THE EU-GCC COOPERATION ON GREEN TRANSITION PROJECT
Funded by the European Union

EUROPEAN UNION DELEGATION TO THE SULTANATE OF OMAN

وزارة الطاقة والمعادن
Ministry of Energy and Minerals

GREEN HYDROGEN SUMMIT OMAN
قمة عمان للهيدروجين الأخضر

birba

وزارة النقل والاتصالات وتقنية المعلومات
Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology

SCALING GREEN HYDROGEN TOGETHER: THE OMAN–EU PARTNERSHIP FOR ACTION

NOV 30, 2025 | ST. REGIS, MUSCAT

EVENT SUMMARY REPORT

THE EU-GCC COOPERATION ON GREEN TRANSITION PROJECT
Funded by the European Union

THE EU-GCC COOPERATION ON GREEN TRANSITION PROJECT

Funded by the European Union

energy executive circle

EU-GCC Agenda

Sunday- **NOV 30**

08:30 – 09:00	**Registration & Welcome Refreshments**
09:00 – 09:15	**Opening Remarks**

Opening Remarks

H.E. Christophe Farnaud

Ambassador
European Union Delegation to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Kingdom of Bahrain, and the Sultanate of Oman

09:15 – 09:45 Fireside Chat: **Hydrogen Market Frameworks: Enabling Scale and Investment**

Panelists

H.E. Luigi Di Maio

EU Special Representative for the Gulf Region

H.E. Mohsin Al Hadhrami

Undersecretary,
Ministry of Energy and Minerals,
Sultanate of Oman

Moderator

Spyros Kouvelis

Team Leader,
EU-GCC Cooperation on Green Transition Project

Discussion Points:

A focused dialogue on how certification, regulation, and market readiness can unlock large-scale hydrogen trade between Oman and the EU. Gain insights from top-level policymakers and industry leaders on making projects bankable and investment-ready.

09:45 – 10:30 Panel 1: **From Potential to Production – Leveraging EU-Oman Partnerships and Investment for Green Hydrogen Scale-Up**

Moderator

Frank Wouters

Senior Vice President & Hydrogen Expert
MENA Hydrogen Alliance

Panelists

Abdulaziz Al Shidhani

Managing Director
Hydrom

Markus Exenberger

Executive Director,
H2Global Foundation

Jorden van Dam

General Manager at Green Energy Oman LLC & Business Opportunity Manager (Low-Carbon Hydrogen and CCS)
Oman Shell

Akram Azerbayev

VP Business Development
OQAE

Erik van der Heijden

Business Manager
Port of Rotterdam

Discussion Points:

Discover how Oman's renewable potential and the EU's technological expertise can be combined to scale production. The discussion will explore infrastructure readiness, supply chain development, certification pathways, and strategies for attracting global investors.

THE EU-GCC COOPERATION ON GREEN TRANSITION PROJECT
Funded by the European Union

energy executive circle

10:30 – 11:00	**Coffee Break & Networking**

11:00 – 11:45 Panel 2: **Hydrogen Ecosystems – Integration, End-Use Transformation, and Skills Development**

Moderator

Dr. Khalil Al Hanashi

Senior Advisor for Studies and Research, Directorate General of Renewables & Hydrogen, Ministry of Energy and Minerals

Panelists

Abdullah Al-Busaidi *TBC

Director General of Oman Logistic Center
Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology

Jürgen Rechberger

Vice President (Hydrogen & Fuel Cell Powertrain Systems), AVL List GmbH

Raul Ochagavia

Development Director ACCIONA Nordex Green Hydrogen

Ahmed Al Abri

Regulatory & Infrastructure Manager, Hydrom

Anton Geers

Climate Transition Developer
Port of Antwerp-Bruges

*TBC

also an

Director General
Oman Net Zero Center

Discussion Points:

Explore the complete hydrogen value chain—from production to end-use in shipping, heavy industry, and advanced fuels.
This panel will also spotlight skills development, workforce readiness, and community impact in driving a just energy transition.

11:45 – 12:00	**Closing Remarks & Next Steps**

Closing Remarks

Spyros Kouvelis

Team Leader
EU-GCC Cooperation on Green Transition Project

EXECTIVE SUMMARY

The EU–Oman Green Hydrogen Forum, organised by the EU–GCC Cooperation on Green Transition Project in collaboration with Birba Energy, took place on 30 November 2025 at The St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat. The event convened senior policymakers, industry leaders, technology experts, port authorities, and international partners to explore how Oman and the European Union can advance a strategic, long-term partnership on renewable hydrogen. Through high-level interventions, a fireside discussion, and two focused panels, the Forum highlighted both the significant progress already made and the critical enablers still required to develop a large-scale renewable hydrogen corridor between Oman and Europe.

