

THE EU-GCC COOPERATION ON **GREEN TRANSITION PROJECT**



EVENT REPORT JULY 2024

Kuwait's Sustainable Future:

Collaborative Solutions

for Green Transition,

Renewables &

Energy Efficiency

In collaboration with:





بعثـة الاتحـــاد الأوروبي لـــدى دولـــة الكويــت Delegation of the European Union to the State of Kuwait







AGENDA

09:30 – 10:00	Registration & Welcome Refreshments
10:00 - 10:30	Welcome & Opening Remarks
	 Eng. Samirah Mohammad Abdullah AlKandari, Acting Director General, Environment Public Authority - EPA H.E. Ms. Anne Koistinen, Ambassador of the European Union to the State of Kuwai
10:30 - 11:30	Session I: Blueprints for Sustainability - Kuwait & EU's Path to Green Transition
	 Ms Silvia Crescimbeni, Climate Diplomacy at European Commission (online) Ms Sana Ali AlGhareeb, Director of Electricity, Water & Renewable Energy, Ministry of Electricity, Water & Renewable Energy Dr. Fotouh Al-Ragom, Research Scientist & the Energy Efficiency Technologies Program Manager, Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) Mr Sàndor Szelekovszky, Head of the Trade & other Policies Section at the European Delegation to the United Arab Emirates
	Moderator: Eng. Yaqoub H. Al-Matouq , Head Ozone Section - Air Quality Department, Environment Public Authority - EPA
11:30- 12:00	Coffee Break
12:00 - 13:00	Session II: Synergizing Strategies: Enhancing Kuwait-EU Green Cooperation on Renewables and Energy Efficiency
	 Mr Adrian Steiner, International Relations Officer for the Gulf region, Energy Department of the European Commission (online) Mr Abdulwhab Al-Gallaf, Project Engineer, Ministry of Electricity, Water & Renewable Energy Dr. Yahya Naji Al Hadban, Research Scientist, Energy & Building Research Center, Kuwaiti Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) Mr Benjamin Clarke, Global Markets Manager, SolarPower Europe (online) Mr Syed Luqman Faraz, Regional Sales Manager (Middle East and Africa), Guntner Middle East (online)
	Moderator: Eng. Yaqoub H. Al-Matouq , Head Ozone Section - Air Quality Department, Environment Public Authority - EPA
13:00 - 13:05	Closing Remarks by: Mr Spyros Kouvelis, Team Leader, EU-GCC Cooperation on Green Transition Project
13:05- 14:00	Light Buffet Lunch & Networking

SPEAKERS



Eng. Samirah Mohammad Abdullah AlKandari Acting Director General Environment Public Authority - EPA



H.E. Ms. Anne Koistinen
Ambassador of the
European Union
to the State of Kuwait



Ms Silvia Crescimbeni Climate Diplomacy at European Commission



Mr Adrian Steiner
International Relations
Officer for the Gulf region,
Energy Department of the
European Commission



Eng. Yaqoub H. Al-Matouq Head Ozone Section -Air Quality Department, Environment Public Authority - EPA



Mr Syed Luqman Faraz Regional Sales Manager (Middle East and Africa), Guntner Middle East



Mr Benjamin ClarkeGlobal Markets Manager
SolarPower Europe



Dr. Fotouh Al-Ragom Research Scientist & the Energy Efficiency Technologies Program Manager, Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR)



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Director of Electricity
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Dr. Yahya Naji Al Hadban Research Scientist, Energy & Building Research Center, Kuwaiti Institute for Scientific Research (KISR)



Mr Abdulwhab Al-Gallaf Project Engineer, Ministry of Electricity, Water & Renewable Energy



Mr Sàndor Szelekovszky
Head of the Trade & other
Policies Section at the
European Delegation to
the United Arab Emirates



