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THIS ACTION IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

ANNEX XI

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the annual action plan in favour of the Asia Pacific region for 2022 Part 1

Action Document for EU-GCC Cooperation on Green Transition

ANNUAL PLAN

This document constitutes the annual work programme in the sense of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, and action plans/measures in the sense of Article 23 of NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

1 SYNOPSIS

1.1 Action Summary Table

1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act	EU-GCC Cooperation on Green Transition OPSYS number: ACT-60870/ JAD.981614 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (<u>NDICI-Global Europe</u>)
2. Team Europe Initiative	No
3. Zone benefiting from the action	The action shall be carried out in the countries of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC): Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates plus EU countries when appropriate.
4. Programming document	Regional Multi-annual Indicative Programme 2021-2027 Asia and the Pacific
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results	Priority area 2- Pursuing EU interests with key partners; Gulf SO 3 – Diversified economies through greener and more sustainable consumption and production. ER 3.1: Partners in the Gulf mainstream sustainable diversification in their policies. ER 3.2: Strengthened cooperation and alignment on green recovery as a new growth strategy. ER 3.3: More sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources, reduction of waste generation and more sustainable procurement practices.
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	Priority area 2- Pursuing EU interests with key partners; Gulf

7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG: 13 - Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts Other significant SDG: 7 - Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all			
8 a) DAC code(s)	41010 - Environment Policy and Administrative Management 70% 23110 - Energy Policy and Administrative Management 30%			
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	61000 - Private Sector in provider country			
9. Involvement of multilateral partners	No			
10. Targets	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input type="checkbox"/> Climate <input type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input type="checkbox"/> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
11. Markers (from DAC form)	General policy objective @	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Biological diversity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	12. Internal markers and Tags:	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective
Digitalisation @ digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

	digital skills/literacy		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital services		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Connectivity @ transport people2people energy digital connectivity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
	Migration @ (methodology for tagging under development)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities (methodology for marker and tagging under development)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUDGET INFORMATION				
13. Amounts concerned	Budget line: 14 02 01 30 (Middle East and Central Asia) Total estimated cost: EUR 3 000 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 3 000 000			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
14. Type of financing	Direct management through procurement			

1.2 Summary of the Action

The countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have embarked upon ambitious **multiyear national plans** that aim to bring about far-reaching changes in both economic and social areas. Increasing local awareness, international pressure and high exposure to the effects of climate change, have placed green transition and a gradual de-carbonisation at the heart of these national transformation strategies. The GCC countries' recognition of the urgency of tackling the issue of climate change is also reflected in other actions such as the launch of sector specific strategies by some GCC members such as the **Saudi Green Initiative**, the **submission of the updated NDCs ahead of COP26 by all the six GCC countries** or the **UAE's initiative to host the COP28 in 2023**.

The European Union (EU) is already playing a proactive role to fight climate change and to de-carbonise the energy system both domestically as well as internationally. The **European Green Deal** and the new Energy Engagement Strategy provides the EU with a solid basis for sharing its own experience of green transition and de-carbonisation with its partners in the Gulf.

Furthermore, this opportunity comes at the right political moment when both the EU and the GCC are looking at ways of boosting their relationship both at the regional as well as bilateral levels. The 26th EU-GCC Joint Council and Ministerial meeting committed to work closely on regional and global challenges and adopted a five-year joint cooperation programme. On 18 May 2022, the European Commission adopted a Joint Communication on a Strategic Partnership with the Gulf¹. It provides a comprehensive framework for strengthening EU-GCC cooperation, including in the priority pillar of green transition and sustainable energy security. Such a reinforced partnership will play a key role in the implementation of the European strategy to REPowerEU and the complementing EU External Energy Strategy.

In this overall context, by supporting, political as well as technical exchanges and concrete cooperation, this action

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<https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/Joint%20Communication%20to%20the%20European%20Parliament%20and%20the%20Council%20-%20A%20Strategic%20Partnership%20with%20the%20Gulf.pdf>

will help deepen the engagement between EU and GCC stakeholders in the area of climate change and de-carbonisation as well as promote the uptake of green transition policies and technologies by the GCC countries.

