

Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce: Events & Activities 2021

20 Dec. 2021: AACC/Cercle Diplomatique Cooperation



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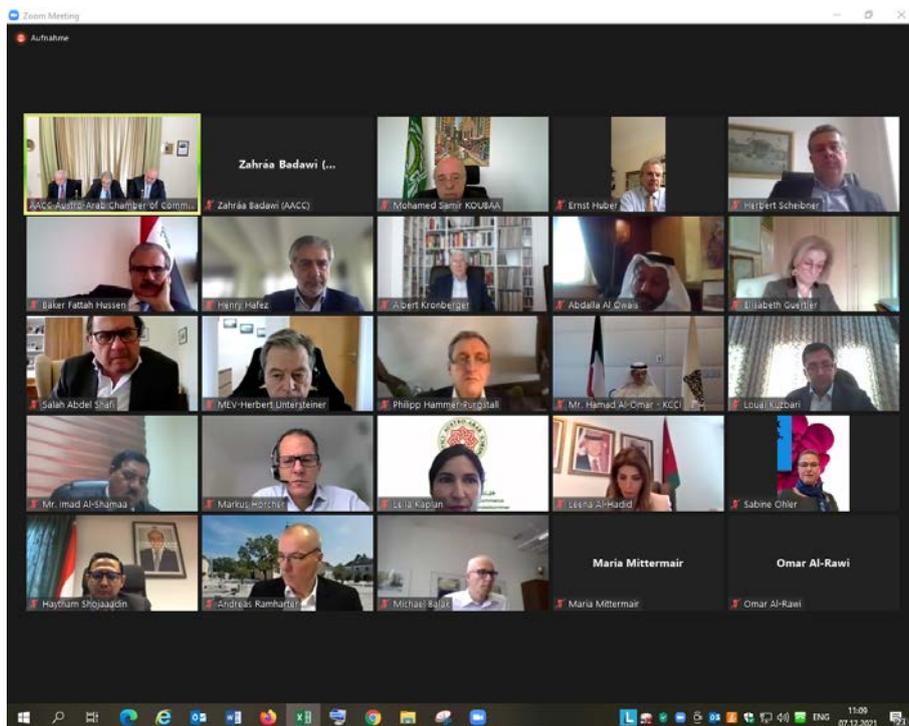
On December 20th 2021, the Secretary-General of the Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce Eng. Mouddar Khouja received Mrs. Andrea Fürnweiger, Managing Director of Cercle Diplomatique (Fcm Firstclassmedia GmbH), a member of AACC, to discuss versatile means of strengthening the already existing cooperation between AACC and Cercle Diplomatique. Building on a fruitful yearslong cooperation between AACC and Cercle Diplomatique, Mrs. Fürnweiger and SG Khouja discussed avenues for media collaboration in the near future on one of Cercle Diplomatique's upcoming editions.

9 December 2021: AACC receives the President of the Austrian Travel Association

On December 9th 2021, AACC Secretary-General Mr. Mouddar Khouja received the President of the Austrian Travel Association Mrs. Eva Buzzi at the premises of the chamber. The Secretary-General expressed his sincere appreciation for Ms. Buzzi's valuable contribution to the "12th Arab-Austrian Economic Forum" held in October 2021 as a panelist in the sessions revolving around the tourism sector. Based on this fruitful cooperation, the two discussed future scopes of collaboration between AACC and the Austrian Travel Association, particularly the preparation of delegation visits in the context of AACC training seminars for high-level Arab Chambers representatives, in addition to site excursions of Their Excellencies the Arab Ambassadors to Austria to renowned Austrian tourist destinations.



7 December 2021: 30th General Assembly & 31st Meeting of Board of Directors



On 7 December 2021, the AACC invited to its Annual General Assembly and Board of Directors Meeting, which were both held together as an online meeting due to the Corona situation. The meetings were honoured by a high number of participants consisting of T.E. the Arab Ambassadors, members of the board and regular members.

