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## Gulf States play a strategic role in the region

by Helene Rang



H.M. King Hamad bin Isa al-Khalifa of the Kingdom of Bahrain

**H.M. King Hamad bin Isa al-Khalifa** of the Kingdom of Bahrain, embarked on his first official visit to Berlin from October 26<sup>th</sup> until October 29<sup>th</sup> 2008.

H.M. the King met with German Chancellor **H.E. Dr. Angela Merkel**, the German Federal President **Dr. Horst Köhler** and the German Foreign Minister **H.E. Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier**.

The talks addressed the strategic role played by the Gulf States for peace and stability in the region and called for a deepening of relations with the European Union, as well as emphasised the hope that the negotiations between the EU and the Gulf Cooperation Council on a free trade agreement will be brought to a speedy conclusion. The talks centred on the international financial

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