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

The formal EU-GCC relationship is anchored in the **1989 Cooperation Agreement**, which covers a variety of sectors of cooperation. Recognising each other's economic, political and geostrategic importance, the relations between the EU and the GCC have been steadily gaining significance. In recent years, not only has the EU strengthened its relations with the GCC at the regional level, it has also significantly boosted its bilateral relationship with each of its six member countries. **Cooperation Arrangements**, concluded between the EEAS and Ministries of Foreign Affairs of each of the six GCC countries, now complement the regional level Cooperation Agreement. EU already has three Delegations in the region – Abu Dhabi, Riyadh (covering Saudi Arabia, Oman, and Bahrain) and Kuwait (covering Kuwait and Qatar), and with the planned opening of a new Delegation in Doha, this presence will soon be boosted further.

In the field of fight against climate change, the 2015 **Paris Agreement on Climate Change** marked a landmark that steers the world towards a global transition to a low emission and climate resilient economy. The EU aims to become climate neutral by 2050 and has launched ambitious plans to achieve this. The **European Green Deal** and the 'Fit for 55-package' are key to cut greenhouse gas emissions, to de-carbonise the energy sector and to preserve the environment. The European Green Deal goes well beyond being a "climate change" policy. It is a growth strategy that aims to transform the EU into a fair and prosperous society, with a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy where there are no net emissions of greenhouse gases in 2050 and where economic growth is decoupled from resource use. Following Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, the EU has issued its REPowerEU plan that foresees a gradual reduction from Russian fossil fuel imports by 2027. The Plan will accelerate the European Green Deal objectives through energy savings, diversification of energy supplies, and accelerated roll-out of renewable energy to replace fossil fuels in homes, industry and power generation.

Conscious that climate change is a challenge that cannot be overcome by any one party alone, the EU has also taken up an active leadership role in the international arena to support and drive the process of implementing the Paris Agreement. The EU does this, both through its diplomatic outreach but also through concrete cooperation, sharing its own policy approach and technological expertise, with its international partners.

The countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council rank amongst the world's highest per capita emitters. However, with the global shift towards sustainable practices, including in the energy sector, GCC countries have also been engaging more decisively on a path of transformation towards knowledge-based economies and societies and shift away from sole dependency on fossil fuel. Each of the six GCC countries have embarked on their own specific trajectory for diversifying their economies away from an often near-exclusive reliance on hydrocarbon extraction.

In addition to their respective economic diversification processes, their recognition of the urgency of tackling the issue of climate change is also reflected in other actions, be it their sector specific strategies or their engagement with the follow up of the Paris Agreement implementation. For instance, Saudi Arabia has recently launched its ambitious Saudi Green Initiative, the UAE will be hosting COP28 meeting in 2023, and even though formally only the UAE was required to submit a new NDC, in the run-up to COP 26 all six GCC countries submitted new or updated NDCs.

This provides an excellent opportunity for the EU to further step up its engagement with the GCC countries, share its own experience in driving green transition, and to work together on the common interests such as short-term LNG imports, methane emission reductions and the development of a renewable hydrogen market and of preventing negative impacts of climate change via fostering more sustainable growth models, both domestically and globally.

At a more operational level, in 2010, the EU and the GCC agreed to launch the EU GCC Clean Energy Network (EU-GCC CEN). The successive editions of this project played a key role in bring EU and GCC stakeholders closer together to exchange on clean energy, energy efficiency and de-carbonisation policies and technologies, including by

putting forward experience, approaches and technologies of European businesses.

With the third phase of EU GCC CEN having ended in May 2022, the new proposed project **EU-GCC Cooperation on Green Transition** will build upon the work done in the area of clean energy, energy efficiency and decarbonisation of energy systems and enlarge it to cover the different policy areas covered under the European Green Deal. In the food sector, for instance, joint work on transitioning towards climate neutrality could build on existing cooperation initiatives such as the Agricultural Innovation Mission for Climate (AIM4C) which was launched by the UAE and the US at UNFCCC COP26 and of which the European Commission has become a Government Partner.

Taking cognizance of other projects and initiative of the EU and its Member States in the area of climate change and green transition, the proposed project will seek to build synergies with them.

2.2 Problem Analysis

Globally, greenhouse gas concentrations are at their highest levels, and emissions continue to rise. The consequences of climate change include, among others, intense droughts, water scarcity, severe fires, rising sea levels, flooding, melting polar ice, catastrophic storms and declining biodiversity.

As mentioned above, the GCC countries rank amongst the world's highest per capita emitters. This high emission levels stem from heavy reliance on fossil fuels, energy intensive industries, high household consumption and overall system and usage inefficiencies. In terms of total GHG emissions, the GCC countries, add-up to roughly 1.5% of total global emissions. These countries are also among those most affected by the impact of climate change.

