

ACTIVITIES

of the Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce 2019

27-28 November 2019 | SG Khouja participates in 8th Arab-Hellenic Forum & 40th Anniversary – Athens, Greece

AACC Secretary General was invited to chair a session at the 8th Arab-Hellenic Forum organised by AACC's sister chamber, the Arab-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce & Industry in Athens, Greece. It was also the occasion of celebrating the chamber's 40 anniversary, together with representatives and colleagues from the Union of Arab chambers, the Arab League and other chambers.



11-13 November 2019 | 18th ABIC & UAC meeting in Bahrain

AACC Secretary General participated in the 18th Arab Businessmen and Investors' Conference in Manama, Bahrain. SG Khouja also was invited to attend the 130th meeting of the Board of the Union of Arab Chambers, where the committee decided to renew his term for another 4 years, from 2020 – 2024.



23 October 2019 | 11th Arab-Austrian Economic Forum & Exhibition, and 30th Anniversary Celebrations of the Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce – Vienna, Austria

The 11th Arab-Austrian Economic Forum and Exhibition and AACC's 30th Anniversary celebration, which took place on 23/10/2019 and were attended by around 650 participants, including many high-level guests and speakers, prove once again the keen interest in strengthening the Austro-Arab partnerships in all economic and scientific sectors and on all aspects.



The attendance and active participation of numerous high-ranking officials, ambassadors, representatives of policy-making organs and prominent companies and institutions from various sectors, from Austria and many Arab countries (Libya, Kuwait, Iraq, KSA, Egypt, UAE, Qatar, etc.) reflect the paramount importance of this **Forum**.



Additionally, there were several significant highlights this year, as 2019 marked the **30th anniversary of the establishment of AACC** and the 10th year for Secretary General Dipl.-Ing. Mr. Mouddar Khouja in office. More remarkably, Mr. Khouja was awarded the "**Decoration of Merit in Gold of the Province of Vienna**" during the festive Gala Dinner.



18 October 2019 | Courtesy visit of H.E. Mag. Christoph Meyenburg, Ambassador of Austria to Libya

The Ambassador paid a courtesy visit to SG. Mouddar Khouja to discuss the situation in Libya and the upcoming events of the AACC.



16 October 2019 | Courtesy Visit to the new Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates

AACC Secretary General paid a courtesy visit to HE. Ibrahim Salem ALMUSHARRAKH, the new ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to Austria and invited HE and the esteemed UAE-Embassy to the 30th Anniversary Celebrations and 11th Arab-Austrian Economic Forum and the Exhibition.

11 October 2019 | Courtesy Visit to the new Ambassador of Saudi Arabia

AACC Presidents Dr. Schenz and KR. Kuzbari, and Secretary General paid a courtesy visit to HRH Prince Abdallah Bin Khaled bin Sultan AL SAUD, the new ambassador of the Royal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Austria. A number of co-operation projects were discussed and agreed on.

**3 October 2019 | Lumitech Managing Director Stefan TASCH visited the AACC,**

Mr. Tasch was offering cooperation in the Arab region in the area of Human Centric Lighting, which simulates daylight over the entire day - from clear, blue morning skies, right through to the glow of sunset.



2 October 2019 | AACC Secretary General visited Linde, a global player in Hydrogen infrastructure, Austria

SG and Dr. Ponikwar, Managing Director discussed a possible cooperation in the Arab region.



27 September 2019 | AACC SG joined the sign off of the Masterfranchise Agreements für GCC Region (UAE, Bahrain, Oman) with Rakaz Trading Co., Austria – KSA+GCC

Rakaz is already the Master Franchise Partner in Saudi Arabia. Rakaz visited the premises of AACC and outlined possibilities to strengthen the relation with AACC. Rakaz was accompanied by Eng. Ahmed Ali Helmy and Mohamed Abdelhadi, Vice Chairman & Managing Director of Meuble el Chark Co. from Egypt.



24 September 2019 | Berlin – Joint Chambers

- Euro-Arab Economic partnership in light of the outcome of the First Euro-Arab Summit that was held in Sharm El-Sheikh
- Business development targeting joint chambers, with the aim of expanding its services and membership base (presentations by all chambers)
- Principles and mechanisms for the evaluation of the work and performance of joint Arab chambers (presentation by AACC)
- The Digital Network Project which is being implemented by the Arab- German Chamber of Commerce & Industry



9 September 2019 | AACC Secretary General paid a courtesy visit to the new ambassador of Qatar to Austria, H.E. Sultan Salmeen Almansouri, Austria - Qatar



6 September 2019 | SG presentation at Arab Ambassadors' Council meeting, Austria

Secretary General Khouja was invited to attend the meeting of the Arab Ambassadors' Council at the Mission of the League of Arab States in Austria, and to give a presentation on the upcoming planned AACC events on 23 October 2019.



3 September 2019 | Coordinative meeting with the Former Governor of Burgenland, Austria

Secretary General Khouja had a business dinner with H.E. Hans Niessl, former governor of the province of Burgenland, to discuss scopes of cooperation and joint activities, such as the planned site visit to Burgenland with the Arab Diplomatic Corps in 2020.



26 August 2019 | Secretary General Khouja paid a courtesy visit to the new Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco to Austria, H.E. Azzeddine Farhane, Austria – Morocco



20 August 2019 | AACC Secretary General meets with the Director of the Diplomatic Academy in Vienna, Austria

Secretary General Khouja met with H.E. Ambassador Emil Brix, Director of the Diplomatic Academy in Vienna, to discuss scopes of future cooperation.