Mr Spyros Kouvelis Team Leader, EU-GCC Cooperation on Green Transition Project

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Kuwait's Environment Public Authority (EPA), and the Delegation of the European Union to the State of Kuwait, jointly organized an event titled "Kuwait's Sustainable Future: Collaborative Solutions for Green Transition, Renewables, and Energy Efficiency", in the context of the EU-GCC Cooperation on Green Transition project. The event held at the EPA premises on 26 June 2024 brought together distinguished speakers from the European Union and Kuwait, and many participants including leading industry experts, policymakers, diplomats, researchers and business representatives, allowing for an insightful exchange on ways to advance Kuwait's sustainable agenda.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS AND DISCUSSIONS:

• Framework and Regulatory Development:

 Discussions emphasized the critical need for robust legislative frameworks to support renewable energy initiatives and attract investment. A strong focus was placed on creating common standards and technical guidelines that align with international practices, facilitating smoother implementation of renewable technologies.

• Financial Sector Engagement:

• Recognizing a gap between the financial institutions' understanding of and support for green transition, the event highlighted the necessity for targeted educational efforts and incentives to foster investment in renewables and energy efficiency.

• Infrastructure and Capacity Building:

 The importance of developing infrastructure that supports renewable energy, particularly in terms of grid integration and storage solutions, was a central theme.
 Additionally, enhancing local institutional and workforce capacity to manage and expand renewable energy projects effectively was deemed essential.

• Public-Private Partnerships:

• Increased collaboration between public entities and private sector players was discussed as a vital component in driving the renewable energy sector forward in Kuwait and the broader GCC region.

• EU Support and Global Cooperation:

• EU representatives expressed a commitment to supporting Kuwait's transition to renewable energy through research cooperation, shared expertise, and participation in activities supported by EU institutions or the European Investment Bank.

• Technology Exchange and Innovation:

 There was a mutual recognition of the benefits of technology exchange, where European technologies could be adapted to fit the local environmental and economic conditions of Kuwait. The necessity for innovation in adapting these technologies to the GCC's unique climate and economic landscape was also highlighted.

Outcomes and Future Directions:

The event successfully set a strategic path for future engagements and laid a strong foundation for continuing the momentum towards sustainable green transitions in Kuwait. Participants agreed on the importance of maintaining an open dialogue and strengthening cooperation across all levels of government, industry, and academia to ensure that the transition to renewable energy is both effective and inclusive.



WELCOME REMARKS BY ENG. SAMIRAH MOHAMMAD ABDULLAH ALKANDARI, ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL, ENVIRONMENT PUBLIC AUTHORITY - EPA

• **Partnership Highlight:** Collaboration with the European Union, represented by H.E. Ms. Anne Koistinen, Ambassador to the EU Delegation to Kuwait.

• Renewable Energy Initiatives:

- A landmark memorandum of understanding has been signed between Kuwait Oil Company and the Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy to launch a solar energy project.
- Project goal: Generate 1 gigawatt of electricity as part of Kuwait's strategy for energy diversification.
- Long-term goal: Achieve 15% of energy from renewable sources by 2030.

• EU's Role:

- Providing experience and technological support in green technologies.
- Facilitating advancements in renewable energy projects, energy efficiency, and green policies through collaboration and exchange of expertise.

• Discussion Objectives:

- Define practical steps for sustainable development.
- Adapt policies and harness technologies for environmental goals.
- Engage in policy and business discussions with the EU for technology and expertise exchange.

• Call to Action:

- Encourage active participation, solution-sharing, and joint initiatives.
- Focus on establishing globally agreed standards for environmental stewardship.



WELCOME REMARKS BY H.E. MS. ANNE KOISTINEN, AMBASSADOR OF THE EUROPEAN UNION TO THE STATE OF KUWAIT

• **Event Context:** Held at Kuwait's Environment Public Authority focusing on Kuwait's Sustainable Future in green transition, renewables, and energy efficiency.

• Acknowledgements:

- Thanks to the Environment Public Authority and the Director General Eng. Samira Mohamad Al-Kandari for hosting the event.
- Recognition of the EU-GCC Cooperation on Green Transition project team for enabling this collaboration.