Fossil fuels exporters are starting to face broader economic challenges, especially in the context of increased international action on environment and climate. This makes it imperative for Gulf countries to accelerate economic diversification, and to decarbonise their energy sectors. The urgency of tackling climate change as part of economic diversification has also been brought forward in most Gulf countries' agendas.

Three GCC countries announced net-zero carbon dioxide targets in October: the UAE for 2050; Saudi Arabia and Bahrain for 2060. In pledging "net-zero" emissions targets, greenhouse gas emissions would be cut within their borders — while maintaining (and even expanding) fossil fuel exports abroad.

Several climate watchdogs classify all Gulf's pledges as "critically insufficient" when compared with their fair-share contribution to global climate action.

In 2022, increasing attention in the region is likely to be focused on energy transition financing, including environmental, social, and governance (ESG) investing; energy efficiency, renewables and hydrogen strategies and regulatory frameworks; and business models and new approaches to carbon capture, utilization, and storage technologies and large-scale deployment.

The European Green Deal offers an important opportunity to the EU, to engage more strategically with our partners in the Gulf and jointly manage common challenges and opportunities. It can help shape the discourse around the importance of ensuring a sustainable recovery, heightened energy security and "building forward better", in line with the Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement. The EU could share its expertise and know-how to accompany and fast track the transition to low-emissions, energy-efficient and circular economies as enablers of economic diversification, with a particular emphasis on sustainable investments and green growth.

Concretely, the EU and GCC could both benefit from a stepped-up dialogue and cooperation on climate action and clean energy transition including exchanges and partnerships on clean energy (including renewable energy and renewable hydrogen), energy efficiency, Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage, carbon markets, climate adaptation and resilience. Knowledge exchanges could cover best practices, technology options, innovation, regulatory frameworks and standards, market barriers among other issues.

Aligning finance flows with a pathway towards low GHG emissions and climate-resilient development is key to driving the shift to a climate neutral and resilient global economy and society. Sustainable finance, transparency, green taxonomy are some of the areas where our interests converge and could become important avenue for a more

strategic dialogue and technical exchanges, including in partnership with European and Gulf-based Financial Institutions like the Islamic Development Bank.

Climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction presents an important area for partnerships, at both bilateral and regional level. Frameworks like the Saudi and the Middle East Green Initiatives could offer an important avenue for dialogue and partnership. Nature-based solutions for climate change adaptation and mitigation can also be considered, as well as measures fostering a more efficient and sustainable use of natural resources.

Bringing together, the different EU policy areas in a single flexible tool, the proposed project, can provide a solid and systematic basis for articulating some of the challenges and common areas of interest mentioned above.

The action will be implemented in the six countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council and in the European Union. It will allow bilateral cooperation with each of the GCC countries as well as regional engagement as relevant.

Main stakeholders of the action will be public and private stakeholders in each of the six GCC countries, GCC as a regional organisation and the EU. EU Member states will be closely involved through their representatives in the region with the aim of maximising synergies with their ongoing initiatives as well as through their Chambers of Commerce as European companies will also be closely associated to showcase their experience, approaches and technologies.

The main target groups of the action are:

- GCC public stakeholders – Ministries and other public bodies in each of the six GCC countries; the GCC Secretariat
- EU public stakeholders - EEAS and European Commission services (both in the Delegation and in headquarters), EU Member States representatives in the region
- Other Stakeholders in EU and in GCC – Academia, think tanks, private sector, civil society, media (both traditional and social media stakeholders) etc.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective (Impact) of this action is to contribute to **stronger political and technical relations between the EU and GCC**, both at regional and bilateral levels.

The Specific Objective (Outcome) of this action is to **deepen engagement between EU and GCC stakeholders in the area of climate change and to promote the uptake of green transition policies and technologies by the GCC countries.**

The Outputs to be delivered by this action contributing to Specific Objective (Outcome) are:

1. Increased **mutual knowledge among EU and GCC stakeholders, of policies, good practices and lessons learnt** in the field of climate action, green transition and de-carbonisation **with a view to enabling policy shifts.**
2. Increased **awareness among GCC Stakeholders of the opportunities and challenges related to Climate change, green transition and de-carbonisation.**
3. A **strengthened network of EU and GCC state and non-state entities engaged in climate action, green transition and de-carbonisation.**

4. **Customized policy and practice options developed to support climate action, green transition and de-carbonisation in the GCC Countries.**
5. **Enhanced EU-GCC cooperation on climate change, green transition and de-carbonisation, including in the areas of research, business and investment.**

