

EU – GCC FTA talks move forward in Abu Dhabi - Abu Dhabi, 10 June 2006

Today EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson met GCC finance ministers in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates to discuss progress in the negotiations on the EU-GCC Free Trade Agreement. The parties had a substantive exchange of views on the content of the FTA, focusing in particular on services, investment and government procurement. Both sides agreed that the objective should be a comprehensive agreement that supports the diversification of GCC economies and brings real economic benefit to economic operators in both regions.

Speaking after the meeting, Commissioner Mandelson said; "This meeting was timely and has given new impetus to our negotiations. Although there are a number of difficult issues still to resolve between us, both sides have shown that they are willing to be flexible in order to reach a balanced deal".