• EU and Global Green Transition Efforts:

- Emphasis on the European Union's commitment to combating climate change and promoting competitive sustainability under the European Green Deal.
- Highlight of the EU's achievements: Increase of share in renewables in the EU's energy consumption from 23% in 2022 to at least 42.5% by 2030.

• EU Support for Kuwait:

- Support for Kuwait's 2030 renewable energy targets.
- Exchange of expertise on existing European technologies, and sharing of best practices.
- Promotion of joint research, where possible, in solar power and water conservation to support Kuwait's green initiatives.

• Strategic Alignment and Goals:

- Alignment with the EU's Strategy towards the Gulf to strengthen EU-Kuwait cooperation on energy, green transition, and climate change.
- Emphasis on the importance of discussions on energy efficiency and alternative energy sources due to global reliance on uninterrupted power supply.

• Call to Action and Conclusion:

- Encouragement for seminar participants to embrace innovation and collaboration.
- Recognition of all stakeholders, speakers, and participants for their roles in fostering a sustainable future.



SESSION I: BLUEPRINTS FOR SUSTAINABILITY - KUWAIT & EU'S PATH TO GREEN TRANSITION

PRESENTATION BY MS SILVIA CRESCIMBENI, CLIMATE DIPLOMACY AT EUROPEAN COMMISSION (ONLINE)

• Overview of EU Policy Framework:

- Aim to provide a quick overview of the European Green Deal, the EU's policy framework for growth and competitive sustainability.
- Emphasis on understanding the reasons behind these policies, their foundational pillars, and the achievements to date.

• Impact of Climate Change:

- Reference to the latest report from the International Panel on Climate Change, highlighting the critical state of global warming nearing the 1.5-degree limit.
- Discussion on the potential long-term consequences and necessary directional shifts for economies and societies.

• Economic and Environmental Challenges and Opportunities:

- Presentation of statistics on the potential economic losses due to climate change, particularly in the MENA region and the Gulf.
- Discussion on the opportunities the green transition presents for business, innovation, and job creation.

• The European Green Deal:

- The Green Deal is the blueprint underpinning the EU's economic growth and energy security, a strategy where environmental, economic and social sustainability go handin-hand to build sustainable competitiveness.
- Climate neutrality by 2050 enshrined in law, with intermediate GHG emissions reduction by at least 55% by 2030 and 90% by 2040.
- EU experience shows that decoupling growth from emissions is possible: since 1990, EU GHG emissions decreased by 32.5% while GDP increased by about 66%.

• The Green Deal as a Comprehensive Strategy and Legal Framework:

- Whole-of-the-economy approach, with policies and regulatory measures covering all sectors such as energy, industry, transport, agriculture, and buildings, towards achieving climate neutrality.
- Enactment of the European Climate Law, making the 2050 net-zero emissions target a legal obligation for EU member states. Presentation of the "Fit for 55" package, aiming to reduce emissions by 55% by 2030 through various policies and investments.

• Investment in Clean Technology and Innovation:

- Emphasis on fostering innovation in clean technology across various sectors.
- Presentation of Green Deal Industrial Plan, Net-Zero Industry Act, Innovation Fund and Hydrogen Bank.

Climate change adaptation and climate pact:

- Focus on building resilience and adaptation capacities; adaptation efforts need to be scaled up also internationally.
- Emphasis on awareness and public buy-in to support and accelerate the green transition. Example of the EU Climate Pact.

• Social Aspects and Job Creation:

- Need to ensure that the transition is fair and leaves no one behind.
- Introduction of the Social Climate Fund, funded by emissions trading revenues, to support vulnerable communities and workers through the transition.

International Cooperation and Future Actions:

- Call for enhanced international cooperation, particularly with Kuwait, focusing on shared green transition goals.
- Opportunities for shared expertise, business partnerships, and further discussions on collaborative initiatives, especially on energy transition, carbon pricing/carbon markets, adaptation to climate change and sustainable finance.