3.2 Indicative Activities

Some of the activities that will be implemented to achieve the objectives detailed above will be (inter alia):

- Organisation of workshops, seminars, study tours, high-level conferences etc. to facilitate exchange of knowledge and best practices.
- Provision of specialised technical assistance and policy analysis and advice including drafting of policy briefs, situation analysis, reports, studies etc.
- Support to high level EU GCC regional and bilateral dialogues and meetings. This may take the form of technical input and/or organisational support.
- Awareness raising activities including people to people outreach, development and running of communication campaigns, production of promotional/outreach material etc.)

The activities may encompass all policy areas and sectors covered by the EU Green Deal, including the Fit for 55 package and the REpowerEU plan (inter alia: climate, energy, environment, transport, agriculture, industry, finance, research and innovation).

3.3 Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

Climate change is the main subject matter of this action. In addition to this, it will also be addressed as a cross cutting issue. Measures will be taken to reduce the environmental impact of the project's activities.

Support to EU industry and promotion of EU's technical standards, will be mainstreamed across the policy areas covered by the project.

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls

Gender equality will be mainstreamed throughout the implementation of the action by aiming to (inter alia) ensure gender balanced speaker panels, round tables and working groups, including at high-level representation. Gender equality will be addressed by inclusion of gender-relevant issues in the exchanges and dialogues. Specific initiatives may include analysis of gender related issues in the policy areas and sectors covered by the action, analysis of gender equality in administrations and businesses, mapping women's involvement and contribution to climate change related technologies and policies, identification and sharing of good practices related to women's participation, awareness raising or peer to peer mentoring and exchanges.

Participation of youth will be promoted, especially in public diplomacy outreach and other awareness raising activities.

Human rights

This cross-cutting issue is not applicable for the proposed action.

Disability

This cross-cutting issue is not applicable for the proposed action.

Democracy

This cross-cutting issue is not applicable for the proposed action.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

This cross-cutting issue is not applicable for the proposed action.

Disaster risk reduction

This cross-cutting issue is not applicable for the proposed action.

Other considerations, if relevant

Lastly, the action will strive towards more accessible project resources, e.g., more accessible event venues, accessible project website etc.

3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
Political	Political situation in the region makes implementation difficult	M	H	Continuous assessment of the political and social situation in the region to identify potential obstacles to the project; Ensure sufficient flexibility in project design to adapt activities to evolving political and social context;
Political	Unexpected crisis or ad-hoc irritants undermine the EU-GCC technical or political relations negatively impacting the project activities	L	H	Continuous analysis of the relations to identify such risks in a timely manner and to propose measures to address technical level irritants/risks that lie within the project's reach;
Political	Green transition and/ or addressing climate change is not considered a priority in the GCC, leading to limited/reduced interest of the GCC stakeholders in the project activities	M	M	Working closely with the EU, the project will build and use a holistic narrative, explaining the importance of the green transition for economic growth and prosperity; Project activities will be tailored made to meet the specific context and needs of the GCC countries;

Lessons Learnt

The proposed project will build upon the best practices and lessons learnt drawn from past and ongoing actions in the GCC. Some of these are:

- Continuous dialogue with and systematic involvement of the GCC stakeholders (both country and regional

level).

- Close involvement of and policy steer from the Commission Services (in areas relevant to the project) and the EEAS.
- Strong political as well as operational steer from the EU Delegations in the region.
- Importance of continually informing and coordinating with Member States.
- Flexibility to adjust the working methods and tools to the actual needs during the implementation period.

3.5 The Intervention Logic

Building on the current positive momentum in the region, the project will work to promote green transition in the GCC both at state as well at non state levels.

On the one hand, the project will work directly with the GCC countries to (inter alia) share EU's policy and technology experience and (if relevant), support them in developing approaches to green transition and de-carbonisation best suited to the region. In parallel, the project will facilitate cooperation between EU and GCC non state stakeholders (businesses, think tank, academia, civil society and citizens) to increase awareness and mutual understanding of both EU and GCC perspectives and practices in the area. The project will leverage the network of stakeholders created during this process, to keep the conversation around climate change going, as well as to strengthen their engagement in different sectors related to the green transition.

Finally, by linking this work to the EU-GCC policy discussions and political dialogues, the project will deepen engagement between EU and GCC stakeholders in the area of climate change and de-carbonisation, as well to promote the uptake of green transition policies and technologies by the GCC countries.

