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December 18th – January 5th

# DIGITAL news

# The latest news from EU **and** GCC

# Interviews and opinions

GCC realty market set to stabilise in 2021 Link

Gulf economies seen taking 2 years to recover from pandemic impact Link

Gulf economies must now show equal dexterity in handling their debts Link

## European Union

- EU budget: European Commission welcomes the adoption of the EU's long-term budget for 2021-2027 <u>Link</u>
- European Commission welcomes political agreement on future €79.5 billion for a new instrument to finance the EU external action and lead the global recovery through international partnerships Link
- Commission welcomes political agreement on Recovery and Resilience Facility <u>Link</u>
- EU cohesion policy: end of year wrap-up of action against the effects of the coronavirus pandemic <u>Link</u>
- Gender equality: Commission ensures excellence and improves gender balance in trade and investment arbitration Link
- EU institutions agree on priorities for coming years: A common agenda for our recovery and renewed vitality Link
- 2020 EU Industrial Research and Development Scoreboard: EU companies remain robust and increase investment amidst stiff global competition Link
- €182.9 million to promote European agri-food products, with a focus on sustainable agriculture Link
- Customs controls: EU customs stopped fake and potentially dangerous goods worth nearly
  €760 million in 2019 Link
- Watch List: Commission puts counterfeit and piracy hotspots in the spotlight Link
- State aid: Commission puts forward initiatives to further facilitate implementation of recovery and coronavirus support measures <u>Link</u>





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### Bahrain

COVID-19: Bahrain defers loan instalments for six more months Link

### Kuwait

- Banks considering acquiring money exchange companies. Link
- About 15 Bln investments made during corona crisis PIFSS. <u>Link</u>
- New era new MPS new outlook. Link
- Major economic changes expected from parliament. <u>Link</u>

### Oman

- Expats to pay more for electricity and water Link
- Subsidy reforms: Ambitious initiative of fiscal balance plan Link
- WTO officials hail Sultanate's role in boosting global trade <u>Link</u>
- New initiative to enhance monetary policy in Oman <u>Link</u>
- Return on investments hits 9.5 per cent in 2019: OIA Link
- Oman's OQ unveils green energy project in JV with Belgium firm Link
- Healthy foreign exchange reserves support stability of fixed peg: CBO Link
- Court ruling to bring in more competitiveness, investment <u>Link</u>
- Industrial exports projected at RO 10.7 bn by 2040 <u>Link</u>
- RO 61.5 million poultry farm set for launch in January 2021 Link
- Oman Investment Authority chief leads tour of Dugm projects <u>Link</u>
- Port of Dugm set for full-fledged operations in 2021 Link
- Work on Sur boatyard, labour township to start early next year <u>Link</u>
- Port of Salalah committed to mineral strategy of Oman <u>Link</u>
- Oman receives RO1.9bn FDI in 2019 Link
- Oman's non-oil exports drop 13 per cent; re-exports rise 22 per cent Link
- Belgian firm, OQ unit to set up green hydrogen project in Duqm <u>Link</u>
- Ban on single-use plastic bags from Friday: EA <u>Link</u>
- Review of the Business Year <u>Link</u>
- Banking credit key to economic recovery despite risk of loan defaults: CBO Link
- Projects worth \$2.5 bn open for investment in Oman Link
- CMA creates new department to combat money laundering Link
- Challenges facing Oman's economy after turbulent year <u>Link</u>





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### Qatar

- QFC making significant contribution to economy <u>Link</u>
- QFC contributes 1% to Qatar's total gross domestic product Link
- IMF projects Qatar's economy to grow at 2.7% in 2021 <u>Link</u>
- Qatar's swift policy response helps mitigate Covid-19 impact on economy: IMF <u>Link</u>
- Exponential growth in exports to Qatar from Turkey Link
- Qatar agritech market thriving at more than 6% annual growth Link
- FinTech sector in Qatar grows amid pandemic Link
- Qatar achieves high positions in 'WEF pillars' Link
- Stimulus package boosts private sector Link
- Exports maintain an upward trend Link
- Real estate sector stages comeback in 2020 Link

in November <u>Link</u>

### Saudi Arabia

- Saudization rises to over 30% in industrial sector, says minister Link
- French green bank expands into Saudi Arabia <u>Link</u>
- Saudi free economic zones under final review by govt: Al-Falih Link
- Saudi investment minister hails Saudi-Japan Vision 2030 as 'major step forward' Link
- Saudi Arabia eyes \$58bn investments by 2023, says Tourism Minister Link
- Saudi banks' profitability pressures to spill over into 2021 Link
- Saudization of 19 accounting professions to be implemented from June 11, 2021 Link
- SABIC localization scheme to add \$2.35bn to Kingdom's GDP Link
- stc to invest \$270m in 3 mega data centers Link
- Support granted for M&As among healthcare SMEs Link
- Public Pension Agency investment in SMEs achieved 46% returns: Governor Link
- Innovation at the heart of SPARK's sustainability agenda <u>Link</u>





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### United Arab Emirates

More UAE motorists set sights on electric vehicles Link

UAE highly resilient to Covid-19 pandemic impact, World Economic Forum says Link

UAE's GDP to grow 3.6% in 2021: Central Bank Link

Stop 'dumping' property in Dubai, warns Damac chairman Link

UAE extends Dh420m worth of trade credit support to SMEs in 2020 Link

Damac sees UAE property market recovery in two years Link

Accelerating decarbonisation and digitisation can build upon UAE's game-changing reforms Link

Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid approves 2021 Dubai budget with Dh57.1bn in spending Link

UAE economy to grow 2.5% in 2021, Central Bank says Link

How Dubai defied the odds to bounce back from the coronavirus crisis Link

Abu Dhabi to establish a new Supreme Council for Financial and Economic Affairs Link









As always, we welcome your feedback on the topics and sectors that interest you most and you would like to see covered in future editions of the newsletter.

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