EU – GCC DIALOGUE ON ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION PHASE II

A Project funded by the European Union

9. ACTIVITY REPORT
EU Session at the Quantum Innovation Summit

A project implemented by DAI in consortium with AHK and ICCS

DAI

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AHK German Emirati Joint Council for Industry and Commerce
المجلس الألماني الإماراتي المشترك للصناعة و التجارة

Activity Report

EU Session at the Quantum Innovation Summit

30 September 2026

I. Summary

Table 1: Summary of the EU Session at the Quantum Innovation Summit 2026

	Description
Theme	• Presenting Europe's quantum ecosystem and policy framework and exploring EU-GCC cooperation in quantum technologies.
Purpose	• Present the strengths of the European quantum ecosystem and the EU policy framework, including the Quantum Europe Strategy and the forthcoming Quantum Act, to government, industry and investor stakeholders in the UAE and the wider GCC. • Showcase European quantum companies and discuss how public policy, procurement and investment can support the transition of quantum technologies from research to industrial scale. • Identify concrete avenues for EU-GCC collaboration in quantum, including industrial use cases, co-investment, joint research and testing, skills development and deployment.
Date and time	30 September 2026, 11:40am – 12:25pm (GST)
Venue	Dubai, Grand Hyatt Dubai Conference and Exhibition Centre
Organised by	• Vernewell Group • UAE Cyber Security Council (host of the Quantum Innovation Summit) • EU-GCC Dialogue on Economic Diversification (EU session)
Supported by	• European Commission
Format	In-person, with one keynote delivered remotely

Language	English
Main Target Audience	Government and business leaders, investors, researchers and innovators from the EU, the UAE and the wider GCC, including quantum technology companies and prospective industrial end-users
Number of Participant	Over the 3 days of the Summit, 1250 participants joined. Out of the 47 registered for the EU session, 25 joined

II. Performance Reporting

1. Session Delivery

1-1. European Union Programme: Opening Address

Time	11:35am – 11:45am
Format	Opening address by H.E. Lucie Berger, Ambassador, European Union

The opening address launched the EU session, organised with the EU-GCC Dialogue on Economic Diversification, the European Commission-funded project supporting economic collaboration between the EU and the Gulf. It presented Europe as entering the quantum decade from a position of strength: around one third of the world's quantum companies are based in the EU, European firms supply nearly half of the hardware and software components used by the global quantum industry, and the EU and its Member States have invested more than EUR 11 billion in public funding over the past five years, now drawing in private capital at record levels. The deployment of Saudi Arabia's first quantum computer by a French company in partnership with a national energy company was cited as evidence that European systems are already leaving the laboratory.

Five European advantages were outlined: a single market of more than 450 million citizens with harmonised regulation and free movement of talent; clear policy and targeted investment at EU and Member State level; a maturing investment landscape; deep research ecosystems working closely with industry; and an active role in shaping standards. The address highlighted the Quantum Europe Strategy, implemented since July 2025, and the forthcoming Quantum Act, which will make Europe a more coherent partner for co-investment. It closed by inviting entrepreneurs, investors and governments to combine Europe's technologies and research base with the Gulf's strategic vision, capital and infrastructure, building partnerships on standards, skills and security.

1-2. Keynote "From Scientific Excellence to Industrial Leadership: Scaling Quantum in Europe"

Time	11:45am – 11:55am
Format	Keynote from Dr. Oscar Diez (delivered remotely), Deputy Head of Unit for Quantum Technologies, European Commission

The keynote set out Europe's position in quantum technologies and the steps being taken to move from research to industrial scale. Its central message was that Europe now has not only a strong scientific base, but also the technologies, companies and infrastructure that are increasingly ready for the market, and that the challenge is to turn this into industrial leadership. As quantum computing, communication and sensing are developing at different speeds and no single platform has proven dominant, Europe is building an ecosystem with several competitive paths to market rather than backing one technology.

Under the Quantum Europe Strategy, Europe is connecting research with manufacturing, testing infrastructure, skills and users. This includes pilot production lines for quantum chips, quantum computers integrated with supercomputers through EuroHPC to enable hybrid classical-quantum applications, and EuroQCI, a quantum communication infrastructure combining terrestrial and future space-based networks. These procurements are also creating an early market for European suppliers. The forthcoming Quantum Act, still in preparation, is intended to accelerate the move from research to industrial scale through better coordination, stronger supply chains, faster deployment and work on standards and benchmarking across the full value chain.