Oman showcased the rapid evolution of its hydrogen ecosystem — from the establishment of Hydrom and the issuance of clear land and regulatory frameworks, to refined auction rounds, domestic offtake development, and coordinated planning across logistics, infrastructure, and net-zero institutions. Europe outlined its advancing regulatory environment, growing demand for clean molecules, readiness of major ports, and the financial instruments available through Global Gateway, the European Investment Bank, and national export credit agencies.

Speakers across all sessions converged on several priorities: early alignment on certification and standards, building predictable regulatory and investment conditions, accelerating infrastructure readiness in both Oman and Europe, and ensuring robust offtake mechanisms to bring projects to final investment decision. The importance of viewing hydrogen not as isolated projects but as a fully integrated value chain — connecting renewables, production, logistics, maritime transport, industry, and skills — was repeatedly emphasised.

A strong social dimension also emerged. Oman's transition will require a skilled workforce, targeted education and training, broader public awareness, and inclusive economic opportunities. International partners highlighted the need for co-developed solutions, knowledge exchange, and long-term collaboration to support a just and equitable transition.

Overall, the Forum underscored a shared commitment: Oman and the EU are entering a decisive phase where regulatory clarity, infrastructure coordination, technological innovation, and strategic financing must come together to turn ambition into operational reality. With continued collaboration and sustained momentum, both sides are well positioned to build a competitive and resilient hydrogen corridor that contributes to global decarbonization and economic diversification.

Opening Remarks
H.E. Christophe Farnaud, Ambassador of the European Union to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Sultanate of Oman

H.E. Christophe Farnaud opened the Forum by highlighting Oman's growing leadership in renewable hydrogen and the country's strong forward-looking vision. With its national hydrogen strategy, the creation of Hydrogen Oman (Hydrom), and an ambition to produce over one million tonnes of green hydrogen annually by 2030—supported by tens of billions of dollars in planned investments—Oman is signaling clearly that it is ready to play a central role in global hydrogen markets and in deepening cooperation with the European Union.

His Excellency underscored that this partnership carries significant strategic weight. Under the European Green Deal — and the emerging Clean Industrial Deal designed to strengthen Europe's industrial competitiveness during the transition — the EU aims to become climate-neutral by 2050, a goal that will also require importing renewable hydrogen to decarbonize hard-to-abate sectors such as heavy industry, maritime transport, and aviation. As Europe cannot meet this demand alone, collaboration with ambitious and capable partners like Oman is essential.

He noted that Oman's vast renewable potential—paired with Europe's technological expertise and growing demand for clean molecules—creates a strong basis for a long-term, resilient partnership that can help shape the emerging global energy economy. Beyond technology, he stressed that cooperation must centre on building full ecosystems: linking research, policy, skills, and industry to enable sustainable growth on both sides.

His Excellency highlighted that several European and Omani companies are already working together on joint projects and feasibility studies that could form the backbone of future hydrogen corridors. These collaborations are not only about exporting a new energy source, but also about generating new economic opportunities, jobs, and industrial capabilities.

He reaffirmed the EU's commitment to strengthening cooperation across renewable energy, decarbonization, and economic diversification, transforming shared goals into practical collaboration. Looking ahead, he emphasized that the EU views Oman not only as a key partner in the energy transition but also as a strategic bridge between Europe, the Gulf, and Asia within the future global energy landscape.

In closing, H.E. Farnaud reiterated that the green transition is more than a policy agenda—it is an opportunity to connect innovation, investment, and people in ways that will define the next generation of sustainable growth. He thanked all participants for their engagement and expressed confidence that the day's dialogue would open new avenues for cooperation.

Fireside Chat: Hydrogen Market Frameworks — Enabling Scale and Investment
Speakers:

- **H.E. Luigi Di Maio,** EU Special Representative for the Gulf Region
- **H.E. Mohsin Al Hadhrami,** Undersecretary, Ministry of Energy and Minerals, Sultanate of Oman

Moderator: Mr. Spyros Kouvelis, Team Leader, EU–GCC Cooperation on Green Transition Project

The Forum's high-level fireside chat brought together senior policymakers from the European Union and the Sultanate of Oman to explore how certification alignment, regulatory stability, infrastructure readiness, and coordinated policy frameworks can unlock large-scale renewable hydrogen trade between Oman and the EU. Moderated by Mr. Spyros Kouvelis, the session provided a forward-looking and practical dialogue on how to make the emerging hydrogen market investable, scalable, and export-ready.

