

The Embassy of the State of Qatar in Brussels

March 2019



BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

QATAR EMBASSY



A few words from the Ambassador

This month got off to a great start with the worldwide celebrations of International Women's Day on 8 March. Doha hosted a number of events to celebrate the inspirational and powerful women that have made Qatar the successful country it is today, and we shared in these celebrations at the Brussels Embassy. Building on these celebrations, I was incredibly pleased to see the first Qatar Airways flight operated by a female-only crew depart from Brussels to Doha on Sunday 10 March.

In more airline-related news, I had the pleasure earlier this month to be present when the EU-Qatar Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement was initialed at the European Commission headquarters. The agreement is the first of its kind between the EU and a Gulf country. It received praise from across the EU for setting ambitious standards for not only fair competition and transparency, but also with regards to social and environmental matters. Moreover, it is yet another example of the strong economic and

diplomatic relationships between the EU and Qatar, and the many opportunities that still lie ahead.

From 12 to 14 March, Qatar participated in the Brussels III Conference on 'Supporting the future of Syria and the region', co-organised by the EU and the UN. His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, reiterated Qatar's commitment to working with international partners towards a peaceful resolution of the Syria crisis, and announced our country's pledge of a further \$100 million to help alleviate the suffering of the Syrian people, who need our support so desperately.

Before I sign off, I wanted to once again remind you of all the incredible women that we are honouring this month – please do visit QLife.com to read more about several of Qatar's most inspirational women, from a Lieutenant Colonel to a CEO of a boxing studio, Qatari women are making their mark!

Wishing you a great start to spring,

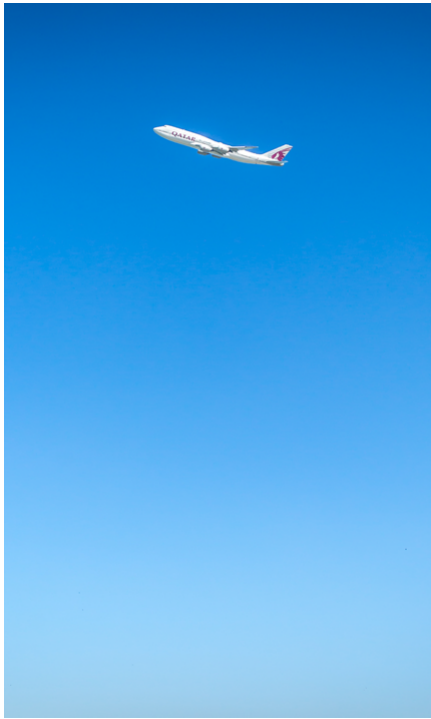
**His Excellency
Abdulrahman Mohammed Al
Khulaifi,**

Ambassador of the State of
Qatar



Qatar in the media

**Reuters - EU and Qatar to
have completed open**



skies by 2024: Qatar Airways CEO

Reuters reports that the landmark EU-Qatar Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement will lead to increased flight connections between several destinations in the EU and Doha, with full open skies achieved by 2024, according to Qatar Airways CEO Akbar Al Baker.

The Peninsula Qatar – Qatar Airways flies all-female flight from Brussels to Doha

Qatar Airways' flight from the Belgian capital to Doha was operated by an entirely female crew, the first flight of its kind, reports **The Peninsula Qatar**. This initiative is testament to Qatar Airways' commitment to promoting gender diversification in the aviation industry, drawing approval from MEPs including Isabella De Monte, who commented that "gender equality is about concrete actions and I praise Qatar Airways' commitment".



March engagements



HE the Ambassador was invited to the European Commission to witness the **signing of the Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement between Qatar and the EU**. The agreement marks a historical step in the cooperation between the State of Qatar and the EU.

HE the Ambassador was invited to the European Parliament to attend a hearing of live testimonies from **victims of the illegal blockade of Qatar** including Dr Wafaa Yazidi and Ms Jouhar Mohammed Al Mir.

HE the Foreign Minister meets with EU and UN officials in Brussels



Following his attendance at the Conference on 'Supporting the future of Syria and the region', HE Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, met with EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the EU Commission, Federica Mogherini, to discuss developments in the region, as well as the strengthening of relations between Qatar and the EU. HE the Foreign Minister also met with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg to discuss Qatar-NATO cooperation on common issues including cyber defence, energy security, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and crisis management.

Embassy of the State of Qatar in Brussels
Avenue Franklin Roosevelt 79
1050 Brussels
Belgium





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