E-002683/2024

to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Rule 144

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Subject: EU-Saudi Arabia relations

Saudi Arabia is an increasingly significant economic and diplomatic partner for Europe, playing a pivotal role in the stability and development of the Middle East region. In addition to its strategic importance, Saudi Arabia is an important actor in global discussions on climate change, connectivity and energy, as demonstrated by its goal to achieve carbon neutrality by 2060. Moreover, the EU remains its second largest trading partner. Despite this, recent efforts to boost our relationship have largely remained at the formal level.

In 2021, the European External Action Service and Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs signed a cooperation arrangement under which official political dialogues were to be organised on a yearly basis. In 2022, the Joint Communication on a strategic partnership with the Gulf outlined the EU's strategy to strengthen relations with Gulf countries, including Saudi Arabia.

In this context:

1. What is the state of EU-Saudi Arabia relations in terms of political, economic and trade initiatives (including the digital and green transition), and how does the Commission plan to strengthen these relations?
2. What is the state of the political dialogues stemming from the 2021 cooperation arrangement and what outcomes or developments have been achieved?
3. What is the implementation status of the initiatives outlined in the Joint Communication concerning Saudi Arabia?

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