28-29 Nov. 2021: 19th Conference of Arab Business Owners & Investors



Under the patronage of the Council of Ministers of the Government of National Unity of the State of Libya, the 19th Conference of Arab Business Owners and Investors was convened between 28-29 Nov. 2021 in the Libyan capital Tripoli. With the aim of attracting investments to Libya, this year’s conference was held under the slogan “Investing in Libya: Promising Opportunities for Development & Construction – Together for the revival of Investments in Libya”. AACC Secretary-General Khouja also participated as a panelist in the 2nd session of the conference, which revolved around developing and sustaining Libya’s regional (Arab) and international relations.

17-20 Nov. 2021: AACC President Heads the Austrian Economic Delegation to the UAE



Left: Meeting with the President of Sharjah Chamber HE Al-Oweis / Right: Visit at the Austrian Pavillon at Expo 2020 with HE Dr. Margarete Schramböck, Austrian Federal Minister of Economy

In the framework of the official visit of the Austrian delegation to the UAE which took place from 17-20 Nov. 2021, AACC President Sen. Dr. Richard Schenz headed the economic delegation, accompanied by AACC Secretary-General Mr. Mouddar Khouja. The President and the Secretary-General took part in the “Austria Connect Gulf” conference, the Day of Nations which focused on Austria, in addition to the Austrian National Day Ceremony at the Expo Dubai 2020. President Schenz and SG Khouja also paid a visit to the Sharjah Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCI), and to the University City of Sharjah, the biggest of its kind in the world.

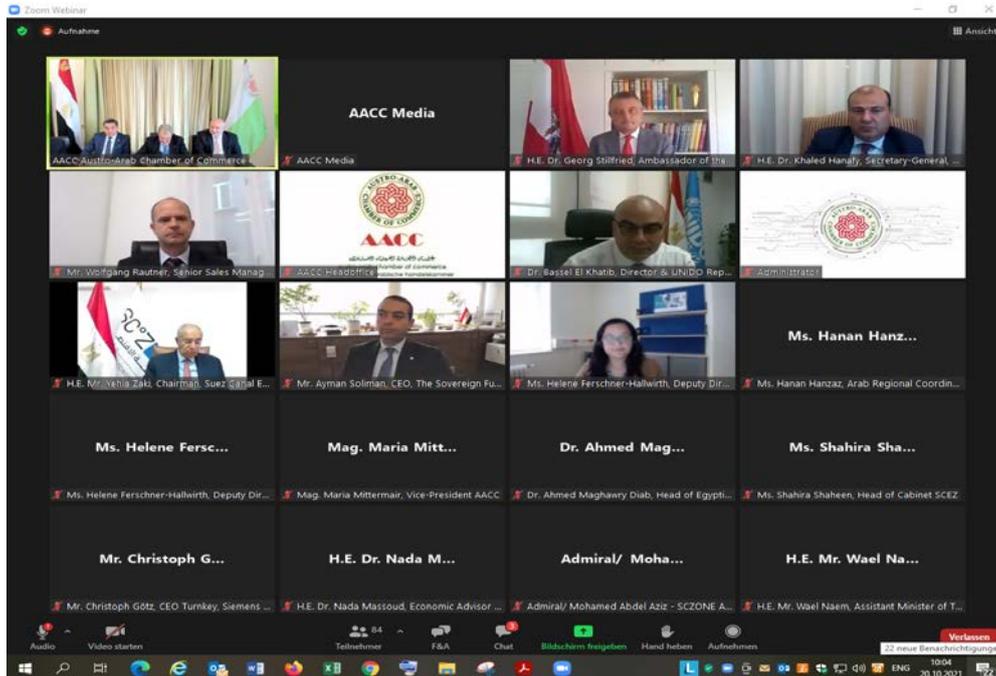
6 November 2021: Arab-Austrian Cultural Season