10 July 2019 | AACC Secretary General chairs panel at the 4th Iraqi-European Business & Investment Forum in Athens, Greece

Secretary General Khouja was invited to chair a panel at the 4th Iraq-European Business & Investment Forum organised by the Arab-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce in Athens. Former Austrian Minister of Defense H.E. Herbert Scheibner was also one of the panelists.



3 July 2019 | AACC Secretary General attends the Arab-British Economic Summit in London, United Kingdom

Secretary General Khouja participated in the Arab-British Economic Summit in London, organised by the Arab-British Chamber of Commerce. The Summit attracted senior business executives, diplomats, government officials and investors with an interest in building stronger economic and commercial relations between the UK and the Arab World.



25 June 2019 | AACC at Exporters' Day 2019, Austria

The AACC participated in the Exporters' day of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber, where they introduced the AACC portfolio to many interested visitors and potential business clients.

14 June 2019 | Meeting with Austrian Airlines CEO & Iraqi Ambassador | Austria - Iraq

Upon request by H.E. Bakr Fattah Hussein, Ambassador of Iraq to Austria, the Secretary General coordinated a meeting with Dr. Alexis von Hoensbroech, CEO of Austrian Airlines, with the aim of discussing re-operating flights from Vienna to Baghdad and other cities in Iraq.



25 -27 June 2019 | Arab President and Secretary General attend the 22nd Arab-German Business Forum in Berlin, Germany

The Arab President HE KR Nabil Kuzbari and Secretary General Khouja participated in the Arab-German Business Forum in Berlin organised by Ghorfa. They met with counterparts and other delegates from Arab countries and invited them to attend the upcoming AACC Forum in October in Vienna.



3 June 2019 | AACC hosts meeting for World Expo 2020 in Dubai | Austria - UAE

Initiated and coordinated by Secretary General Khouja, the meeting gathered H.E. Dr. Beatrix Karl, the Commissioner General for Austria at Worldexpo 2020 and the Expo 2020 Office Director Mr. Helmut Döller, to present the Austrian expo portfolio to H.E. Ambassador Hamad KAABI, Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to Austria.

**24 April 2019 | AACC Secretary General participates as chair and speaker at the “Round Table on Renewable Energy Opportunities in Tunisia” | Austria - Tunisia**

The event was organised by the Embassy of the Republic of Tunisia in Austria together with the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber’s Regional Office for Africa & Middle East, with 25 company representatives being present.



15 – 17 April 2019: AACC Secretary General visits Baghdad, Iraq



From 15th until 17th April 2019, the Secretary General of the Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce (AACC) Eng. Mouddar Khouja went on a short trip to Baghdad, the capital of the Republic of Iraq, where he was invited as a guest of honour by Her Excellency Dr. Zekra Alwach, the Mayor of Baghdad, to attend a programme of cultural activities organised under the patronage of the Mayoralty of Baghdad.

During his stay in Baghdad, the Secretary General had additional high-level meetings with official representatives, decision makers and institutions. At the Iraqi ministry of electricity, he was informed about the energy strategy of Iraq; he also met with the governor of the national bank; the Union of Private Banks; and with the Federation of Iraqi Chambers of Commerce, where the cooperation for the upcoming 11th Arab-Austrian Economic Forum & Exhibition October 23, 2019 in Vienna was discussed.



1-5 April 2019 | AACC Secretary General participates in the “1st Official Energy Conference and Exhibition” Convention in Šibenik, Croatia

The event was organised by AACC member IDS in cooperation with RCREEE and with the support of AACC, gathered around 150 experts and participants coming from all over the world, to present and learn about the most innovative turn key solutions on the industrial market to decrease air pollution and increase energy efficiency.



14 March 2019: Visit to KAICIID with Parliament Representative/ Austria

SG coordinated a meeting between MP. Mag. Roman HAIDER; Head of Foreign Politics Committee of the Freedom Party at the Austrian National Council. KAICIID presented its outstanding intercultural - & interreligious work.



9 March 2019: Personal Dinner with H.E. Dr. Karin Kneissl upon invitation by Mag. Louai KUZBARI

Board Member of the AACC Mag. Louai Kuzbari invited for a personal dinner with Dr. Karin Kneissl, Austrian Foreign Minister (at that time) and her husband, selected guests and family members at his residence.

27 February 2019: "Expert's Round Table on the Reconstruction of the City of Mosul"

On Wednesday, 27 February 2019, the Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce, in cooperation with the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq in Austria and the Austrian Society of Engineers and Architects invited to an exclusive "Expert's Round Table on the Reconstruction of the City of Mosul.

More than 70 high-ranking participants from the public and private sector from Iraq, Austria, and the international context followed the invitation to Vienna to discuss the reconstruction of areas and regions in Iraq and to find solutions in the form of presentations and an open dialogue.



Among the high-level guests were the Iraqi Vice-Minister for Environment, the head of the Iraqi reconstruction program REFAATO (in the ministerial rank), representatives of the EU Parliament, the Iraqi Parliament and the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, experts and representatives of relevant UN organizations, architects, experts, companies and journalists.

The Round Table meeting generated an excellent feedback and response from both, the participants and the media, and was described as a meeting that could “bear historical significance” and potential for the reconstruction of the Nineveh region and city of Mosul.

8 January 2019: Arab Chambers’ Meeting on Arab Digital Platform / Kuwait City

Upon invitation by the UAC and the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce & Industry, the Secretaries General and Directors of Arab Chambers met in Kuwait for a special meeting, to discuss the realization of an Electronic Arab Digital Platform.

