



Germany:

German Vice Chancellor in Qatar ...

Germany and Qatar want to work more closely together on energy issues in the future. It should not only be about gas deliveries, says Economy Minister and Vice Chancellor Robert Habeck.



According to the German government, the country should become independent of energy imports from Russia as quickly as possible. Since even with a rapid expansion of wind and solar energy, both private consumers and industry will still be dependent on gas for some time. Qatar is the obvious choice: It is the second largest exporter of liquefied natural gas (LNG) in the world.

Habeck did not comment on the details of the planned energy cooperation. However, concrete annual figures and delivery quantities have already been discussed, he said. The aim is that gas should also flow when the infrastructure for liquid gas is ready in Germany. He had previously calculated that the construction of an LNG terminal usually takes about five years. Two terminals are planned in Brunsbüttel and Wilhelmshaven.

Habeck also sees his trip to the Persian Gulf as a signal to Russia. "A large slice has now broken off," he said, referring to the agreement with Qatar. To date, Germany

has received around 55 percent of its gas supplies from Russia. Habeck wants to reduce this number to zero in the future. "We don't want to replace all Russian gas with Qatari gas," he said. Germany must position itself more broadly, the individual supplier countries should only have a share of between 10 and 20 percent in order to minimize the risk of default.

... and in United Arab Emirates (UAE)

German companies have signed agreements with firms in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to build up a hydrogen supply chain, Germany's Economy Ministry said, as Berlin

looks to cut carbon emissions and reduce its reliance on Russian energy.



Germany's Hydrogenious and utility Uniper, along with Abu Dhabi National Oil Company and JERA Americas, will undertake a joint demonstration project for hydrogen transport, the ministry said in a statement.

The agreement aims to build a supply chain of hydrogen produced by renewable energy from the UAE to Wilhelmshaven in Germany, based on Hydrogenious' Liquid Organic Hydrogen Carriers technology.

Hydrogen from sources like wind and solar is recognised as an important clean energy source. But it is a very light element, making it potentially difficult and costly to transport over large distances.

A statement issued by Uniper in Germany said the consortium would tackle these challenges by combining ADNOC's energy sources, JERA Americas' energy trading experience and Uniper's involvement in Middle Eastern hydrogen projects and customer base with Hydrogenious' expertise.

Alleged anti-Semitism incident: prosecutors file defamation charges against Jewish singer

The public prosecutor's office in Germany's city of Leipzig has accused the musician and actor Gil Ofarim of allegations of false suspicion and defamation. However, the case against a Leipzig hotel employee accused of anti-Semitism by Ofarim was discontinued, as the investigative authority announced on Thursday.



Due to the great public impact of the case, the indictment was

brought to the regional court and not to the district court. Up to five years in prison are threatened for the alleged crimes.

In October, Ofarim reported in a video published on the social network Instagram that he had been asked in the Leipzig hotel to take off his chain with the David star.

Among other things, the then Foreign Minister Heiko Maas (SPD) was "stunned" and called for "society to stand shoulder to shoulder" against anti-Semitism.

According to the public prosecutor's office, the incident described by Ofarim did not happen. Extensive investigations were carried out and numerous witnesses were

heard. As a result, the public prosecutor's office was unable to make any findings that confirmed what had happened. Since there was no suspicion against the hotel employee, his proceedings were discontinued.

On the other hand, there is sufficient suspicion that Ofarim published his video with the knowledge that his statements were untrue and with knowledge of the defamatory consequences that would result for the hotel employee concerned and that were degrading in public opinion.

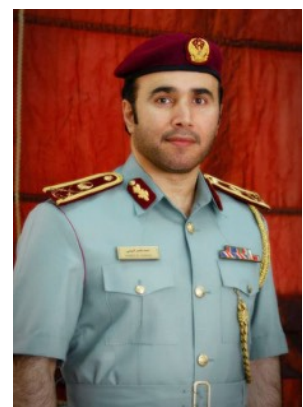
In addition, Ofarim is accused of not only repeating the wrong course of events during a police interrogation on October 12, but also of having expressly reported it.

France

French Prosecutor opens investigations against UAE-Interpol Chief

French prosecutors have opened a preliminary probe into Interpol chief Ahmed Nasser al-Raisi over allegations he was involved in torture and abuse of prisoners while serving as a top official at the UAE interior ministry.

The complaint against Raisi was brought by the Gulf Centre for Human Rights (GCHR), an NGO which claimed the Emirati inspector general oversaw the torture of jailed dissident Ahmed Mansoor.



Although the Lyon-based organisation has defended its role as largely ceremonial, Raisi's election was highly controversial. Legal organisations and former torture

victims warned that his appointment would be damaging for the international policing body.

"Interpol is a valuable and critical organisation for fighting transnational crime, but due to some deficiencies within its own system, it is also subject to misuse and abuse by autocratic regimes," said Sandra Grossman, a solicitor who has testified in the US Senate about the abuse of Interpol red notices by states as a means of transnational repression.

"There are numerous examples of countries like Turkey, Russia, China, among others, who utilise the significant power of the red notice to hunt for political opponents outside of their borders."

Belgium:

Monitoring of Muslim Brotherhood activities

The Belgian Standing Committee for the Control of Intelligence and Security Services put forward a series of recommendations to improve the monitoring of the activities of the Muslim Brotherhood in Belgium.

After analyzing the work carried out by State Security and the military intelligence service (SGRS) on this Islamist movement, the Committee recommends strengthening cooperation between these intelligence services, but also with their partners.

"The investigation shows a lack of consultation between the intelligence services and their partners on this phenomenon, which results in a lack of common definition of the phenomenon but also a lack of shared analysis of the level of the threat, which raises question", a spokesman said in a statement.

Also drawing conclusions from the case of Ihsane Haouach, who had been proposed for a post of government commissioner and had to resign following revelations about his links, deliberate or without his knowledge, with the Muslim Brotherhood, the committee recommends systematic prior verification of the integrity of candidates for certain public functions.

The functions of government commissioner are mentioned in particular, but also that of chaplain, or any key function at the federal, regional or community level.



According to the report, the Muslim Brotherhood, a movement born in Egypt nearly 100 years ago and which has since become international, has been present in Belgium since the 1960s.

State security and other intelligence agencies in Belgium each monitor the Muslim Brotherhood separately, using different human and technical resources.

No threat directly linked to the Brotherhood has been detected against a specific institution in Belgium.

Nevertheless, the SGRS considers that the Muslim Brotherhood represents a "danger".

For State Security, they even constitute a "high priority threat in terms of extremism since their short-term strategy could create a climate of polarization and segregation within Belgian society, and thus constitute a vector of radicalization".