

## Christian Koch

Director of the Gulf Research Center Foundation in Geneva



Dr. Christian Koch is the Director of the Gulf Research Center Foundation in Geneva, Switzerland. Previously, he served as Director of International Studies at the Gulf Research Center in Dubai, UAE. Prior to joining the GRC, he worked as Head of the Strategic Studies Section at the Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research, Abu Dhabi.

Dr. Koch's work at the Gulf Research Center combines the various international and foreign relations issues of the GCC states with a particular interest in GCC-EU Relations. He is particularly active with better understanding the dynamics driving regional security issues in the critical Gulf region and promoting aspects of cooperative security among regional and international actors. In this context, he has co-authored a piece on Establishing a Regional Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Gulf Region (GRC Policy Brief, June 2015). Another key aspect of Dr. Koch's work is providing a perspective from the GCC states about their thinking and development on pertinent foreign and security issues. This builds on the role of the Gulf Research Center as the only independent think tank from the Gulf region dedicated to better understanding of Gulf regional issues and promoting regional integration.

Dr. Koch received his Ph.D. from the University of Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany and also studied at the American University in Washington, D.C. and the University of South Carolina. He is the author of *Politische Entwicklung in einem arabischen Golfstaat: Die Rolle von Interessengruppen im Emirat Kuwait* (Berlin: Klaus Schwarz Verlag, 2000), the editor of six books as well as numerous chapter contributions and journal articles. He regularly writes for the international media including the *Financial Times*, *Handelsblatt*, *die Süddeutsche Zeitung*, Jane's Sentinel Publications on Gulf issues. His media appearances include the BBC, Deutsche Welle and Al-Arabiyya television.