

Qatar Embassy in Brussels: June Newsletter



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The Embassy of the State of Qatar in Brussels

June 2019



BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

QATAR EMBASSY



A few words from the Ambassador

June has been a month of celebration for Qataris around the world, as we celebrated Eid Al Fitr, the festival marking the end of the Holy Month of Ramadan.

On a diplomatic level, Helga Schmid, Secretary General of the EU External Action Service (EEAS) visited Qatar as part of a wider regional tour. During a meeting in Doha with His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani, Qatar's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Secretary General exchanged views on current regional issues. The State of Qatar continues to support the EU's promotion of dialogue and mediation to de-escalate tensions in the region.

There was further evidence this month of Qatar's growing trade and economic relations with the EU and European countries. The Qatari and French governments reaffirmed plans to organise a Qatari-French

Strategic Dialogue in the fourth quarter of this year, and we saw encouraging reports of growing trade between Qatar and Italy.

I was also proud to see Qatar ranked the most peaceful country in the Middle East in the latest Global Peace Index. The Index ranks the level of peacefulness in countries globally and Qatar was one of four countries to have seen the greatest improvement this year.

And for those football fans among us, Qatar's national football team continued to be a great source of pride as they participated in the 2019 edition of the Copa America. The team showed great spirit to come back from two goals down against Paraguay in their opening game and were narrowly defeated by international heavyweights Columbia and Argentina. The tournament provided our young team with a fantastic experience, which I'm sure they will take into the competition again in 2020.

On behalf of the Embassy of the State of Qatar, I wish you all a wonderful start of the summer, and I look forward to reporting back on engagements with our European partners over the next month.

**His Excellency
Abdulrahman bin
Mohammed Al Khulaifi,**

Ambassador of the State of
Qatar



Qatar in the media

**Le Nouvel Obs – Qatar
aims for self-sufficiency in
food**



Le Nouvel Obs profiled the success of the Qatarat Agricultural Development Company (QADCO), which is working hard to make Qatar 70% self-sufficient in food by 2030. QADCO has developed 650 hectares of fields and greenhouses in the desert, providing greater food autonomy and security for Qatar, and has accelerated its efforts since the onset of the illegal blockade. This has resulted in a tripling of its production over the last two years, with plans in place to increase the quantity of exploitable land by 50% in the next year.

Metro – Qatar donates \$25 million to aid families in Gaza

His Excellency Ambassador Mohammed Al Emadi, Chairman of the Qatari National Committee for the Reconstruction of Gaza, announced that the State of Qatar donated \$25 million to support those affected by war, blockades and poverty in the Gaza strip. Part of this money will be donated to families directly, with some funds designated for infrastructure and job-creating projects. **Metro** added that Qatar's financial support is part of an agreement to ease the situation in the Palestinian enclave.



June engagements



His Excellency received **Dimitris Avramopoulos, European Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship**, to discuss bilateral relations between Qatar and the European Commission.



His Excellency met with members of the **Arab-Belgian Chamber of Commerce** to discuss the increasing volume of trade between Belgium and the Arab world.



His Excellency met with **officials from the EEAS**. Together, they discussed the Gulf region and Qatari-European bilateral relations.



His Excellency was invited to the birthday celebrations of **HRH the Grand Duke of Luxembourg**.

Q Magazine's 6th edition launched

Q Magazine, Qatar's flagship cultural magazine, will release its sixth edition today, Thursday 27 June. Dedicated to showcasing the breadth of vibrant cultures and diverse communities in Qatar, the magazine features recent cultural milestones such as the newly unveiled National Museum of Qatar, the recent 10-year anniversary of the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra and highlights from the 2019 Qatar-India Year of Culture.

Follow Q Life, the online portal of Q Magazine, on **Instagram** to get a sneak peek of those inspiring Qatar's arts, music, fashion, food and

sports scenes, and keep an eye on the Q Life **website** for the full magazine to be published, in English and French.



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