

# Europe Monitoring

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## Germany

### Chancellor visits three Gulf States

Federal Chancellor Olaf Scholz visited the Gulf region at the weekend. The first stop on the agenda was a visit to Saudi Arabia. There he led a detailed discussion with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and then exchanged views with scientists, entrepreneurs, students and artists on



*Scholz' arrival in Saudi-Arabia; Image: Kay Nietfeld/dpa*

the situation of women in Saudi Arabia.

"It is clear that talks in the Gulf region are not easy, but they are important," said the Chancellor. He spoke with the Saudi Crown Prince in Jeddah about renewable energies, economic cooperation, the Russian attack on Ukraine and the importance of human rights.

The Chancellor then flew on to the United Arab Emirates. There he met President Mohammed bin Zayed on Sunday. "We have advanced a whole range of projects here in terms of the pro-

duction and purchase of diesel and gas, we have LNG projects that play a role here, and of course a lot that has to do with modernization here, for example with IT projects," said the Chancellor. With regard to the situation in Germany, it is about improving the current supply situation, expanding our options so that we are no longer limited to a few suppliers as in the past, but have a variety of sources in order to be able to guarantee energy security in Germany. At the same time, the long-term development of our economy towards a climate-neutral economy is important. And that, according to the Chancellor, can only succeed „in close cooperation with the countries that have played such a big role in providing fossil resources up to now."

On Sunday afternoon he went to Qatar, the last stop on the trip. There the Chancellor met Emir Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani for talks. On-site meetings with business and visits were also part of the program.

In an interim assessment of his talks in Qatar, the Chancellor stated that he had spoken to the country's political leadership about future energy supplies, but also about political issues. "These were topics that revolved around questions of human rights, questions of civil rights, questions about the possibilities of expressing different opinions," said the Chancellor.

## Financing of political Islam must be uncovered, according to the Bundestag

The sources of money for political Islamism in Germany must be uncovered to a greater extent. Most of the experts agreed on this on Monday, September 19, 2022, at a public hearing by the Committee on Interior Affairs and Homeland. In the case of a number of critical remarks, this mostly meant agreement in principle to a motion by the CDU/CSU parliamentary group, in which it is demanded that precisely this financing of political Islamism in Germany be disclosed and prevented.

In its motion, the strongest opposition party in the German parliament calls on the federal government, among other things to introduce an obligation for corporations and associations to disclose foreign sources of financ-

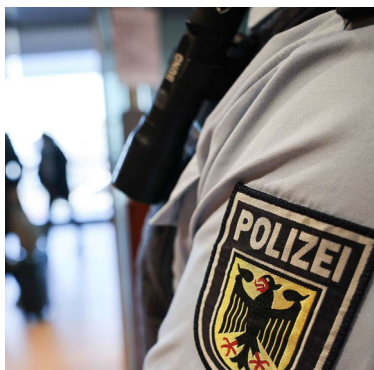


Image: dpa

ing to the responsible tax authorities. It should also expand the powers of the authorities for the protection of the constitution in the area of financial investigations in such a way that "political and/or financial influence can also and especially with regard to political Islam be better clarified". As can be seen from the draft, the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution's ability to submit national requests to the Financial Intelligence Unit is to be expanded, including cases of extremism financing.

## Belgium

### Terror trial started in Brussels

In the middle of the month, a trial began that will keep Belgium busy for months. Ten men have to answer for the terrorist attacks of March 22, 2016 in Brussels, 32 were killed and hundreds were injured at the time. The most prominent defendant is Salah Abdeslam, the sole survivor of the November 13, 2015 terror squad in Paris,

which claimed 130 lives. According to the indictment, Abdeslam was also involved in planning the attack in Brussels. The bloody work of the Islamist terrorist cell, which had its home in Brussels and kept the whole of Europe in suspense with the two attacks, was a traumatic experience for the small country.

Almost a thousand joint plaintiffs are admitted to the process. Victims and their families will have a say in the course of the trial, but they should also be given answers as to how the attack could have happened and why the propaganda of the "Islamic State" fell on such fertile ground in Belgium. Most of the alleged perpetrators were born in Belgium or grew up here. Carelessly pursued by the Belgian security authorities, the men in Brussels carried out the attacks.

Six of the ten accused in Brussels were also in the dock in Paris and were convicted there. In addition to Salah Abdeslam, they also include two men who did not blow themselves up at the last moment in Brussels on March 22, 2016: Osama Krayem, who turned back in the subway shaft, and Mohamed Abrini, who dropped his suitcase on the left the airport without detonating it. Because of the recordings of the surveillance cameras at Zaventem Airport, he became known as the "man with a hat". Abrini successfully lodged a complaint against his prison conditions in August. Since then, he no longer has to spend his days in prison in total isolation.



French warrant of S. Abdelsalam

## Turkiye

### Turkish President blames Russia sanctions for energy crisis

Turkish President Recep Tayyip has blamed Western sanctions on Russia for Europe's energy crisis. European countries would "reap what they sow," said Erdogan. Putin uses all his means and weapons. "Unfortunately, natural gas is one of them," said the Turkish head of state. He assumes that Europe

will have “serious problems” this winter. In his country, however, this does not apply.

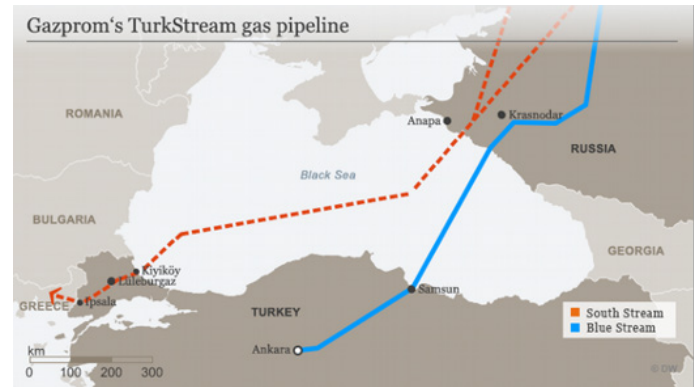


Image: Kerem Uzel/Bloomberg

Turkey has good relations with both Russia and Ukraine. Ankara supplied military drones to Kyiv but did not join Western sanctions against Moscow

over the war of aggression against Ukraine. At the beginning of August, Erdogan announced that in the future he would pay part of Russian gas imports in rubles. According to analysts, the agreement ensures that Moscow will continue to

supply gas to Turkey via the TurkStream pipeline. Last year, Turkey got almost half of its natural gas from Russia.



Map: DW