Mr. Kouvelis opened the discussion by noting the significant evolution of the EU–Oman hydrogen dialogue since the first fireside chat held two years earlier. He emphasized the shift from vision-setting to enabling frameworks — including standards, certification, financing, and infrastructure — that now define the pathway toward a viable hydrogen corridor.

Regulatory Alignment and Predictability as Key Foundations
H.E. Luigi Di Maio underlined that early regulatory coordination between Europe and Oman is essential for reducing uncertainty for developers and investors. Hydrogen remains a new global commodity, and without coordinated certification systems and predictable rules, projects risk misalignment at the point of export.
He highlighted three areas where the EU can support practical collaboration:

- Standards and certification alignment, ensuring that hydrogen produced in Oman is fully compatible with EU market requirements.
- Infrastructure development, especially around ports in Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, and beyond, which will anchor future hydrogen import pathways.
- Financial tools, including Global Gateway, the European Investment Bank, and European export-credit agencies, which can collectively reduce capital costs and support project aggregation.

Oman's Practical, Export-Oriented Regulatory Approach

H.E. Mohsin Al Hadhrami described Oman's regulatory trajectory as deliberately pragmatic, designed from the outset to enable exportability and compatibility with international markets — and especially with Europe.

He outlined Oman's key priorities:

- Establishing clear certification frameworks aligned with EU requirements to ensure market access from day one.
- Ensuring stable policy signals, avoiding sudden policy shifts that could undermine investor assumptions or derail bankability.
- Maintaining continuous coordination among government entities, developers, off-takers, and financial institutions.
- Leveraging existing national strengths, such as pipeline networks, water management systems, and industrial capabilities, to accelerate hydrogen readiness.
- Learning from current renewable projects, using real-time experience to identify bottlenecks, streamline administrative processes, and reduce uncertainty for future hydrogen developments.

He emphasized that Oman's approach is to reduce risk as early as possible, ensuring that hydrogen projects can scale efficiently and competitively.

Financing and De-Risking: Emerging Confidence in the Sector

Both speakers agreed that the hydrogen sector requires structured financial de-risking during its early stages.

H.E. Al Hadhrami noted that engagement from international financial institutions has accelerated in recent months, driven by better demand aggregation and clearer policy frameworks. This, he said, is bringing much-needed sector security and investor confidence.

H.E. Di Maio added that the EU's broader financial ecosystem — from the EIB to national export agencies — can play a decisive role in creating predictable investment conditions for both European and Omani stakeholders.

Infrastructure Readiness and Building the Hydrogen Corridor
The discussion highlighted the importance of port infrastructure, conversion facilities (such as ammonia and hydrogen handling technologies), and maritime logistics in shaping the future EU–Oman hydrogen corridor.

H.E. Di Maio reiterated that hydrogen cooperation is a strategic priority for Europe, and that a coordinated approach across ports, cities, and multiple regulatory authorities will be essential to enabling large-scale trade.

Setting Joint Targets and Sending a Clear Signal to Investors
In the final part of the discussion, H.E. Al Hadhrami proposed that Oman and the European Union explore setting a joint export volume target by a specific date. Establishing such a shared ambition, he noted, would send a powerful signal to investors that both sides are committed to a long-term hydrogen partnership, backed by clear policy direction and market stability.

H.E. Di Maio echoed this view, underlining that initiatives such as certification alignment, clear timelines, and predictable cross-market frameworks will be essential to enabling the private sector to invest confidently and at scale.

Closing Reflections
Mr. Kouvelis concluded the session by noting that the discussion offered a rich, forward-looking vision for the EU–Oman hydrogen corridor — grounded in practical enablers across standards, infrastructure, financing, and market development. He highlighted the remarkable progress made in just two years and expressed optimism that ongoing cooperation will accelerate the creation of a fully operational renewable hydrogen value chain.

He thanked the speakers for their insights and reiterated the project's readiness to reconvene with Omani partners in the near future to continue advancing the roadmap toward large-scale renewable hydrogen trade.