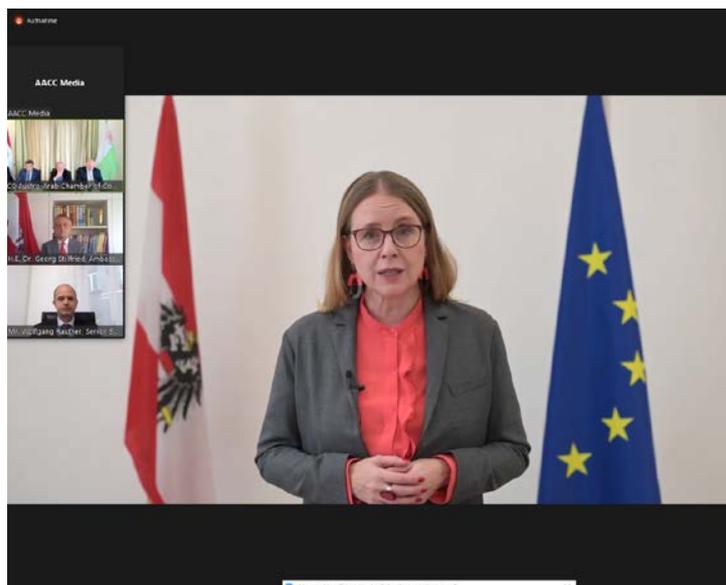
Left picture: HE Mohammed Samir Koubaa, Head of Mission of Arab League in Vienna;
Right picture (left-to-right): SG Khouja- HE Ibrahim Assaf, Ambassador of Lebanon – HE Haytham Shoja’addin, Ambassador of Yemen – HE Jalal Alashi, Ambassador Libya

On 6 November 2021, AACC Secretary General **Eng. Mouddar Khouja** and board and staff members attended the second event of the “**Arab-Austrian Cultural Season**”, a joint initiative of the Austrian Federal Ministry for European and Foreign Affairs, the Mission of the League of Arab States and the City of Vienna. Under the motto “Cultural Partnerships and Historical Relations”, the evening celebrated the excellent cultural cooperation and long-standing ties between Austria and the Arab countries, featuring inspiring music and dance performances, craftwork exhibitions and local delicacies. Keynote speeches were delivered by H.E. Mr. Omar El-Rawi on behalf of the Mayor of Vienna H.E. Dr. Michael Ludwig, by H.E. Ambassador Peter Launsky-Tieffenthal, Secretary-General of the Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, and by H.E. Dr. Salaheddine Abdelshafi, Ambassador of the State of Palestine and current Chairman of the Arab Ambassadors Council in Vienna.

