

Trade

MIDDLE EAST MISSIONS

Interest in Middle East markets shows no signs of waning, and not only because the region is a major source of oil and gas. Favourable demographics and a relatively immature financial sector provide opportunities for Luxembourg firms. Indeed, foreign affairs minister Jean Asselborn announced the planned opening of an embassy in the United Arab Emirates, and the opening months of 2011 saw three notable trade missions. In January, Crown Prince Guillaume and Jeannot Krecké, minister of economy and foreign trade, participated in the World Future Energy Summit, a major green investment confab in Abu Dhabi. Then the new Saudia-Luxembourg Business Council--headed by attorney Marc Theisen--held its premiere event. In February, Grand Duke Henri with finance minister Luc Frieden headed a delegation to Abu Dhabi, Riyadh and Beirut organized by the Chamber of Commerce and Luxembourg for Finance.

Round two of the Grand Duchy's promotional push takes place in November. Krecké leads a multisector mission to the Gulf, and the foreign trade ministry and chamber host a Luxembourg pavilion at the Middle East's largest construction conference, The Big 5 Show in Dubai. ● AG



(L-R) Jeannot Krecké, Abdallah Y. Al-Mouallimi, Saudi Arabia's ambassador to Brussels, and Chamber of Commerce director Pierre Gramegna in Luxembourg

Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce



World Future Energy Summit - Abu Dhabi, 2011

Crown Prince Guillaume in Abu Dhabi

(L-R) Sheikh Abdullah, the United Arab Emirates' foreign affairs minister, Georges Faber, Luxembourg's ambassador-designate to the UAE, and Jean Asselborn



MAE/Robert Stiemmetz

The Crown Prince in Abu Dhabi



© Philip Cheung/cpc.gov.ae



MECE

(L-R) The Crown Prince with Kuwait's external trade counsellor Iqbal Qureshi, and Jeannot Krecké in Abu Dhabi



Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce

Benjamin de Seille in Luxembourg



© Philip Cheung/cpc.gov.ae

(L-R) UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, Bangladesh prime minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed, Crown Prince Guillaume, Pakistan president Asif Ali Zardari, Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed al-Nahayan, and Iceland president Radnar Grimsson in Abu Dhabi