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The Embassy of the State of Qatar in Brussels

May 2019



BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

QATAR EMBASSY



A few words from the Ambassador

As the end of May approaches, I have been fortunate to enjoy some precious moments with my friends and loved ones to celebrate the holy month of Ramadan. I have also taken the opportunity to meet with many of our close European partners.

I was privileged to join a session with the Tunisian Minister of Foreign Affairs, HE Khemaies Jhinaoui during an event hosted by the International Organisation of La Francophonie (OIF) and the Romanian Presidency of the European Council, to prepare the upcoming meeting of Heads of State of the Francophonie in Tunisia next year. I also met with members of Muslim civil society from Luxembourg to mark Ramadan.

May has also been a busy month in Qatar, with preparations for the 2022 FIFA World Cup at full speed.

Some of the biggest names in footballing history joined thousands of fans for the inauguration of the Al Janoub stadium and the final of the Amir Cup – Qatar’s biggest football competition. Al Janoub is the first purpose-built stadium for the 2022 FIFA World Cup and its magnificent design reflects Qatar’s maritime traditions and the traditional boat of the region, the dhow.

Qatar also opened its first metro line this month. I was delighted that several European Ambassadors were able to join for the inauguration in Doha. Once completed, the metro will connect many of the capital’s key locations with World Cup sites and will provide residents and visitors with a fast, convenient and eco-friendly form of transport.

Many European companies have been heavily involved in the construction of the metro and in building the infrastructure for a spectacular World Cup. As development in Qatar continues apace, I am confident that there will be new opportunities to deepen this cooperation.

On behalf of the Embassy of the State of Qatar, I wish you all a wonderful end to the month of May and I look forward to our upcoming engagements and activities, including with the new Members of the European Parliament.

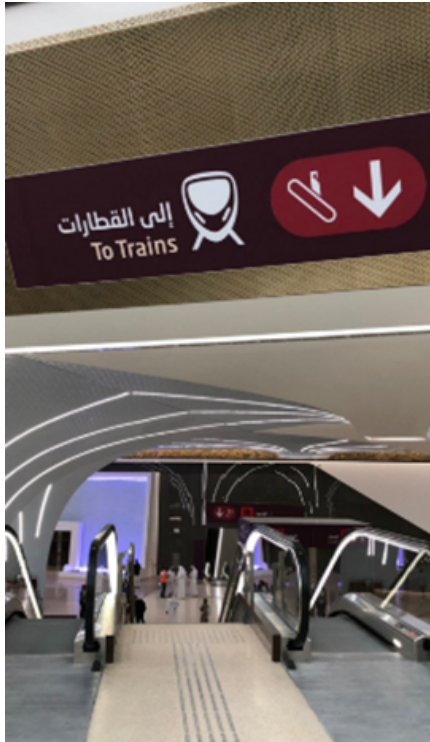
On behalf of the Embassy of the State of Qatar, I wish you all a wonderful end of May.

His Excellency
Abdulrahman Mohammed Al
Khulaifi,

Ambassador of the State of
Qatar



Qatar in the media



Le Nouvel Obs - Qatar inaugurates its first metro line

Le Nouvel Obs reported that on 8 May, Doha unveiled the first of three metro lines that will run through the city. Qatar Rail, which is responsible for the lines, has said the transport system will help reduce traffic and congestion in and around the capital. Once fully operational, the Red Line will connect Hamad International Airport, the centre of Doha, and 2022 FIFA World Cup Stadiums, including the Al Wakrah and Lusail stadiums.

Slate – Qatar sees its importance grow in international cinema

With seven DFI-supported films shown at Cannes Film Festival this month, **Slate** explored the work of the Doha Film Institute (DFI). The DFI's work enables artists and creators from Qatar and other MENA countries to highlight the region's rich culture and participate in the global film industry. The DFI also supports film festivals, including Ajyal Youth Film Festival, which supports local directors, producers and technicians and features a diverse offering of films far beyond the typical American blockbusters.



May engagements



His Excellency invited **figures from Muslim civil society in Luxembourg** to mark the holy month of Ramadan and to discuss the role of Islam and the Muslim community in Luxembourg.



His Excellency participated in a **dialogue session with HE Khemaies Jhinaoui**, Tunisian Minister of Foreign Affairs.



His Excellency met with **Ms. Cécile Jodogne, State secretary of the Brussels-Capital Region**, responsible for Foreign Trade, Firefighting and Emergency Medical Assistance, to discuss cooperation between Belgium and Qatar.



His Excellency took part to **Ramadan iftar celebrations**, hosted by HE Mohammed Ameer, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco to Belgium, and organised by the European Council of Moroccan Ulema in Brussels.

Qatar celebrates Europe Day!



The European Union delegation in Qatar together with the Romanian EU Council presidency hosted a range of festivities in Qatar to mark Europe Day earlier this month.

The festivities were an opportunity to celebrate the strong ties between Qatar and the EU and the increasing cooperation across a range of sectors. Celebrations of peace and unity in Europe were held in the Qatar National Convention Center in Doha and **European business council representatives gathered at the Grand Hyatt Doha Hotel**. To mark the anniversary of Robert Schuman's 1950 declaration, considered the basis of today's European Union, celebrations featured an interpretation of Schumann's Piano Concerto by the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Dmitri Kitajenko.

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