20 October 2021: The 12th Arab-Austrian Economic Forum” (Online Edition)



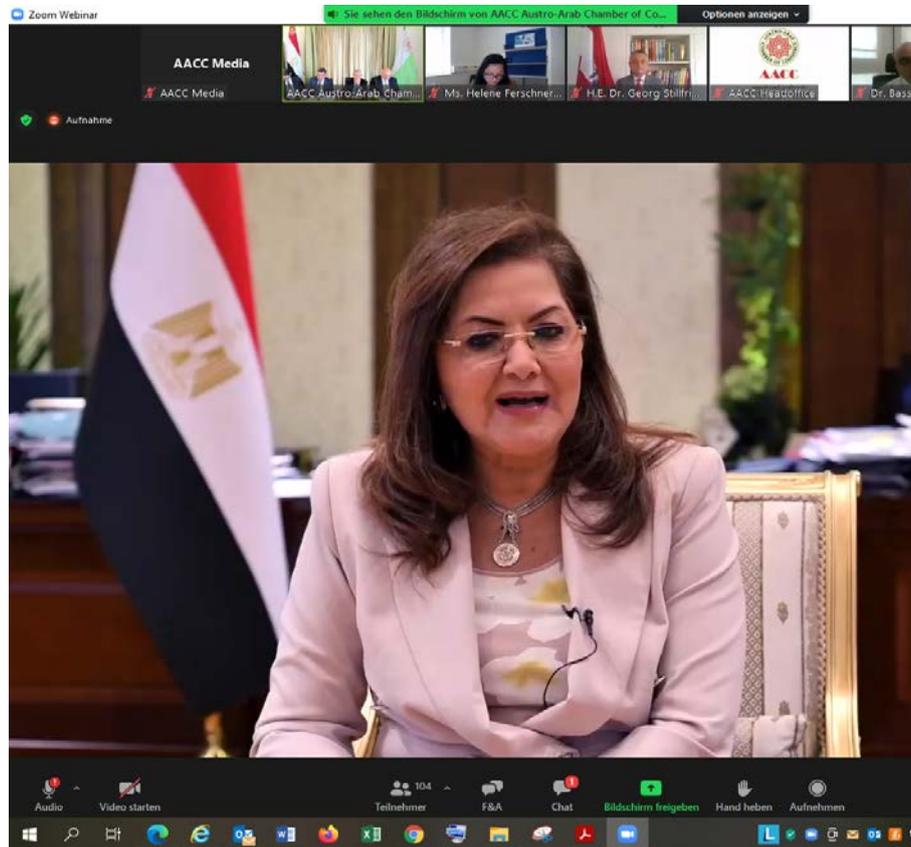
In cooperation with the distinguished **Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Vienna and the Union of Arab Chambers (UAC)**, the **Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce (AACC)** held its **“12th Arab-Austrian Economic Forum – Online Edition”** on Wednesday, 20 October 2021. This year’s forum hosted the Arab Republic of Egypt as the Guest Country and was virtually attended by around 150 participants from across the globe.



HE Minister Dr. Margarete Schramböck

Featuring high-level officials and ministers, the forum presented an insight into the country’s economic landscape and development and provided an outlook on investment

prospects with special focus on Economy & Investment, Transport and Tourism. The forum also served as an interactive platform for thorough discussions on the plentiful scopes of cooperation and public-private sector partnerships among Austrian, Egyptian and international counterparts.



HE Minister Hala Elsaid

Welcome remarks and keynote speeches were delivered by H.E. Senator **Dr. Richard Schenz**, AACC President, **Dr. Margarete Schramböck**, Federal Minister for Digital and Economic Affairs of the Republic of Austria, **H.E. Dr. Hala Elsaid**, Minister of Planning & Economic Development of the Arab Republic of Egypt, **H.E. Dr. Khaled El-Enany**, Minister of Tourism and Antiquities of the Arab Republic of Egypt, **H.E. Mr. Mohamed Hamdy M. Elmolla**, Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to Austria, **H.E. Dr. Georg Stillfried**, Ambassador of the Republic of Austria to Egypt, and **H.E. Dr. Khaled Hanafy**, Secretary-General of the Union of Arab Chambers (UAC) and former Minister of Supply and Internal Trade of the Arab Republic of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

29 September 2021: High-level Round Table on the Occasion of the Visit of the Saudi Minister of Commerce to Austria



On 29 September 2021, AACC organised a high-level round table on the occasion of the visit of **H.E. Dr. Majid Bin Abdullah Alkasabi**, Minister of Commerce of the Royal Kingdom of Saudi-Arabia. **AACC Secretary-General Mr. Mouddar Khouja** welcome the high-level Saudi delegation consisting of **H.E. Minister Dr. Alkasabi**, **H.E. Dr. Eman Habbas Al Mutairi**, Vice Minister of Commerce, and **Mr. Badr Abdulmuhsen A. Haddab**, Assistant Minister of Commerce. Directors and representatives of prominent Austria-based companies participated in the high-level roundtable, whereby they presented their company profile, highlighted previous and current projects in the Kingdom, posed questions, and raised concerns and challenges faced.

