

**Agreement
between
the Austrian Federal Government
and
the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi-Arabia
on Cooperation
in the Fields of Economy, Trade
Industry and Technology**

The Austrian Federal Government and the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi-Arabia (hereinafter referred to as the Contracting Parties), desiring to enhance the friendly relations between their two countries, and recognizing the mutual benefits of strengthening their economic, trade, industrial and technological cooperation, considering the progress in the EC-GCC free trade negotiations, and to continue developing cooperation in the fields agreed in the Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation between the Austrian Federal Government and the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi-Arabia signed on 29.3.1988 AD, corresponding to 11.8.1408 AH, in accordance with the laws and legislations prevailing in both countries, have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The Contracting Parties shall endeavour to promote and consolidate economic, trade, industrial and technological cooperation between their two countries in the spirit of mutual understanding.

Article 2

The Contracting Parties shall encourage economic, trade, tourism and technical cooperation between their two countries and their citizens including natural or legal persons of both countries. The areas of cooperation mentioned above will include but are not limited to the following:

1. Cooperation in the economic sector, including industrial, petroleum, mineral, petrochemical, agriculture, livestock, tourism and health projects;

2. Encouragement of the exchange of information related to scientific research and technology;
3. Encouragement of the exchange of knowledge and technical expertise required for specific cooperative programmes;
4. Encouragement of the exchange of goods and productions between them.

Article 3

The Contracting Parties will strive towards encouraging trade expansion and diversification between their two countries, within the framework of the international trading system.

Article 4

The Contracting Parties shall encourage the exchange of visits between their representatives of economic, trade and technical delegations including the private sector, they shall also encourage participation in the commercial exhibitions to be held in both countries to enhance cooperation between their respective countries.

Article 5

The Contracting Parties shall encourage technical cooperation in the water, wastewater and scientific research fields.

This can be achieved through exchange of information, science and technology. The cooperation includes the following:

1. Conducting water resources investigations and assessment;
2. Management of groundwater resources;
3. Water economics in different sectors;
4. Treatment and re-use of wastewater and assessment of its impact on environment;
5. Rationalization of water use through modern water saving devices and systems;
6. Private sector partnership to invest in water projects in the Kingdom of Saudi-Arabia specially desalinated water and wastewater;
7. Injection of treated wastewater in the ground and assess its impact;
8. Training and capacity building in water issues.

Article 6

The Contracting Parties shall encourage cooperation in developing infrastructure systems which are sound and sustainable in terms of ecology and economy, in the following areas but are not limited to it:

- Railway
- Aviation,
- Construction of roads,
- Telecommunication,
- Energy industry,
- Waste treatment and recycling.

Article 7

The economic, industrial, technical and technological cooperation could be carried out but are not limited in the following ways:

1. Setting-up of joint ventures, establishment of commercial representations and branch offices;
2. Transfer of know-how and technology;
3. Production sharing agreements aimed at maximizing plant capacity utilization, minimizing production costs and increasing international competitiveness;
4. Construction, rehabilitation, modernization, extension and automation of existing plants and industries;
5. Marketing, consulting and other services;
6. Preparation of feasibility studies;
7. Exchange of information concerning vocational training

Article 8

The Contracting Parties recognize the usefulness and necessity of increasing the involvement of small and medium enterprises in the bilateral economic relations and shall, within the legal framework of their countries, promote adequate business environments to this end.

Article 9

The Contracting Parties shall form a Joint Commission to meet alternately in both countries when there is a need for consultation as to the measures and means to be adopted for the consolidation and promotion of cooperation in all fields covered by this Agreement.

The task of this Joint Commission will include but are not limited to the following:

1. Reviews of development and level of bilateral economic relations;
2. Suggestions for the further development of economic cooperation including bilateral investment;
3. Elaboration of proposals for improving the conditions of economic, industrial and technological cooperation between the enterprises of the two countries;
4. Submission of recommendations concerning the application of the Agreement;
5. Settlement of differences of opinion between the Contracting Parties concerning the application or the interpretation of this Agreement.

Article 10

The Contracting Parties shall encourage the conclusion of separate agreements in specific fields of mutual interest, when necessary.

Article 11

This Agreement shall in no way be interpreted as to conflict with any regional or international commitments and obligations of either Contracting Party, as well as that resulted from their current or future membership of any regional or international economic arrangements.

Article 12

1. This Agreement shall enter into force on the first day of the third month following the month during which the two Contracting Parties have notified each other that the internal procedures necessary to this effect have been completed.
2. This Agreement shall be concluded for a period of five years and it shall be automatically renewed for consecutive periods of one year unless either of the

Contracting Parties gives a written notice six months before the expiration of the Agreement of its intention to denounce it.

Article 13

This Agreement will replace the Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation between the Austrian Federal Government and the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi-Arabia signed on 29.3.1988 AD, corresponding to 11.8.1408 AH.

Signed in Vienna, on 31.3.2004 AD, corresponding to 10.2.1425 AH, in two originals, both in German, Arabic, and English language, all texts being equally authentic. In case of divergence of interpretation, the English version shall prevail.

For the Austrian
Federal Government:

Martin Bartenstein
Federal Minister for
Economic Affairs and Labour

For the Government of
the Kingdom of Saudi-Arabia:

Saud Al Faisal
Minister of Foreign Affairs