The keynote stressed that no region will hold every technology it needs, and that cooperation should benefit both sides under clear rules on intellectual property, data security and reciprocity. Five areas for cooperation with the Gulf were identified: industrial use cases, investment and scale-up capital, joint research and test beds, skills and talent mobility, and deployment. The European Quantum Technologies Conference later this year, with its new Quantum Vertical Exchange connecting technology providers with users and investors, was highlighted as an opportunity to continue these discussions.

1-3. Panel Discussion "How Smart Policies Lead to Thriving Businesses"

Time	11:55am – 12:25pm
Moderation	• Dr. Cecile Perrault, Executive Director Quantum Industrial Consortium
Panellists	• Mr. Jani Heikkinen, VP of Business Development, Qudora Technologies GmBH • Mr. Tuan Fachinetti, GTM Manager, EMEA & Latam, Kipu Quantum • Mr. Nicolas Proust, VP Sovereign Growth EMEA & APAC, Pasqal

The panel brought together three European quantum companies, covering software and hardware approaches, to discuss how smart public policy supports a thriving industry, how companies raise capital, and which Europe-Gulf partnerships create value for both sides. Panellists underlined the role of national and European programmes, public research institutions as early customers, and public procurement, citing the deployment of a 140-qubit quantum processing unit at an Italian high-performance computing

centre. A partnership between a European quantum company and a Saudi national energy company was presented as a model that could be replicated in the UAE and across the GCC.

The panel agreed that the clearest commercial value will arise where demand meets complex computational workflows. Quantum machine learning was identified as already delivering value in banking, oil and gas and energy, while quantum computers were described as accelerators that must operate in hybrid environments alongside classical computing. As many use cases will only emerge through active usage, panellists argued that public policy should catalyse adoption early and create demand by establishing use cases.

On investment, panellists emphasised that investors require proof points, notably deployed systems and existing end-users. Whereas the first wave of national programmes supported the move from lab to fab, the current phase focuses on moving from fab to scale, with investors seeking scalable use cases, production capacity, credible roadmaps and strong management teams.

Looking at EU-Gulf cooperation, the panel highlighted the complementarity between the GCC's vision and capital and Europe's research excellence and experience in scaling companies. Partnerships should move beyond vendor-client relationships towards developing local talent and intellectual property, as illustrated by an existing collaboration with New York University Abu Dhabi, and could extend to quantum AI capabilities and the deployment of European systems in the region. Success in three to five years would be measured by quantum applications in production, joint progress towards quantum advantage, and internationally competitive quantum companies emerging from the GCC.

1-4. VIP networking lunch

The session was followed by a networking lunch organised by the Project.

2. Lessons Learned

The session showed that quantum is becoming a deployable technology and that Europe is seeking to translate its scientific leadership into industrial scale, supported by the Quantum Europe Strategy and the forthcoming Quantum Act. Public policy was consistently presented as a market-maker: procurement, challenge programmes and infrastructure initiatives such as EuroHPC and EuroQCI provide first customers, generate proof points and attract private capital.

The discussions confirmed that near-term value lies where quantum meets complex computational problems in sectors such as energy, finance and maritime, within hybrid environments alongside classical computing and AI. As many use cases remain undiscovered, early engagement by industrial end-users is essential.

A key outcome was the strong complementarity between European and GCC priorities. Europe offers proven technologies and a diverse ecosystem, while the UAE and the wider GCC bring strategic vision, investment capacity, infrastructure and demanding industrial users. Participants agreed that partnerships should rest on mutual benefit and reciprocity, focusing on joint use cases, co-investment, local talent and intellectual property, and deployment in the region.

Overall, the session concluded that the success of EU-GCC quantum cooperation will be measured by applications in production and the emergence of internationally competitive quantum companies from the region, underpinned by trusted cooperation on standards, skills and security.

Annexes

Annex 1: Agenda

11:35am - 11:45am Opening Remarks • **Opening address**, H.E. Lucie Berger, Ambassador, European Union
11:45am – 11:55am: Keynote "From Scientific Excellence to Industrial Leadership: Scaling Quantum in Europe" • **Keynote**, Dr. Oscar Diez (delivered remotely), Deputy Head of Unit for Quantum Technologies, European Commission
11:55am – 12:25pm Panel Discussion "EU Quantum Context: Smart Policies, Thriving Businesses" • Mr. Jani Heikkinen, VP of Business Development, Qudora Technologies GmBH • Mr. Tuan Fachinetti, GTM Manager, EMEA & Latam, Kipu Quantum Mr. Nicolas Proust, VP Sovereign Growth EMEA & APAC, Pasqal Moderation: Dr. Cecile Perrault, Executive Director QuIC