In line with EU's foreign policy towards the Gulf, the project will engage both at a regional (pan-GCC) level, as well at the level of individual GCC countries, and in doing so, it will contribute to stronger political and technical relations between the EU and GCC, both at regional and bilateral levels.

3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

PROJECT MODALITY (3 levels of results / indicators / Source of Data / Assumptions - no activities)

Results	Results chain (a): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (a): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	<div style="background-color: #e6f2ff; height: 15px; width: 100%; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <p>Contribute to stronger political and technical relations between the EU and GCC, both at regional and bilateral levels</p>	Number of EU bilateral and regional, cooperation partnership strategies which have been enhanced (EU-GCC Cooperation Agreement, EU-GCC Joint Communication, EU-GCC member State Cooperation Arrangement)	0	7 (project year 3)	Project Monitoring; Outcomes of EU-GCC (bilateral and regional) official and informal dialogues)	<i>Not applicable</i>

Outcome 1	Deepen engagement between EU and GCC stakeholders in the area of climate change and to promote the uptake of green transition policies and technologies by the GCC countries.	1.1.Number of processes related to state-level and sub-state level (bilateral, regional) partnership strategies and policy dialogues which have been influenced (EU-GCC Cooperation Agreement, EU-GCC Joint Communication, EU-GCC member State Cooperation Arrangement)	1.1 0	1.1 3 (project year 3)	1.1. Project Monitoring; Outcomes of EU-GCC (bilateral and regional) official and informal dialogues) 1.2. Project Monitoring 1.3. Project Monitoring	Political situation in the region remains stable No unexpected crisis or ad-hoc irritants undermine the EU-GCC technical or political relations negatively
		1.2.Number of processes related to partner country approaches to challenges of global concern which have been influenced (GCC countries' own approaches to climate change)	1.2 0	1.2 2 (project year 3)		
		1.3.Percentage of participants targeted by outreach and advocacy events who acknowledge a positive change in their perception of the EU and/or international policies and standards.	1.3 0	1.3 25% (project year 3)		

<p>Output 1</p>	<p>Increased mutual knowledge among EU and GCC stakeholders, of policies, good practices and lessons learnt in the field of climate action with a view to enabling policy shifts.</p>	<p>Number of events organised or supported</p> <p>Number of participants in the events organised/supported</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>To be defined during subsequent stages of the project</p>	<p>Political situation in the region remains stable</p> <p>No unexpected crisis or ad-hoc irritants undermine the EU-GCC technical or political relations negatively</p> <p>Prioritisation of Green transition and/ or addressing climate change by the GCC remains at least at the current level (or is further strengthened)</p>
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<p>Output 2</p>	<p>Increased awareness among GCC Stakeholders of the opportunities and challenges related to Climate change.</p>	<p>Number of public/media/communication campaigns designed and implemented</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>To be defined during subsequent stages of the project</p>	<p>Political situation in the region remains stable</p> <p>No unexpected crisis or ad-hoc irritants undermine the EU-GCC technical or political relations negatively</p> <p>Prioritisation of Green transition and/ or addressing climate change by the GCC remains at least at the current level (or is further strengthened)</p>
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<p>Output 3</p>	<p>A strengthened network of EU and GCC state and non-state entities engaged in climate action</p>	<p>Number of outcome statements emanating from the events</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>To be defined during subsequent stages of the project</p>	<p>Political situation in the region remains stable</p> <p>No unexpected crisis or ad-hoc irritants undermine the EU-GCC technical or political relations negatively</p> <p>Prioritisation of Green transition and/ or addressing climate change by the GCC remains at least at the current level (or is further strengthened)</p>
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<p>Output 4</p>	<p>Customized policy and practice options developed to support the green transition in the GCC Countries.</p>	<p>Number of knowledge-based products developed</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>To be defined during subsequent stages of the project</p>	<p>Political situation in the region remains stable</p> <p>No unexpected crisis or ad-hoc irritants undermine the EU-GCC technical or political relations negatively</p> <p>Prioritisation of Green transition and/ or addressing climate change by the GCC remains at least at the current level (or is further strengthened)</p>
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<p>Output 5</p>	<p>Enhanced EU-GCC cooperation on climate change including in the areas of research, business and investment.</p>	<p>Number of events organised or supported</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>To be defined during subsequent stages of the project</p>	<p>Political situation in the region remains stable</p> <p>No unexpected crisis or ad-hoc irritants undermine the EU-GCC technical or political relations negatively</p> <p>Prioritisation of Green transition and/ or addressing climate change by the GCC remains at least at the current level (or is further strengthened)</p>
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4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Financing Agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not envisaged to conclude a financing agreement with the GCC countries.

