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EDITORIALE
SCIENTIFICA

THE EU FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY TOWARDS THE GULF IN A FAST-CHANGING MIDDLE EAST: TIME TO RE-THINK THE EU-GCC RELATIONS FOR A MORE “GEOPOLITICAL” EU?

The EU is engaged in relations with the GCC since the establishment of the latter. This relation, across four decades has witnessed a series of developments and setbacks and did not always progress following a multilateral approach. While institutional relations continue in the format of the EU-GCC Joint Council, the negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement have been suspended in the last decade. This mainly because the EU has often failed to consider the GCC and the Arabian Gulf an area of priority on its agenda. The EU has recently expressed its ambition to revise its Foreign and Security policy to achieve a more “geopolitical” approach. Is it time for the Gulf region, as part of a broader Middle Eastern picture, to return central in the EU agenda? Could re-thinking the relations with the GCC help the EU to build its wider Foreign and Security policy and increase its relevance as a global geo-political actor?