14 September 2021: Webinar “100% Foreign Ownership in the UAE: New Environment for Foreign Direct Investment on the Eve of Expo 2020”

On the 14th of September, 2021, the webinar “**100% Foreign Ownership in the UAE: New Environment for Foreign Direct Investment on the Eve of Expo 2020**” took place, organised by the **Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce (AACC)** in cooperation with the **Embassy of the United Arab Emirates in Vienna** and **Crowe UAE**.

The webinar was moderated by AACC Secretary-General Mr. Mouddar Khouja and attended by over 80 participants from all over the world.

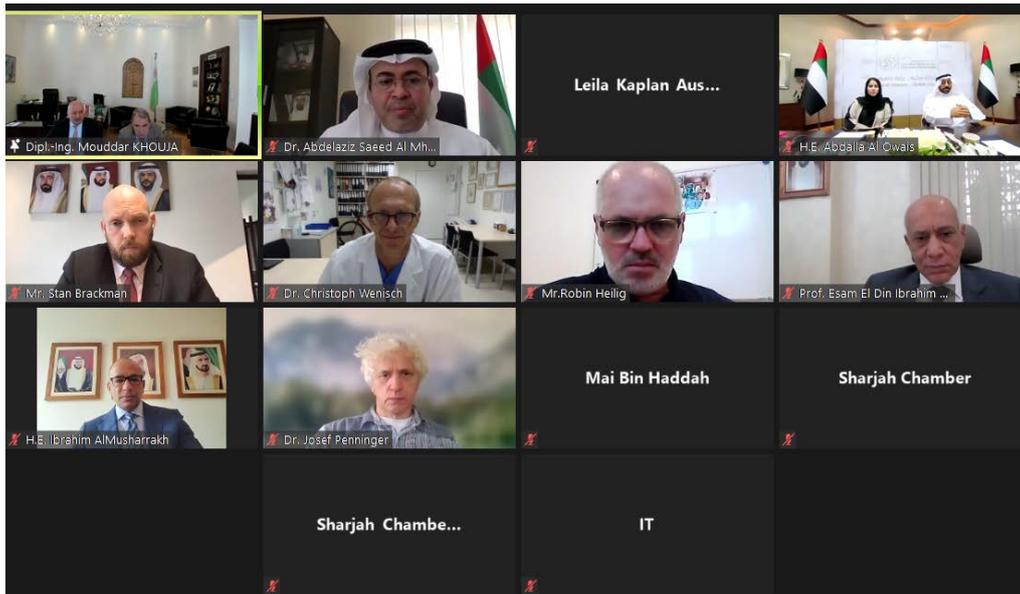


Welcome statements and presentations were provided by the Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to Austria **H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Almusharrakh** and the Secretary-General of the Federation of UAE Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) **H.E. Mr. Humaid Mohamed Ben Salem**, **Mr. Ahmed Alshehhi**, First Secretary and Head of Economic, Political and Media Affairs Section at the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates in Vienna, **Mr. Markus Susilo**, Tax Partner at Crowe UAE, **H.E. Mr. Abdullah Al Mahri**, Director of Investments and Stakeholder Management at the UAE’s Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology, **H.E. Ms. Hind Al Youha**, Director of Investment and Talent Attraction at the UAE’s Ministry of Economy, **Ms. Deepika Chandak**, Senior Manager at Crowe UAE.

