



EUROPEAN ORGANISATION FOR STRATEGIC POLICY

DIPLOMATIC PAPER · DP 01 / 2026

A Security and Prosperity Agenda for the 2026 EU-GCC Summit

Practical pathways for energy security, investment, maritime stability and
regional diplomacy.

Rome · August 2026

Public release · Prepared for policy and diplomatic audiences
Issued by CERAX - European Organisation for Strategic Policy

DIPLOMATIC PAPER

A Security and Prosperity Agenda for the 2026 EU-GCC Summit

Practical pathways for energy security, investment, maritime stability and regional diplomacy.

EXECUTIVE JUDGEMENT

The next EU-GCC summit should move from a broad catalogue of cooperation to a limited delivery agenda that connects energy and trade with maritime security, investment, regional de-escalation and institutional follow-through.

KEY FINDINGS

- The relationship is strategically important but will be judged by delivery between summits rather than communique breadth.
- Energy security should expand into grids, clean technology, industrial investment and crisis coordination.
- Maritime security and corridor resilience provide a practical field for shared institutional work.
- Sustainable partnership requires reciprocal clarity on regional security concerns and economic expectations.

A mature partnership requires choices

The first EU-GCC summit confirmed a common interest in trade, investment, energy, connectivity and regional stability. The next summit should resist the temptation to add more headings without a delivery mechanism. A concise agenda with named institutional owners and review dates would carry greater strategic weight than a comprehensive declaration whose implementation is difficult to track.

Energy and industrial cooperation

Hydrocarbon supply remains important, but the partnership should encompass electricity interconnection, hydrogen and low-carbon fuels, methane management, critical infrastructure, investment standards and industrial projects. Producer-consumer dialogue is especially valuable when it includes behaviour during market stress and creates predictable channels before a crisis.

Maritime stability and connectivity

The Red Sea, Gulf and eastern Mediterranean connect European and Gulf prosperity. Cooperation can include maritime domain awareness, port security, seafarer protection, customs digitalisation, subsea infrastructure and crisis exercises. These practical projects build trust while supporting wider diplomatic efforts to prevent escalation.

Diplomatic candour and institutional continuity

A strategic partnership does not require identical positions. It requires reliable channels for discussing differences, protecting cooperation from episodic shocks and identifying where joint action is possible. A permanent implementation group should report to foreign ministers and prepare a public progress record before the following summit.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- 01 Adopt five summit deliverables with named owners, financing routes and review dates.
- 02 Establish an EU-GCC energy-security and industrial-investment dialogue.
- 03 Launch a maritime corridor resilience programme covering ports, information and exercises.
- 04 Create a structured consultation channel on regional de-escalation and conflict prevention.
- 05 Publish an annual implementation record agreed by both secretariats.

DECISION AND MONITORING MATRIX

Priority	Decision horizon	Evidence of progress
Adopt five summit deliverables with named owners, financing routes and review dates.	0-90 days	Implementation milestones
Establish an EU-GCC energy-security and industrial-investment dialogue.	3-12 months	Two-way investment flows
Launch a maritime corridor resilience programme covering ports, information and exercises.	12-36 months	Joint maritime projects
Create a structured consultation channel on regional de-escalation and conflict prevention.	Continuous	Frequency and quality of political consultations
Publish an annual implementation record agreed by both secretariats.	Annual review	Implementation milestones

INDICATORS TO WATCH

- Implementation milestones
- Two-way investment flows
- Joint maritime projects
- Frequency and quality of political consultations

SOURCES AND METHOD

This publication distinguishes verified institutional evidence from CERAX interpretation and forward-looking judgement. Principal public sources are listed below; all recommendations are the institutional judgement of CERAX.

- Council of the EU, first EU-GCC Summit



European Organisation for Strategic Policy

A Security and Prosperity Agenda for the 2026 EU-GCC Summit

Diplomatic Paper · DP 01 / 2026 · Public release
Rome · 2026

Independent analysis. Diplomatic judgement. European perspective.