Link to Ms Silvia Crescimbeni's presentation can be viewed **HERE.**



SESSION I: BLUEPRINTS FOR SUSTAINABILITY - KUWAIT & EU'S PATH TO GREEN TRANSITION

PANEL SESSION

- **Collaborative Initiatives:** Emphasis on strengthening collaborative ties between Kuwait and the EU in the areas of green transition, renewable energy, and energy efficiency.
- **Policy and Research Alignment:** Discussion on integrating policies and research initiatives to enhance energy efficiency from household levels to power plants, and the importance of tailoring these initiatives to local contexts.
- **Innovation and Investment:** Exploration of opportunities for joint research and development, particularly in renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies. Mention of utilizing funding mechanisms similar to the EU's Horizon 2020 initiative.
- **Economic and Social Impacts:** Highlight on the economic and social impacts of climate change, particularly in the MENA region, and the potential economic benefits of transitioning to green energy.
- **Legal Frameworks and Regulatory Policies:** The importance of establishing a clear, long-term regulatory framework to guide and support the transition to sustainable practices and attractive investments.
- **Technology and Capacity Building:** Discussion on the need for technological cooperation and capacity building within Kuwait, stressing the importance of adapting technologies to fit local needs and contexts.
- **Public Awareness and Engagement:** Emphasis on raising awareness and engaging both the public and policymakers to foster a supportive environment for green policies.
- **Challenges and Opportunities:** Addressing the challenges faced in integrating renewable energy into existing infrastructures and the opportunities for economic diversification through new green technologies.
- **Role of Private Sector and Carbon Markets:** Exploration of mechanisms like carbon markets to incentivize environmental sustainability in the private sector.

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SESSION II: SYNERGIZING STRATEGIES: ENHANCING KUWAIT-EU GREEN COOPERATION ON RENEWABLES AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY

PRESENTATION BY MR. ADRIAN STEINER, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICER FOR THE GULF REGION, ENERGY DEPARTMENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION (ONLINE)

Purpose of Decarbonization:

- Primary aims are to combat climate change and enhance energy security after Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
- Economic benefits are also a key motivator, with the goal of making energy systems cleaner, more secure, and cost-effective through renewables and energy efficiency.
- **Cost Trends of Renewables (2010-2022):** Significant reductions in the costs of solar and wind energy, making them increasingly competitive with traditional energy sources, and in many instances already cheaper than fossil fuels.
- **Global Renewable Energy Trends:** Rapid growth in the renewable energy market, particularly in Asia (China), Europe and the US. The Gulf region has favourable sun and wind conditions and is on a growth trajectory, albeit from low levels.
- **Investment Shifts:** Current trends show a reversal from the past, with two-thirds of energy investments now flowing into renewables and energy efficiency, compared to previously dominant fossil fuel investments.
- Energy Efficiency Emphasis: Highlighted as a crucial compliment to renewable energy deployment. The EU focuses particularly on the housing sector, where a significant portion of energy savings can be achieved through better insulation and modern heating /cooling technologies.

EU Initiatives and Regulations:

- Implementation of the "renovation wave" to upgrade insulation in public and private buildings.
- Strengthening energy performance standards for buildings and phasing out fossil fuels in heating systems in favour of heat pumps and other efficient clean technologies.

Consumer Engagement and Eco-design:

- Collaboration with industry on eco-design measures to make products more energyefficient.
- Development of an energy labelling system that helps consumers make informed choices based on the energy efficiency of products.



Link to Mr. Adrian Steiner's presentation can be viewed HERE.





SESSION II: SYNERGIZING STRATEGIES: ENHANCING KUWAIT-EU GREEN COOPERATION ON RENEWABLES AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY

PANEL SESSION

- Framework and Legislation Needs:
 - A strong emphasis on the necessity for robust regulatory frameworks and legislation to support renewable energy initiatives and to attract investments.
 - The importance of establishing common standards and technical guidelines that align with international practices to facilitate smoother implementation and interoperability of renewable technologies.
- **Financial Sector Engagement:** Recognition of a gap between financial institutions' understanding and support for green transitions, suggesting a need for awareness raising amongst the finance industry to incentivise and encourage investment in renewables.
- Infrastructure and Capacity Building:
 - Discussion on the critical need for infrastructure development that supports renewable energy, particularly in terms of grid reinforcement/integration and storage solutions.
 - Highlighting the need for capacity building within local institutions and the workforce to manage and expand renewable energy projects effectively.
- **Public-Private Partnerships:** The panel highlighted the potential benefits of increased collaboration between public entities and private sector players in driving the renewable energy sector forward in Kuwait and the broader GCC region.
- **EU Support and Collaboration:** EU representatives expressed a commitment to supporting the Gulf region's transition to renewable energy through technological cooperation, shared expertise, and where appropriate possibly financial support via International Financial Institutions.

- **Role of Research and Innovation:** A call from the Kuwaiti side for greater involvement in research and innovation to explore viable renewable energy solutions tailored to Kuwait's unique environmental and economic landscape.
- **Consumer and Industry Engagement:** The importance of engaging consumers and industries directly affected by energy policy changes was discussed, ensuring that new policies are practical and have grassroots support.
- Immediate Actions and Long-term Strategy: The need for clear, immediate actions and a long-term strategic roadmap to achieve Kuwait's renewable energy goals was a central theme, emphasizing policy clarity and consistent government signals to market participants.







CLOSING REMARKS BY MR. SPYROS KOUVELIS, TEAM LEADER, EU-GCC COOPERATION ON GREEN TRANSITION PROJECT

- **Reflection on Event Success:** Mr. Kouvelis expressed satisfaction with the outcomes of the event, noting the significant discussions and high participation levels. He highlighted the continuous support and engagement from key stakeholders, including leaders from both the EPA and the EU delegation, throughout the event.
- **EU's Commitment:** He reiterated the EU's ongoing commitment to addressing climate change and supporting the green transition, emphasizing that the EU seeks to support and not dictate the efforts in transitioning countries.

• Opportunities for Collaboration:

- **Policy Development:** Tailoring policies to fit Kuwait's specific needs rather than adopting foreign policies directly.
- **Technology Exchange:** Emphasized the mutual benefits of technology exchange where European technologies can be adapted to fit the local environmental and economic conditions of Kuwait.
- **Public Awareness:** Stressed the importance of enhancing awareness on climate issues both at policy and public levels.
- Climate Change Adaptation: Urged for increased cooperation on creating resilient systems to handle the impacts of climate change, including early warning and meteorological collaborations.
- Human Capital: Pointed out the critical need to develop human capital so that it can design and implement green transition strategies effectively.
- **Future Initiatives and Events:** Mr. Kouvelis outlined future initiatives, including an annual event in 2024 in Abu Dhabi, and potential collaborations involving Kuwait, especially given its upcoming presidency of the GCC.
- **Gratitude and Acknowledgments:** He expressed gratitude to all participants, organizers, and collaborators who contributed to the success of the event, emphasizing the importance of continued partnership to advance green initiatives.
- **Call to Action:** Concluded by encouraging ongoing dialogue and action to capitalize on the identified opportunities for deepening EU-Kuwait cooperation in the green transition space.

MEDIA COVERAGE

Seminar explores ways to advance Kuwait's sustainable agenda

SUSTAINABLE AGENCIA

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Environment Public Authority (EPA), in cooperation with the European Union Delegation to Kuraal and the EU-GOC Gooperation on Green I Transition Project have organized a seminar titled "Kuwait's Sustainable Future: Collaborative Solditions for Green Transition, Renewables, and Inergy Efficiency", which was held at the EPA premises on 5 films. The event brought together destinguished speakers from the European Kinea and Kuwai as well as many participants including leading indisably experts, policymakers, diplomake, recent brought together destinguished speakers from the European Kinea and Kuwai as well as many participants including leading indisably experts, policymakers, diplomake, recent brought together destinguished speakers, and the state of the



Kuwait also seeks to gain expertise from the European Union in renewable energy by means of mutual cooperation in capacity building, technology transfer, improving energy efficiency, and using the best practices and available solutions; she added.