Panel 1: From Potential to Production – Leveraging EU–Oman Partnerships and Investment for Green Hydrogen Scale-Up
Speakers:

- **Eng. Abdulaziz Al Shidhani,** Managing Director, Hydrom
- **Mr. Markus Exenberger,** Executive Director, H2Global Foundation
- **Ms. Nihara Guruge, Manager,** Hydrogen and Renewables, Oman Shell
- **Mr. Akram Azerbayev,** VP Business Development, OQ
- **Mr. Erik van der Heijden,** Business Manager, Port of Rotterdam

Moderator: Mr. Frank Wouters, Chairman, MENA Hydrogen Alliance

This panel examined how Oman's renewable resource base and the EU's industrial and technological strengths can be brought together to move from strategy to implementation. The discussion focused on auction design, infrastructure readiness, certification and offtake models, industrial decarbonization, and the development of integrated supply chains between Oman and European ports.

Mr. Frank Wouters opened by challenging the narrative of a "slowdown" in hydrogen. He noted that installed electrolyser capacity has increased nine-fold over the past four years, with growth following an exponential trajectory. The real task, he argued, is to recalibrate expectations, identify bottlenecks, and accelerate progress where it matters most: bankability, offtake, and system integration.

Translating Oman's Hydrogen Strategy into Bankable Projects
Eng. Abdulaziz Al Shidhani outlined the significant progress made since the issuance of the Royal Decree in early 2023, which earmarked large land areas for hydrogen development and laid the legal foundations for investors to operate within a clear framework. Hydrom has since structured the programme around:

- Land allocation and resource clarity, providing transparent visibility on solar and wind potential.
- Dedicated logistics planning, including a "control tower" concept to monitor the movement of oversized equipment from ports to project sites.
- Refined auction design, informed by extensive market sounding.

He highlighted key adjustments introduced in the third auction round to better reflect market realities and broaden participation:

- Reducing project size thresholds to allow medium-sized investors to participate.
- Maintaining 300 km² zones but allowing developers to phase development, starting with roughly one-third of the land and production targets.
- Lowering minimum production volumes to create more flexible project configurations.
- Allowing developers to monetize surplus power, improving project economics.

Hydrom is also working on concepts for common-use infrastructure, using feedback from developers to determine the initial scale of shared assets. At the same time, it is exploring domestic offtake opportunities in mobility and industry, and has signed a collaboration agreement with H2Global to help support export-oriented projects from the first auction rounds onwards.

Despite market corrections and revised global forecasts, he stressed that Oman is "staying the course" and is determined to be ready to execute projects as soon as market conditions allow.

De-Risking Offtake and Finance: H2Global's Role

Mr. Markus Exenberger explained that one of the central challenges for early-stage hydrogen projects is offtake certainty. H2Global was designed to address this by "simulating" a mature market: it organizes competitive tenders for long-term hydrogen and derivative offtake, providing visibility and stability for producers while enabling cost-efficient procurement for European buyers.

He underlined that Oman is considered a key partner country and that H2Global is now preparing to deepen cooperation, including through the planned opening of a regional office. This would support structured offtake for projects emerging from Hydrom's auction rounds and help link Omani supply with European demand under transparent, rules-based frameworks.

Industrial Decarbonization and New Value Chains

From an industrial developer perspective, Mr. Akram Azerbayev described how OQ is positioning itself across several layers:

- Co-developing renewable energy projects in Oman to decarbonize domestic power and develop local capabilities.
- Decarbonizing existing assets — refineries and petrochemical plants — by integrating green molecules into operations.
- Developing green product offerings for international customers (e.g. in Japan and Europe) that seek low-carbon feedstocks and fuels.
- Working with sister state-owned companies in transport and logistics to embed decarbonization across the broader energy system.

He stressed that OQ's diverse portfolio — spanning petrochemicals, trading and infrastructure — provides a platform for integrated value chains that can combine conventional and green products. Skills development for Omani engineers in renewables and hydrogen is seen as a central part of this transformation.

Local Markets, Policy Signals and Cost Reduction

Ms. Nihara Guruge underlined the importance of domestic demand as a stepping stone towards large-scale exports. She pointed to previous waves of fuel switching and refinery regulations as examples of how targeted policy and strategic support can encourage local customers to decarbonize.

She identified two major cost drivers in the hydrogen value chain:

- The cost of hydrogen production itself, which needs to fall through technological learning, improved efficiencies, and lower-cost utilities.
- The utilization rate of electrolyser assets, which must be maximized to spread capital costs over more operating hours.

Policies that support early offtake, de-risk technology deployment, and enable shared infrastructure can help address both challenges. She stressed that smart integration with the power grid and coordinated infrastructure planning can create more attractive investment conditions for first movers.

