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## The Embassy of the State of Qatar in Brussels

April 2019



BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

QATAR EMBASSY



### **A few words from the Ambassador**

Dear friends of Qatar, spring has truly arrived in Brussels! With the sun shining and flowers in blossom, April was an exciting and busy month for both the Embassy of Qatar in Brussels and Qatar in general. At the end of March, Qatar celebrated the opening of its very own desert rose, the National Museum of Qatar, a breathtaking building that has received worldwide praise.

Designed by French architect Jean Nouvel, the museum tells the story of our people and our nation's rich history. The museum's opening brought immense joy to the citizens of Qatar and amazed visitors from all corners of the globe. I was incredibly proud to see heads of state, dignitaries, and representatives from the creative industries gather in Doha to celebrate its inauguration and witness the inspiring speech given by His Highness the Amir of Qatar.

Moving to political matters, I had the opportunity in April to discuss migration issues and reiterate Qatar's commitment to supporting

the EU in this field with two key European stakeholders, the European Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship, Dimitris Avramopoulos, and Deputy Director General for Migration and Home Affairs at the European Commission, Simon Mordue.

I also hosted members of the Belgian Parliament ahead of their attendance at the 140th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly that took place in Doha from 6 to 10 April. We discussed issues focused on education, gender equality, counter-terrorism, human rights and energy poverty.

Back in Doha, the European Parliament, Qatar's National Human Rights Committee, and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights organised an international conference to discuss mechanisms to combat human rights violations. Bringing together human rights defenders from across the world, parties debated methods to better hold individuals and states accountable for human rights violations. The conclusions built an excellent foundation for further collaboration and I look forward to discussing progress made when we meet again in 2020.

Finally, I wish you all a wonderful May and a blessed and happy Ramadan for those celebrating!

**His Excellency  
Abdulrahman Mohammed Al  
Khulaifi,**

Ambassador of the State of  
Qatar



**Qatar in the media**



## La Libre – Doha’s extraordinary desert rose museum

The National Museum of Qatar opened its doors on 27 March, retelling the history of Qatar from 700,000 BC to today. The museum owes its shape to French architect Jean Nouvel, who sought to symbolise Qatar’s location between the desert and the sea in the form of a desert rose. **La Libre** describes the work of Her Excellency Sheikha Al Mayassa Al Thani, Chairperson of Qatar Museums, in curating artwork to make Qatar an unmissable cultural destination.

## The Daily Telegraph - How Qatar's doyenne of art is spotting designers of the future

Her Excellency Sheikha Al Mayassa Al Thani discusses her work as director of Qatar’s museum programme and role as “one of the most powerful woman in fashion” with **The Daily Telegraph**. Her Excellency explains her efforts to ensure Qatar becomes a leading cultural capital, including attending auctions, discovering new artists and supervising the recent opening of the National Museum of Qatar. Proud of her country, Her Excellency concludes by underlining that Qatar is “stronger than ever”.



## April engagements



His Excellency invited **Deputy Director General for Migration and Home Affairs at the European Commission Simon Mordue** for a luncheon at the Qatari Embassy in Brussels.



His Excellency was invited by **European Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship Dimitris Avramopoulos** to discuss strengthening cooperation between the European Commission and Qatar.



His Excellency welcomed young Tunisian **Amir Fehri, who serves as Ambassador for the Francophone countries**, to the Embassy. At age 15, Amir already speaks seven languages and has won a number of prestigious literary prizes, including the French Literary and Arts Prize.

His Excellency hosted a luncheon with a number of **think tank representatives** at the Embassy.



His Excellency had a fruitful meeting with **Bulgarian MEP Andrey Kovatchev, Vice-President of the European People's Party (EPP)**.



His Excellency met with **Dr. Ali bin Samih Al Marri, Chairman of the National Human Rights Committee (NHRC)**, on the sidelines of the International Conference on National, Regional and International Mechanisms to Combat Impunity and Ensure Accountability under International Law held in Doha from 14 to 15 April.

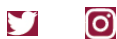
## **140th** Inter-Parliamentary Union in Doha



The 140th Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly that took place in Doha from 6 to 10 April witnessed the largest participation of delegates in the history of the organisation's meetings outside its main headquarters, with a total of 162 countries, including 1,600 parliamentarians, UN partners and sector experts, in attendance. The Assembly focused on five key areas: Education, Gender Equality, Counter-terrorism, Human Rights and Energy Poverty.

Ahead of their departure for Doha, His Excellency received members of the Belgian Parliament, including Siegfried Bracke, President of the House of Representatives of the Belgian Parliament, for a working lunch. They focused discussions on the IPU Assembly's agenda.

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