4.2 Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action is 72 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Financing Decision. This includes a period of 18 months for procurement, an indicative 36 months of action implementation and 18 months until the FDI.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's responsible authorising officer by amending this Financing Decision and the relevant contracts and agreements.

4.3 Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures.

4.3.1 Direct Management (Procurement)

The procurement will contribute to achieving the specific objectives in section 3.1.

A call for tender with suspensive clause will be launched.

This project builds on a previous project "EU GCC Clean Energy Network" that ended in May 2022. An early start of the implementation of the new project will allow the EU to leverage the momentum of dialogue created by the previous project.

4.4 Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply.

The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of services in the markets of the countries or territories concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where application of the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult (Article 28(10) NDICI-Global Europe Regulation).

4.5 Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)
Implementation modalities – cf. section 4.3	
Procurement (direct management) – total envelope under section 4.3.1	3 000 000

Total	3 000 000
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4.6 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

The action shall be implemented under direct management. FPI will be in charge of overall project management and consultation and coordination with relevant EU Services.

The EEAS, relevant Commission Services in Headquarters, and EU Delegations in the region will ensure appropriate technical and political inputs to the action.

A project steering committee (PSC) will be set up to provide overall political and policy steer to the project. It will be composed of representatives of relevant EU services in Headquarters and Delegations.

EU Member States representatives in the region (Heads of Mission/ Sectoral Counsellors as relevant) will be regularly informed and consulted in order to maximise synergies with their own activities.

Lastly, relevant stakeholders from the GCC (both at country and regional levels) will be informed and consulted on an ongoing basis. Active involvement and participation of relevant GCC counterparts will be sought in the different activities implemented under the project.

As part of its prerogative of budget implementation and to safeguard the financial interests of the Union, the Commission may participate in the above governance structures set up for governing the implementation of the action.

4.7 Pre-conditions [Only for project modality]

Not Applicable

5 PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

5.1 Monitoring and Reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process, and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (Outputs and direct Outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix.

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the importance of the action, a final evaluation may be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants.

It will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision).

The Commission shall inform the implementing partners/contractors at least 3 months in advance of the dates envisaged for the evaluation missions. The implementing partners/contractors shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the evaluation experts, and inter alia provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities.

The evaluation reports may be shared with the partners and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, apply the necessary adjustments.

The financing of the evaluation shall be covered by another measure constituting a Financing Decision.

5.3 Audit and Verifications

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audit or verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

6 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

The 2021-2027 programming cycle will adopt a new approach to pooling, programming and deploying strategic communication and public diplomacy resources.

It will remain a contractual obligation for all entities implementing EU-funded external actions to inform the relevant audiences of the Union's support for their work by displaying the EU emblem and a short funding statement as appropriate on all communication materials related to the actions concerned. This obligation will continue to apply equally, regardless of whether the actions concerned are implemented by the Commission, partner countries, service providers, grant beneficiaries or entrusted or delegated entities such as UN agencies, international financial institutions and agencies of EU member states.

However, action documents for specific sector programmes are in principle no longer required to include a provision for communication and visibility actions promoting the programmes concerned. These resources will instead be consolidated in Cooperation Facilities established by support measure action documents, allowing Delegations to plan and execute multiannual strategic communication and public diplomacy actions with sufficient critical mass to be effective on a national scale.

Appendix 1 REPORTING IN OPSYS

An Intervention (also generally called project/programme) is the operational entity associated to a coherent set of activities and results structured in a logical framework aiming at delivering development change or progress. Interventions are the most effective (hence optimal) entities for the operational follow-up by the Commission of its external development operations. As such, Interventions constitute the base unit for managing operational implementations, assessing performance, monitoring, evaluation, internal and external communication, reporting and aggregation.

Primary Interventions are those contracts or groups of contracts bearing reportable results and respecting the following business rule: 'a given contract can only contribute to one primary intervention and not more than one'. An individual contract that does not produce direct reportable results and cannot be logically grouped with other result reportable contracts is considered a 'support entities'. The addition of all primary interventions and support entities is equivalent to the full development portfolio of the Institution.

The present Action identifies as:

Action level		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single action	Present action: all contracts in the present action