Ports and Supply Chains: Rotterdam–Sohar Cooperation

Representing the port and logistics perspective, Mr. Erik van der Heijden noted that the Port of Rotterdam — alongside other major European ports such as Amsterdam and Antwerp — is actively preparing to receive and handle renewable hydrogen and its derivatives. Concrete steps include:

- New and expanded ammonia import terminals.
- Construction of hydrogen pipeline infrastructure connecting terminals to industrial clusters.
- Creating an ecosystem approach, where multiple players along the value chain coordinate investments and operations.

He emphasized that Rotterdam's long-standing co-ownership of the Port of Sohar with Oman provides a strong basis for cooperation. Sohar is seen as a strategic location to integrate hydrogen production, industrial uses, and export infrastructure. Mutual learning between Sohar and Rotterdam — on industrial clustering, shared infrastructure and regulatory frameworks — can lower costs and accelerate deployment in both locations.

Mr. van der Heijden also stressed that thinking in terms of full supply chains, rather than isolated projects, is essential for managing financial, logistical and regulatory risks. In a changing geopolitical context, strategic partnerships such as EU–Oman linkages support both energy security and decarbonization goals.

Key Takeaways

Across the panel, several common messages emerged:

- The hydrogen market is growing rapidly, even if expectations have had to be adjusted; the focus now is on practical enablers of scale.
- Oman has moved from vision to structured implementation, refining its auction and regulatory framework to improve bankability and attract a wider range of investors.
- Offtake certainty and de-risked finance remain central; initiatives like H2Global are critical bridges between Omani supply and European demand.
- Industrial players such as OQ and Shell are using hydrogen both to decarbonise existing operations and to open new commercial opportunities, while building local skills.
- European and Omani ports — notably Rotterdam and Sohar — are at the heart of future hydrogen corridors and are already adjusting infrastructure in anticipation of large-scale trade.
- Domestic demand development, smart regulation and shared infrastructure can lower costs, reduce risk, and support a smoother path from potential to production.

The moderator closed the session by reaffirming the importance of "staying the course" and building on the progress already achieved, as both Oman and the EU continue to turn hydrogen strategies into concrete investments and operational projects.

Panel 2: Hydrogen Ecosystems – Integration, End-Use Transformation, and Skills Development

Speakers:

- **Mr. Abdullah Al-Busaidi,** Director General of Oman Logistic Center, Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology
- **Mr. Jürgen Rechberger,** Vice President (Hydrogen & Fuel Cell Powertrain Systems), AVL List GmbH
- **Mr. Raul Ochagavia,** Development Director, ACCIONA Nordex Green Hydrogen
- **Mr. Anton Geers,** Climate Transition Developer, Port of Antwerp-Bruges
- **Mr. Hussam Al Jabri,** Master Planning & Geomatics Manager, Hydrom
- **Mr. Mohsin Al Jabri,** Director General, Oman Net Zero Center

Moderator: Ms. Siddiqa Al Lawati, Advisor, Low Carbon Molecules, OQ Alternative Energy (OQAE)

This session focused on how Oman and international partners can build a full hydrogen ecosystem – from production, storage, and transport to end-use in industry, mobility, power systems, and advanced fuels – while in parallel preparing the workforce and society for a just and inclusive energy transition.

Moderator Ms. Siddiqa Al Lawati opened by stressing that technology alone will not deliver Oman's hydrogen ambitions: success depends equally on human capital, institutional readiness, and community engagement. The panel therefore examined sector integration (logistics, ports, heavy mobility, industry, power), skills development, and the social dimension of the transition.

Building a Hydrogen-Ready Transport and Logistics System

Mr. Abdullah Al-Busaidi outlined how Oman's transport and logistics roadmap is integrating hydrogen and low-carbon fuels into long-term planning. Two years ago, the Ministry began developing a decarbonization roadmap for land transport and logistics, with several key principles:

- Use the transition as an investment opportunity, not just a compliance exercise.
- Engage the private sector early, ensuring solutions are commercially viable and do not unduly burden end users.
- Adopt multiple technologies and fuels (battery electric, hydrogen combustion, fuel cells) to reflect different use cases, especially in heavy transport and cross-border trucking.

He highlighted an early hydrogen mobility project where the ministry leveraged a donated hydrogen station to create not only a pilot asset but also targeted job opportunities for families in need, emphasizing the social aspect of the transition.

To make hydrogen practical in heavy mobility, the ministry has:

- Supported retrofit solutions for existing trucks, achieving around 53% emissions reductions in pilots.
- Worked on hydrogen freight corridors linking ports, concession areas, industrial zones, and construction sites.
- Aggregated demand across land transport for Port of Sohar operations and construction logistics to bring hydrogen costs down by combining volumes.