1 July 2021: “Sharaka Experts Talk: Adjusting to ‘New Normal’ in Education and Healthcare Sectors in the UAE & Austria”

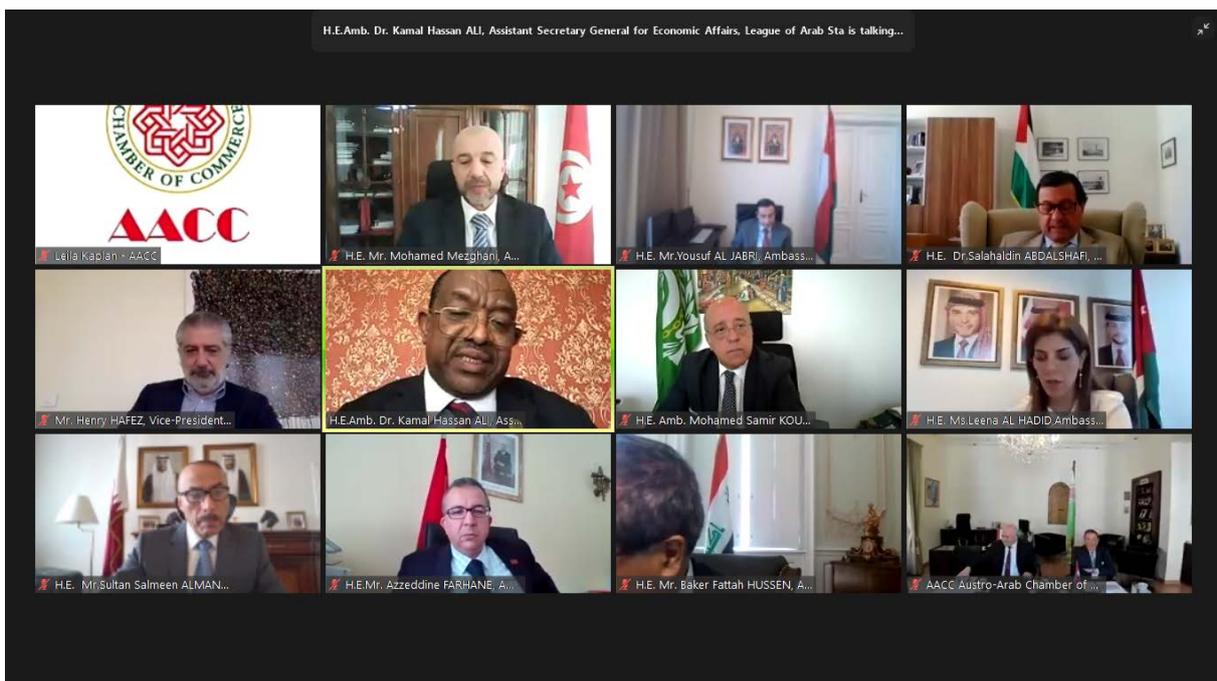
On July 1st 2021, the webinar “Adjusting to ‘New Normal’ in Education and Healthcare sectors in the UAE & Austria” took place, jointly organised by the **Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce (AACC)** and **Sharjah Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCI)**. The webinar was attended by over 100 participants, who joined virtually from all over the world.

Welcome notes and opening remarks were delivered by AACC Austrian President **H.E. Senator Dr. Richard Schenz**, Chairman of Sharjah Chamber of Commerce & Industry **H.E. Mr. Abdullah Sultan Al-Oweis** and the Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to Austria **H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Al-Musharrakh**. **Ms. Fatema Khalifa Al-Muqarrab**, Director of International Relations Department at Sharjah Chamber of Commerce & Industry, also delivered a presentation on behalf of SCCI.



Throughout the webinar, two thematic sessions were held, the first one revolving around healthcare and moderated by AACC Secretary-General **Mr. Mouddar Khouja**, and the second around education & new technologies and moderated by **Ms. Mai bin Haddah**, International Partnerships Executive at SCCI. The two sessions were followed by a company presentation by **Mr. Peter Llewellyn-Davies**, CEO of Apeiron Biologics.

