The Middle East is experiencing numerous conflict situations that are negatively impacting on the stability of the entire region and beyond. While the GCC states find themselves being drawn into many of these continuing conflicts from a political and strategic perspective, one clear priority has been providing extensive humanitarian assistance to the wider civilian populations. In per capita terms, the GCC states are the largest contributors and donors to international relief efforts, both in terms of financial assistance but also in services and projects provided on the ground. Much of the policy approach is centred around a holistic combination of diplomatic strategies, aid assistance and post-conflict stabilisation priorities.

This event will focus particularly on the role that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia plays when it comes to providing necessary assistance within both regional and international frameworks and how those efforts can be better anchored in cooperation with European institutions and partners.

**ABDULLAH AL RABEEAH, MD, FRCSC**

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