An internal analysis showed that, by aggregating demand between port operations and logistics corridors, the price gap between diesel and hydrogen could be reduced significantly (e.g. cutting the cost delta by more than half). Remaining gaps may be further narrowed through carbon pricing schemes (such as ETS), international alliances, and technology learning.

Oman is also joining global initiatives such as the heavy truck decarbonization alliance, signaling a strong, long-term commitment to shifting the transport sector towards low-carbon fuels.

Industrial Decarbonization, Localization and Supply Chains

From the project developer perspective, Mr. Raul Ochagavia emphasized that a viable hydrogen ecosystem must rest on three pillars:

1. Cost-competitive production (renewables and hydrogen).
2. Bankable project structures and financing.
3. Reliable offtake and industrial integration.

ACCIONA Nordex brings decades of experience in developing and operating wind and renewable assets across multiple markets, and their approach in Oman is to combine:

- Transfer of technical and operational knowledge from mature wind and renewable sectors.
- Honest assessment of project viability and risk, including the real costs of capital, operations and offtake.
- Support for local skills and industrial capabilities needed to operate projects over the long term.

On localization, he noted that nearly every country seeks to localize manufacturing and supply chains, but this must be underpinned by:

- A credible pipeline of projects and sufficient volume to justify investment.
- A realistic understanding of the time and cost required to build skills, quality systems, and industrial capacity.

Localization is therefore seen as a progressive journey, built on long-term project visibility and partnership rather than a short-term requirement.

Technology Innovation and Knowledge Transfer

Representing the technology and engineering perspective, Mr. Jürgen Rechberger explained AVL's role as a technology and engineering service provider rather than an equipment seller. AVL works with OEMs and industrial partners to co-develop:

- Fuel cell and hydrogen powertrain systems.
- New electrolyser technologies, including next-generation solid oxide (SOEC) concepts.
- Integrated system designs and performance optimization across the value chain.

He highlighted that:

- Technology transfer is central to AVL's mission; the goal is not only to deploy products in Oman, but to enable local engineers and companies to design, operate, and eventually manufacture advanced technologies.
- In the near term, some of the biggest opportunities lie in high-efficiency power generation (e.g. for data centres and large loads), where solid oxide technologies can address efficiency and fuel-flexibility challenges.
- For Oman, prioritizing efficiency improvements across the hydrogen value chain – from production to end-use – can have an immediate impact on competitiveness and reduce required subsidies.

From his perspective, a key near-term priority for Oman is to "push efficiency" as far as possible, thereby lowering overall system costs and improving the business case for both domestic and export applications.

Net Zero Strategy, Just Transition and Policy Enablers

Mr. Mohsin Al Jabri explained that the Oman Net Zero Center has now completed its first year, serving as a central platform to coordinate implementation of the national net-zero strategy. Hydrogen is identified as one of the core enablers across multiple sectors: heavy industry, transport, and power.

The Center's role includes:

- Translating the net-zero strategy into concrete project pipelines and monitoring their progress.
- Identifying gaps and barriers in individual industrial projects (regulatory, financial, technical) and helping to design the right policy tools or incentives to close them.
- Supporting a just and equitable transition, ensuring that economic diversification, job creation, and social stability remain central outcomes rather than side-effects.

He emphasized that Oman is moving away from a narrow view of hydrogen as a stand-alone energy vector, and instead embedding it within a broader development narrative: economic diversification, industrial competitiveness, and long-term prosperity for citizens.

Education, research, and public awareness are therefore not "add-ons" but structural components of the transition. The Center works closely with universities, training institutions, and industry to identify skills gaps and design programmes that can draw in Omani youth and workers into new green value chains.

Ports, Import–Export Hubs and International Connectivity

Mr. Anton Geers described how the Port of Antwerp-Bruges is preparing to become a major hydrogen and green molecule hub for Europe – and how this connects directly to Oman.

He highlighted two dimensions of the partnership:

1. **Shareholding and co-development in Oman**
   - The Port of Antwerp-Bruges is a shareholder in Port of Duqm and actively co-develops infrastructure, logistics solutions, and industrial integration.
   - The goal is to maximize local value creation (e.g. green steel, HBI, industrial processing) while also enabling large-scale export.
2. **Hydrogen import, conversion and distribution in Europe**
   - Antwerp-Bruges hosts the largest petrochemical cluster in Europe and is positioning itself as a major gateway for hydrogen and derivatives (e.g. green ammonia).
   - Several ammonia import terminals and cracking units are in development. A pilot ammonia cracker has already been commissioned and will serve as a stepping stone towards commercial-scale facilities.
   - A new open-access hydrogen backbone is under construction (by Fluxys), connecting the port to industrial clusters in Belgium and on towards Germany; first pipelines are already being laid and are expected to become operational in the near term.