22 June 2021: AACC Forum “Meet T.E. the Arab Ambassadors to Austria” (online)



On 22 June 2021, the Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce (AACC) held its online forum "Meet T.E. the Arab Ambassadors to Austria", organized by AACC in cooperation with the **Arab Ambassadors Council in Vienna** and the **League of Arab States**, and moderated by AACC Secretary-General Mr. Mouddar Khouja. Welcome notes were delivered by AACC Austrian President **H.E. Senator Dr. Richard Schenz** and AACC Founder & Arab President **H.E. Counsellor Nabil R. Kuzbari**, and opening remarks by **H.E. Ambassador Mohamed Mezghani**, Ambassador of the Republic of Tunisia to Austria and current Chair of the Arab Ambassadors Council in Vienna and **H.E. Ambassador Dr. Kamal Hassan Ali**, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Affairs at the League of Arab States.

The distinguished ambassadors of the Arab Republic of **Egypt**, the Republic of **Iraq**, the Hashemite Kingdom of **Jordan**, the Kingdom of **Morocco**, the Sultanate of **Oman**, the State of **Palestine**, the State of **Qatar**, the Republic of **Tunisia**, and the **United Arab Emirates** presented their countries, whereby they provided an economic overview and highlighted the ample investment opportunities in their respective countries.

7 June 2021: AACC-City of Vienna/ Qatar



Left to right: HE Mayor Ludwig – HE Ambassador Almansouri – SG Khouja © PID/Jobst

On 7 June 2021, the Mayor and Governor of Vienna **H.E. Dr. Michael Ludwig** received the Ambassador of the State of Qatar **H.E. Sultan Salmeen Almansouri** and the Secretary-General of the Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce **Eng. Mouddar Khouja** for a courtesy visit at the premises of the Vienna City Hall. The meeting was coordinated by AACC with the kind support of **H.E. DI Omar Al-Rawi**, Member of the Viennese parliament and AACC Board Member. Discussions revolved around COVID-19 best practices and measures, development projects, reciprocal delegations and visits, as well as the upcoming FIFA World Cup 2022 in Qatar.

20 April 2021: AACC-City of Vienna/ UAE

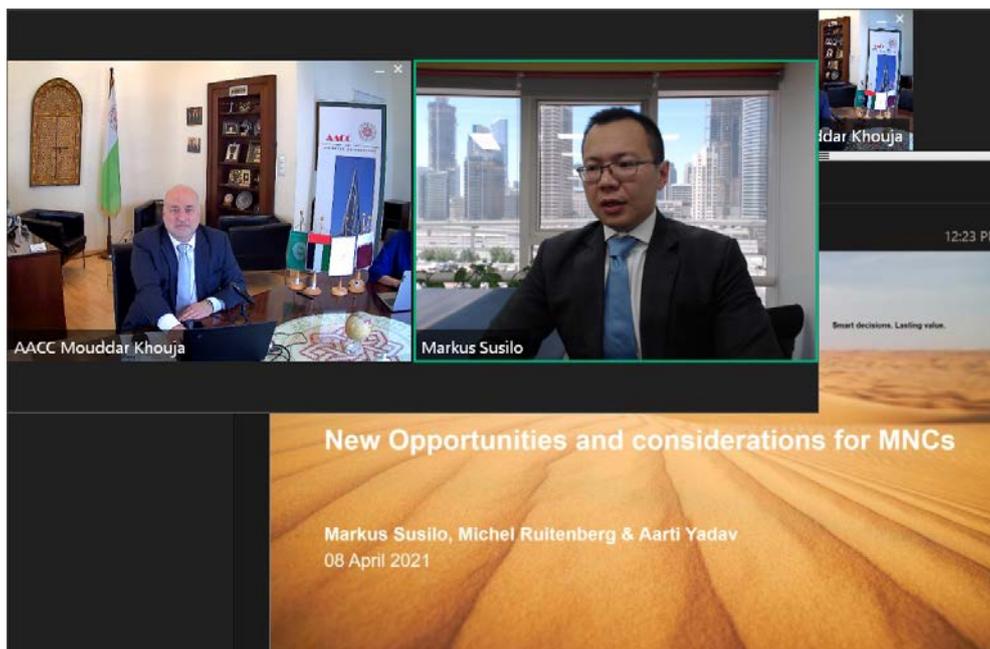


*Left to right: Eng. Omar Al-Rawi – Amb. Ibrahim Almusharrakh – KR Peter Hanke –
Eng. Mouddar Khouja – Ahmad Alshehhi © Tobias Holzer*

