



EU-GCC Roundtable:

**Harmonization of the GCC Halal standards
and the consequences for European Union
food industry and ingredients sector**

**Dubai International Food Safety
Conference**

November 8, 2016

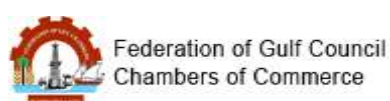


Welcome to the EU-GCC roundtable on Harmonisation of the GCC Halal standards

November 8, Dubai Int. Convention Centre, United Arab Emirates

The EU-GCC Trade and Business Cooperation Facility is pleased to welcome you to this 2nd Workshop and Roundtable on the implementation of the new GCC Halal Scheme and its consequences for the EU food and beverage industry. This workshop will bring together key stakeholders in the halal food industry from GCC countries and EU member states, as well as government representatives and experts to discuss the implementation of GCC Halal and in particular the UAE Halal standards.

Enclosed in this folder you will find concept note, program, speakers list and contact information



Concept Note

Roundtable Background – The rationale

The Gulf Corporation Council countries (GCC) are a regional integration initiative that is in the process of becoming a true single market. The GCC has accordingly established a common external tariff collected at the point of entry and made significant progress in tackling non-tariff barriers within the region, especially in harmonizing and establishing standards.

The six GCC countries constitute an important market for the European Union. A particular important market being the export of agri-food products. Having a value of 7.8 billion euros in 2015 and representing 6.4% of total EU agri-food exports, the GCC¹ is the third largest export destination for EU agri-food exports. The EU industry has therefore a strong desire to continue its business and trade relationship with the GCC and collaborate on key industry issues such as food safety, halal compliance, research and best practices.

EU28 TOP EXPORT DESTINATIONS	VALUE OF EXPORTS IN MILLION EUR	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL AGRIFOOD EXPORTS
USA	16,386	13.4%
RUSSIA	9,077	7.5%
GCC	7,796	6.4%
CHINA	7,442	6.1%
SWITZERLAND	7,221	5.9%
JAPAN	5,321	4.4%
HONG KONG	4,531	3.7%
NORWAY	4,029	3.3%
ALGERIA	3,607	3.0%

The area of **Halal** is where the GCC countries have made progress in harmonising standards within the framework of the Gulf Standards Organisation. Implementation of these standards is the responsibility of individual member countries of the GCC.

¹ GCC countries consist of Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and Bahrain.

The standards are the following:

- GSO 993:2015 Animal slaughtering requirements according to Islamic law.
- GSO 2055-1:2015 Halal Food - General Requirements
- GSO 2055-2:2015 Halal Products - Requirements for Halal certification bodies
- GSO 2055-3:2015 Halal Products - Requirements for Halal accreditation body accrediting Halal certification
- GSO 2468/2015 Halal foods - Management system requirements for transportation of goods and/or cargo chain services
- GSO 2469/2015 Halal food - Management system requirements for warehousing and related activities
- GSO 2470/2015 Halal food - Management system requirements for retailing

A further number of standards are currently being developed, namely standards on “Halal food - Terms and Definitions”, “The maximum limits for residues of ethyl alcohol (ethanol) in food”, and “Cosmetic Products – Safety Requirements of Cosmetics and Personal Care Products”

The UAE was the first GCC country to implement the standards and not least develop an integrated mechanism for controlling Halal products directed to comply with the requirements of Islamic law, by controlling all phases of the supply chain. The system was launched early 2015 and required the establishment of an accreditation system for accrediting certification bodies. These in turn should certify all producers of halal food and its ingredients, cosmetics, and eventually leather and textile products.

The importance of engaging in this dialogue is all the more important seeing that the standards will be adopted in the remaining GCC countries² and by corollary the needed accreditation and certification system.

The *EU-GCC Business and Trade Facility* is a project funded by the European Commission to enable stakeholders in both regions to enter into a dialogue on major trade policy issues. The project is organising this EU GCC Halal workshop that will gather key representatives from the UAE authorities, including the Emirates Authority for Standardisation and Metrology ESMA, EU food industry associations and corporates, and EU halal certifying bodies, and accreditation centres.

² <http://www.thenational.ae/business/economy/gcc-food-exporters-marked-out-as-next-for-new-halal-certification>

Objective of the EU GCC Workshop and Roundtable:

The Agenda will

- 1) Provide GCC authorities a platform to inform EU food industry on the implementation of the new Halal scheme,
- 2) Facilitate a dialogue between industry and GCC authorities on concerns and issues vis-à-vis implementing the new halal scheme
- 3) Establish a set of recommendations addressing industry concerns and collaboration with GCC authorities to ensure a smooth transition to the new halal scheme.

The outcome of the EU GCC Roundtable will further lead to forming a working group on Halal issues and focus on implementation such as deadline for certifying bodies, the extended responsibility of the supplier and other issues.

EU GCC Halal Round Table

Nov. 8, 2016

Meeting Room "Abu Dhabi A" (first floor),
Dubai International Convention Centre

08h30 Registration and Refreshments

09h00 Opening remarks and Welcome

- *Mrs. Lucie Berger, EU Regional Trade Counsellors for the GCC, EU Delegation Riyadh*
- *Mr Peter Helk, Project Manager, EU-GCC Trade and Business Cooperation Facility*

GCC Presentation

- *HE Mr. Nabil bin Ameen Molla, Secretary General, Gulf Standard Organization*
- *Mr. Ahmed Almutairi, Acting Director General, GCC Accreditation Centre, Riyadh*

UAE Presentation

- *HE Mr. Abdulla Al Maeeni, Director General, Emirates Authority for Standardization and Metrology ESMA*
- *Mrs. Ameena Ahmed Mohammed, Director, Dubai Accreditation Department*

Presentation from European Food Industry

- *Mr. Jes Knudsen, Senior Mgr., Global Kosher/Halal Coordinator NOVOZYMES A/S*

11:30h Coffee BREAK

11:50h Panel Discussion on UAE Halal Standards and Implementation

Moderated by Dr. Wolfgang Penzias, EU Trade Counsellor Abu Dhabi

Participants:

- *Mr. Ole Linnet Juul, former Managing Director of Food Drink Denmark*
- *Mr. Mustafa Bater, Director Scientific and Regulatory Affairs, The Coca Cola Export Corporation Dubai Branch*
- *Dr. Hamed Jamal, Managing Director RACs Quality Certificates Issuing Service, Dubai*

13:00h Refreshments and individual meetings.

Registration Form

Companies and organisations interested in participating in the Halal Round Table are invited to get back to us by **November 4, 2016**. The form should be sent to the following email: peh@di.dk

Name:	
Organisation:	
Title / Position	
Postal address:	
Phone:	
Mobile:	
Fax:	
E-mail:	

Project Partners:



About the EU-GCC Trade and Business Cooperation Facility

A consortium of leading EU and GCC private sector institutions with a total membership base of 2.5 million companies will manage the project. The partners of the project are Confederation of Danish Industries (DI), Federation of GCC Chambers (FGCCC), BUSINESSEUROPE, and Venture Scout.

The EU-GCC Trade and Business Cooperation Facility is a three-year project aimed at strengthening trade, investment and business cooperation between the EU and the GCC through business networks, mutual understanding and dialogue.

The project will embark on various activities in GCC and EU cities including high-level annual Business Conferences, policy working groups and round tables aimed at EU and GCC business communities, policy makers, opinion leaders and media.

For more information, visit our website: EU-GCC.org

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