He underlined that this evolving European infrastructure is directly relevant to Oman, since it will shape the routes, standards and economics of future hydrogen trade. The Port of Antwerp-Bruges is keen to share experience with Omani ports on:

- Safety standards and technical specifications.
- Terminal design and integration with industrial clusters.
- Planning frameworks, permitting and long-term infrastructure governance.

The port stands “ready to connect Oman with European demand centres” and to help both sides build stable, long-term supply chains.

Skills, Training and Public–Private Partnerships

Mr. Hussam Al Jabri and other panelists underlined that skills and institutional capacity are as critical as technology and infrastructure. Workers will be needed across the entire value chain – from renewables and electrolysers to logistics, operations, safety, planning, engineering and data.

Key points included:

- The need to build local expertise and operational skills from renewables through to hydrogen production, transport and end-use.
- The importance of modular, flexible training frameworks, co-designed between government, industry, and training centres to keep pace with rapidly evolving technologies.
- The potential of public–private partnerships (PPPs) to expand technical and vocational training, support certification schemes, and create pathways from education to employment in green industries.

Existing programmes and workshops in Oman are already building capacity in renewables and hydrogen, but the panel agreed that these efforts will need to scale significantly in the coming years.

Key Messages and Closing Reflections

In their closing remarks, speakers converged around several cross-cutting messages:

- Stay the course: The hydrogen transition is complex and will take time, but policy and institutional commitment in Oman is strong. Staying consistent and predictable is crucial for investors and communities alike.
- Regulation and alignment matter: Clear, predictable regulatory frameworks – domestically and with partner regions such as the EU – are essential to create markets, support trade, and avoid fragmentation.
- Think in ecosystems, not projects: Ports, pipelines, industrial clusters, mobility, skills and finance must be designed as part of an integrated ecosystem rather than as isolated investments.
- People at the centre: A just and inclusive transition requires deliberate investment in skills, jobs, and public understanding. Hydrogen should be a pathway to better livelihoods and opportunities for Omanis, not just a new export commodity.
- Deepen EU–Oman cooperation beyond molecules: The partnership should extend to knowledge exchange, training, innovation, and co-development of standards and infrastructure, ensuring that benefits are shared and long-term.

Ms. Al Lawati closed the session by expressing hope that the next edition of the Forum will not only discuss plans and frameworks, but also showcase implementation at a more advanced stage – with hydrogen ecosystems in Oman and Europe increasingly linked, operational, and delivering tangible benefits for people and industry on both sides.

Closing Remarks & Conclusions
Mr. Spyros Kouvelis, Team Leader, EU–GCC Cooperation on Green Transition Project

Mr. Spyros Kouvelis highlighted the key messages that emerged throughout the Forum, emphasizing the essential role of clear regulation, certification alignment, coordinated infrastructure planning, and investment de-risking to unlock large-scale renewable hydrogen production and future export between Oman and the European Union. He noted that both sides have already made substantial progress — Europe in refining its regulatory framework, and Oman in establishing strong institutional foundations, auction mechanisms, and a structured ecosystem to enable a competitive hydrogen industry.

He stressed the importance of "staying the course", recognizing that creating a new global market for hydrogen is complex but must advance at pace through continued dialogue, practical implementation, and long-term commitment from government and industry. Collaboration across policy, technology, finance, ports, and skills development will be critical to turning today's discussions into tomorrow's operational projects.

He also underlined that the EU–Oman partnership is entering a phase where concrete milestones will increasingly matter, and that both sides share a responsibility to maintain momentum, address barriers early, and ensure that the hydrogen transition delivers measurable benefits for industry, communities, and future generations.

Mr. Kouvelis concluded by expressing sincere thanks to the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, Birba Energy, EU partners, speakers, and all participants for their strong engagement and contributions to a highly productive Forum.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

MEDIA COVERAGE

A wide range of Omani, regional, and international media outlets covered the EU–Oman Green Hydrogen Forum, reflecting strong public and industry interest in the event and Oman's emerging leadership in renewable hydrogen. Coverage highlighted the EU–Oman partnership, advancements in policy and regulatory frameworks, infrastructure readiness, and the broader economic impact of the hydrogen transition. Below is the consolidated list of media articles and broadcast features.

