

Commemorations



GREECE – SAUDI ARABIA 100 Years of Diplomatic Relations Commemorative Timeline 1926–2026



In 2026, Greece and Saudi Arabia commemorate one hundred years of diplomatic relations. The following timeline presents selected milestones in the historical development and gradual strengthening of relations between the two countries.

◆ 1926 — Beginning of Diplomatic Relations

On 8 January 1926, **Abdulaziz Al Saud** was proclaimed King of the Hejaz following the capture of Mecca and Medina. Greece was among the first states to establish relations with the new Arab kingdom. This period coincided with the major geopolitical transformations that followed the First World War in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East.

◆ 1932 — Official Proclamation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

On 23 September 1932, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was officially proclaimed, with Riyadh as its capital. The consolidation of the new state created the conditions for the development of diplomatic, commercial, and maritime relations with European countries, including Greece.

◆ 1943 — Greek Diplomatic Representation in Jeddah

During the Second World War, a Greek diplomatic representation was established in Jeddah, at a time when the city functioned as the principal international and commercial centre of Saudi Arabia. Greek shipping and commercial activities of the period gradually contributed to the strengthening of bilateral relations.

◆ 1950s–1960s — Commercial and Maritime Relations

During the 1950s and 1960s, relations between Greece and Saudi Arabia acquired a more systematic character. Greek merchant shipping became increasingly active in the region's energy transportation sector, while commercial and business relations between the two countries steadily expanded.

◆ 1970s — The Era of Oil Development

The rapid economic growth of Saudi Arabia, driven by the expansion of oil production, created new opportunities for cooperation with Greece. Greek technical, construction, and shipping companies became dynamically active in the region, contributing to the gradual development of economic and commercial ties between the two countries.

◆ 1980s — Consolidation of Bilateral Relations

Relations between Greece and Saudi Arabia achieved greater continuity and stability. Economic and maritime cooperation remained at a positive level, while contacts among governmental, commercial, and business institutions of both countries gradually expanded, further consolidating bilateral relations.

◆ 2000–2010 — New Fields of Cooperation

At the beginning of the 21st century, globalization contributed to the expansion of Greek–Saudi relations in the fields of tourism, investment, transport, and services. Interest in cultural and educational exchanges also increased, gradually strengthening communication between the two peoples.

◆ 2016 — Saudi Vision 2030

On 25 April 2016, the Saudi Vision 2030 programme was officially launched, marking a new era of transformation for Saudi Arabia. This ambitious initiative includes economic modernization, the development of culture and tourism, and the strengthening of international cooperation and investment, thereby creating new prospects for collaboration with Greece.

◆ 2020–2023 — Strategic Rapprochement between Greece and Saudi Arabia

Relations between Greece and Saudi Arabia were significantly strengthened through cooperation in the fields of defense, energy, maritime transport, and digital infrastructure. At the same time, official visits and exchanges between Athens and Riyadh confirmed the willingness of both countries to develop an effective strategic partnership.

◆ 2026 — 100 Years of Relations and Cooperation

The completion of one century of relations between Greece and Saudi Arabia offers an opportunity for broader historical and cultural dialogue, with emphasis on cooperation, mutual understanding, and the promotion of shared cultural elements and symbolism. This anniversary underlines the enduring importance of communication between Greece, the Eastern Mediterranean, and the Arab world.

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