On 20 April 2021, H.E. Peter Hanke, Executive City Councillor of Finance, Business, Labour, International Affairs, and Vienna Public Utilities, received H.E. Ibrahim Almusharrakh, Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to Austria, and AACC Secretary General Eng. Mouddar Khouja, for a courtesy visit at the premises of the Vienna City Hall. The visit was coordinated by AACC, following a kind request by Ambassador Almusharrakh, who also represented the Arab Ambassadors Council in Austria at this meeting, in his capacity as the Council's current chairperson. AACC Secretary General Khouja underlined the importance of consolidating the relations with the United Arab Emirates and other Arab countries, e.g. Saudi-Arabia and Egypt among others, mainly in the fields of renewable energy, energy-to-waste, solar energy, Hydrogen as energy carrier, and waste recycling and management. SG Khouja also presented a special proposal on a research fund for virology, sponsored by HE Mohammed Bin Issa Al-Jaber, one of the most influential businessmen and investors of Arab origin in Austria, and a member of the Board of Directors of AACC.

8 April 2021: AACC- CROWE UAE joint Webinar

On 8 April 2021, AACC held the webinar "United Arab Emirates & Qatar: New Opportunities and considerations for Multinational Companies", jointly organised with Crowe UAE.



AACC Secretary General Eng. Mouddar Khouja presented an overview of the historic, economic and trade relations among the Gulf Cooperation Council States prior to 2017, the demographic and economic characteristics pertaining to each of the UAE and Qatar and to the bilateral trade relations between the two neighbouring countries, in addition to the reconciliation meeting which resulted signing the Al-Ula Declaration by the GCC countries and Egypt early January 2021, and a business outlook and mutual economic benefits of reviving the GCC ties. SG Khouja also highlighted the role that two major upcoming events, namely the FIFA World Cup 2022 in Qatar and Expo Dubai 2020 in the UAE, shall play in accelerating tourism not only within each of the two countries, but also between the two countries and among the GCC countries.

6 April 2021: Austria/ Qatar

On 6 April 2021, AACC Secretary General Eng. Mouddar Khouja paid a courtesy visit to H.E. Ambassador Sultan Salmeen Almansouri, Ambassador Plenipotentiary & Extraordinary and Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to Austria, joined by Mr. Ahmad Al-Haj, Second Secretary, at the premises of the Qatari Embassy in Vienna. The two discussed various means of strengthening bilateral cooperation between Austria and Qatar, particularly with respect to projects of the State of Qatar in Austria.



22 March 2021: Egypt/Austria

AACC SG Eng. Khouja received H.E. Ambassador Mohammed Hamdy El-Molla, Ambassador Plenipotentiary & Extraordinary of the Arab Republic of Egypt to Austria and Permanent Representative to the UN & other international organisations in Vienna, accompanied by Minister Counsellor Mr. Hazem Zaki, at AACC premises.



They discussed thoroughly several collaboration prospects between AACC and the Arab Republic of Egypt and versatile means to strengthen mutual cooperation between Austria and Egypt.

22 January 2021: AACC-coordinated Grand Hotel Group-BAWAG P.S.K. Meeting (Online)

Representing BAWAG P.S.K., Deputy CEO / CFO Mr. Sirucic & Regional Manager/Austrian Corporate & Real Estate Mr. Ewald FREUND on one side, and Dr. Herbert Stepic on behalf of the Grand Hotel Group on the other side, were introduced to each other and new channels of relations were established between both parties.