Anne Kostilene, RJ. Ambassador to Kuwait, during her opening remarks said "The EU as a global frontrumer on green transition is committed to supporting Kuwait in achieving its 2000 renewable energy targets. This fruitful collaboration goes in line with the EU's Strategy towards the Golf, where strengthening EU-Kuwait cooperation on energy; green transition and clanate change is a top priority. It also showcases EU's efforts to promote sustainable development and environmental stewardship globally".

The event allowed the European Union and Kuwait to exchange best practices and Know-how on topics such as the path to green transition, the integration of renewable energy technologies, as well as better environmental regulation, and strategies for economic diversification



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«البيئة»: تعاون مع «الاتحاد الأوروبي» في الطاقة المتجدّدة والتحوّل الأخضر

لتطوير استراتيجية الطاقة المتجددة كويستينين: ندعم الانتقال الأخضر ومواجهة تغيرات المناخ

«البيئة»: التعاون مع «الأوروبي»



إعلان تتكيري | الجمعية العمومية العادية

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إعلان قيد وكالة

شركة الكفدية المصرية لأدارة أعمال الوكالة التجارية بطلب قيد الوكالة إلى إدارة السجل التجاري الذي تعتمده الوزارة حيث تم تسجيل الوكالة رقم 2027 / 2024 شركة : المؤسسة المتحدة كلاس - الجنسية: محصر

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مفهرة الاتماد الأوروبية تدمر الكويت للمفهق أمدافها في الطاقة السلمدة لمام 2030



Seminar explores ways to advance Kuwait's sustainable agenda

Seminar explores ways to advance Kuwait's sustainable agenda - Kuwait KUWAIT: Kuwait's Environment Public Authority (EPA), in cooperation...

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MEDIA COVERAGE

















THE EU-GCC COOPERATION ON **GREEN TRANSITION PROJECT**



Launched in August 2023, this project funded by the European Union marks a significant milestone in the long partnership between the European Union (EU) and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). By addressing critical global challenges such as climate change and sustainable development, the project builds upon the EU-GCC Cooperation Agreement Document signed in 1989. The Joint Action Programme for 2022-2027 endorsed in February 2022 outlines the strategic framework for cooperation, emphasizing the need to join forces in addressing climate change and make progress on green transition. This project reflects the shared commitment to leveraging EU expertise to deepen cooperation and engagement, promote green policies and technologies, and create a conducive business environment for collaboration among energyrelated and green tech companies in the Gulf.

KEY OBJECTIVES

The project aims to strengthen political and technical relationships at regional and bilateral levels by:

- Deepening engagement towards green transition and climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- Promoting the uptake of green transition policies and technologies by the GCC countries.
- Facilitating a conducive business environment between EU and GCC green tech companies in the Gulf region.

IMPACT

- Enhanced knowledge exchange on climate action and green transition.
- Raised awareness on climate change, sustainable practices and circular economy.
- Strengthened network for collaboration in green solutions and energy transition.
- Proactive EU Climate Diplomacy in the region.

STAKEHOLDERS

- State and non-state institutions, business community, & environmental NGOs.
- Researchers, academia, youth groups, & media
- EU & GCC businesses, particularly SMEs.
- EU member states present in the GCC.

FOCUS AREAS



GREEN TRANSITION

Promote transformative change for green transition policies & practices within the GCC.



NET ZERO CARBON

Implement solutions for reducing carbon emissions in industrial & public sectors.



HYDROGEN MARKET

Support the development of a renewable hydrogen market in the Gulf region.



CLEAN-TECH SOLUTIONS

Foster innovations in renewable energy technologies & clean-tech industries.



CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

Strengthen resilience & adaptive capacities to climate-related hazards.



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Launch initiatives to preserve biodiversity & natural habitats, including marine protection.



CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Encourage the adoption of sustainable waste management & resource efficiency.



SUSTAINABLE FINANCE

Engage financial institutions in channelling investment & finance in support of green transition.



EU-GCC Cooperation on Green Transition A project funded by the European Union

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