

# Trade Sustainability Impact Assessment in support of the EU-GCC FTA/SPA negotiations

## NEWSLETTER

First Newsletter | 10 March 2026 |

### DEAR STAKEHOLDER,

Welcome to the first newsletter of the Trade Sustainability Impact Assessment (TSIA) in support of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) /Strategic Partnership Agreement(s) (SPAs) negotiations between the European Union and the Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

The study is carried out by the consortium led by Trade Impact BV for DG TRADE. The project started in January 2026. Through this newsletter, we will keep you informed about the progress of the study and opportunities for stakeholders to share their views and expertise.

### POSSIBILITIES TO CONTRIBUTE TO THIS STUDY – *Have your say!*

Stakeholder participation is a key element of the TSIA process. We invite all interested stakeholders to share their perspectives and expertise.

Key consultation opportunities include:

- **The project website** ([www.eu-gcc-tsia.eu](http://www.eu-gcc-tsia.eu)) is online and provides information about the study, its objectives, methodology, timeline, and consultation activities.
- **The Draft Inception Report** has been published. This report outlines the study methodology, stakeholder consultation plan, and next steps. We welcome your comments.
- On **24 March 2026** from **15.30 till 17.30 (CET)**, the **EU Civil Society Dialogue** will take place online to discuss the draft Inception Report. EU stakeholders can register [here](#).
- **The Open Public Consultation (OPC)** and **Business/SME surveys** will be launched in April/May 2026 and will remain open for 12 weeks. These consultations provide an opportunity to share views on sustainability issues relevant to EU-GCC trade relations.
- Stakeholders may also submit **written contributions** and comments on the draft Inception Report by [email](#) until **27 March 2026**.

### FURTHER INDICATIVE TIMELINE

- **April 2026 – July 2026:** Interim phase of the study, during which the detailed analysis of the sustainability impact areas will be carried out.
- **April/May 2026:** Launch of the OPC and Business/SME surveys.
- **November 2026:** Stakeholder online seminars (further information will follow).
- **December 2026:** Submission of the Draft Final Report to the European Commission, followed by a Civil Society Dialogue meeting early 2027.

### INFORMATION ABOUT THE STUDY

The Trade Sustainability Impact Assessment (TSIA) aims to provide an independent and evidence-based analysis of the potential economic, social, environmental and human rights impacts of a possible trade agreement between the European Union and the GCC countries (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates).

The assessment combines several analytical approaches, including: economic modelling, literature review, statistical data analysis, stakeholder consultations.

The analysis is structured around four sustainability pillars:

- economic
- social
- environmental
- human rights

In addition, the study will explore selected sectoral and thematic issues through case studies to provide more detailed insights into areas that may be particularly relevant in the EU-GCC trade relationship.

Project website: [www.eu-gcc-tsia.eu](http://www.eu-gcc-tsia.eu)

*Stay updated and make yourself heard!*



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The TSIA is conducted by the consortium led by Trade Impact BV: [www.tradeimpact.eu](http://www.tradeimpact.eu)