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EEC tariffs on Gulf petrochemicals an obstacle to free trade

EUROPEAN Economic Community (EEC) tariffs on petrochemical products from the Gulf region have been described as an "obstacle" to free trade by an Abu Dhabi trade official.

"This would leave us just one alternative, which is to reconsider our position towards our old trading partners and we have to look

for other alternatives to save our petrochemical products," Haj Abdullah al Muhairbi, First Deputy President of the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, warned.

In a statement following a meeting between the Chamber and an EEC trade mission al Muhairbi said the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) would be harmed by the EEC decision.

"The GCC has the right to protect its members by adopting a unified position towards the EEC and its products," he stressed.

He said it would depend on EEC decision-makers whether they wished to maintain ties of cooperation with the GCC.

Al Muhairbi said the UAE's relations with all countries of the world were based on equality in trade exchanges.