English-Language Coverage

Muscat Daily
"Oman–EU forum sets stage for Green Hydrogen Summit"

Zawya / Oman Daily Observer
"Oman, EU advance green hydrogen alliance"

Zawya
"EU sees Oman as key partner in energy transition"

FuelCellsWorks (International Hydrogen Media)
"Oman, EU Advance Green Hydrogen Alliance"

Hydrogen-Central
"Oman–EU Green Hydrogen Alliance: What This Means for Investment and Business Opportunities in Oman"

BioEnergy Times
"Oman strengthens ties with EU to advance clean energy and green hydrogen"

Omanet (Oman Market Platform)
"Oman–EU Green Hydrogen Alliance: Opportunities for Investment"

Arabic-Language & Regional Coverage

***Oman News Agency (ONA)* – وكالة الأنباء العُمانية**
"انطلاق البرنامج التمهيدي لقمة الهيدروجين الأخضر في عُمان 2025 وبحث التعاون مع الاتحاد الأوروبي"

***Oman Daily Newspaper* – جريدة عُمان**
"عُمان والاتحاد الأوروبي يعززان الشراكة في الهيدروجين الأخضر"

***Attaqa Energy Platform* – منصة الطاقة**
"منتدى عُمان–الاتحاد الأوروبي للهيدروجين الأخضر يناقش البنية الأساسية والاستثمار"

***Oman Economy Journal* – مجلة الاقتصاد العُماني**
"الهيدروجين الأخضر: شراكة استراتيجية بين عُمان والاتحاد الأوروبي"

Television Coverage

Oman TV News Feature
Special report on the EU–Oman Green Hydrogen Forum, highlighting key discussions and interviews with senior officials

ABOUT THE PROJECT

THE EU-GCC COOPERATION ON GREEN TRANSITION PROJECT

Launched in August 2023, this project funded by the European Union marks a significant milestone in the long partnership between the European Union (EU) and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). By addressing critical global challenges such as climate change and sustainable development, the project builds upon the EU-GCC Cooperation Agreement Document signed in 1989. The Joint Action Programme for 2022-2027 endorsed in February 2022 outlines the strategic framework for cooperation, emphasizing the need to join forces in addressing climate change and make progress on green transition. This project reflects the shared commitment to leveraging EU expertise to deepen cooperation and engagement, promote green policies and technologies, and create a conducive business environment for collaboration among energy- related and green tech companies in the Gulf.

KEY OBJECTIVES

The project aims to strengthen political and technical relationships at regional and bilateral levels by:

- Deepening engagement towards green transition and climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- Promoting the uptake of green transition policies and technologies by the GCC countries.
- Facilitating a conducive business environment between EU and GCC green tech companies in the Gulf region.

IMPACT

- Enhanced knowledge exchange on climate action and green transition.
- Raised awareness on climate change, sustainable practices and circular economy.
- Strengthened network for collaboration in green solutions and energy transition.
- Proactive EU Climate Diplomacy in the region.

STAKEHOLDERS

- State and non-state institutions, business community, & environmental NGOs.
- Researchers, academia, youth groups, & media outlets.
- EU and GCC businesses, particularly SMEs.
- EU Member States present in the GCC.

FOCUS AREAS

GREEN TRANSITION
Promote transformative change for green transition policies & practices within the GCC.

NET ZERO CARBON
Implement solutions for reducing carbon emissions in industrial & public sectors.

HYDROGEN MARKET
Support the development of a renewable hydrogen market in the Gulf region.

CLEAN-TECH SOLUTIONS
Foster innovations in renewable energy technologies & clean-tech industries.

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION
Strengthen resilience & adaptive capacities to climate-related hazards.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Launch initiatives to preserve biodiversity & natural habitats, including marine protection.

CIRCULAR ECONOMY
Encourage the adoption of sustainable waste management & resource efficiency.

SUSTAINABLE FINANCE
Engage financial institutions in channelling investment & finance in support of green transition.

Funded by the European Union

FPI Programme Manager - Alessandra.tomirotti@eeas.europa.eu
DG CLIMA - CLIMA-D02-ARES@ec.europa.eu
DG ENER - ENER-TF3-SECRETARIAT@ec.europa.eu

SPYROS KOUVELIS
Team Leader
spyros.kouvelis@eugcc.eu

RANIA NSEIR
Events & Comms Expert
rnseir@eugcc.eu

Visit Our Site